

Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI)

MISHI 2019: Anishinaabekwe Ogimaawiwin / Women's Leadership

Call for Participants

The History of Indigenous Peoples (HIP) Network, based at York University and housed in the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, and the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF), located on Manitoulin Island, is pleased to invite applications for the Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI), **August 19-25, 2019**. MISHI is an annual event in Anishinaabe Studies that brings together students, teachers, knowledge-holders, artists, and Elders for a week-long summer institute on Manitoulin Island. It is an excellent opportunity to concentrate on a single theme in Anishinaabe Studies while engaging with other scholars and to explore Manitoulin Island. This year we will consider the theme of Anishinaabekwe (women) leadership.

For Anishinaabeg, the gendered world is deeply contextual. Gender roles, experiences, and meanings are shaped by dynamic relationships to land, animals, and spirits, as well as, family, community, and self. To reflect on gender for Anishinaabekwe is to acknowledge the complexity of this engagement: gendered meanings rooted in time immemorial, the binary of the colonial and western world, or an



individual's own understanding of their being can be simultaneously present (or absent) and powerfully reconfigured across time and place. In present day and historic contexts, knowledge, skills, contributions to community, and emphasis on balance can be far more important markers of gender than prescribed meanings. Maazikaamikwe (mother earth) is gendered female based on her role as life-giver. Doodemag (clans) are passed down through the fathers' lines, but a balanced political and diplomatic world requires the female perspective. Anishinaabekwe are recognized and respected as leaders, healers, and stewards of the water. Their contributions are integral to every community's success. Centering the stories of Anishinaabekwe leaders gifts us this gendered history and creates space to walk together, challenging the violent legacies of colonialism and supporting Anishinaabeg resilience and resurgence.

*Daphne Odjig (1919-2016), Wikwemikong FN,
"Aunt Grace and the Elders," courtesy of Stan Somerville*

The summer institute will be comprised of three elements. First, participants will participate in lectures, workshops, tours, and demonstrations of Anishinaabe worldviews through doodemag. Second, participants will volunteer time to work for the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation on their historical collections, organizing, digitizing, transcribing, and cataloguing research materials, and preparing curriculum materials for public schools. Third, participants will devote some time to

formulating their own project, planning and gathering research, and sharing their ideas with fellow participants. The last two days of MISHI will be spent at a local powwow.

Participant spaces are limited. To apply to attend, please complete the application form at the end of this document with a brief letter of introduction explaining why you are interested in attending MISHI 2019 and how your research aligns with this year's theme, and a one-page CV detailing your research interests and experience. Please email your application to carolyn@carolynpodruchny.ca.

Applications are due March 15, 2019.

There is no registration cost but participants will pay for their travel to and from the island and their lodging and food (although funds are being sought to cover feasts). Carpooling will be encouraged among participants. Camping is roughly \$45 per night and bnbs and hotels range from \$90 to \$150 a night. We plan to be based at various Indigenous-owned places on the island. Organizers will assist people in arranging both solo and shared accommodation and travel. Plan to spend between \$1000 to \$1500 for the week. Families and children are welcome.

References

- Kim Anderson, *A Recognition of Being*, 2nd edition (Toronto: Women's Press, 2016).
- Ignatia Broker, *Night Flying Woman: An Ojibwe Narrative* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1983).
- Brenda Child, *Holding Our World Together: Ojibwe Women and the Survival of Community* (Penguin Books 2012).
- Jill Doerfler, Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiiik Stark, and Niigaaanwewidam James Sinclair, eds., *Centering Anishininaabeg Studies: Understanding the World Through Stories* (University of Manitoba Press, 2013).
- Maude Kegg, *Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood*, edited by John Nichols (University of Minnesota Press, 1993).
- Rebecca Kugel, "Leadership within the Women's Community: Susie Bonga Wright of the Leech Lake Ojibwe" in *Native Women's History in Eastern North America before 1900*, ed. by Rebecca Kugel and Lucy Eldersveld Murphy (University of Nebraska Press, 2007).
- Mary Jane Logan McCallum, *Indigenous Women, Work and History, 1940-1980* (University of Manitoba Press, 2014).

MISHI 2019 Application Form

Name:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Mobile Phone:

Current institutional affiliation and position:

Research Interests: