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 Anishnaabekwe 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 b&b s 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
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 Elderveld Murphy (University of Nebraska Press, 2007).

MISHI 2019 Application Form

Name:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Mobile Phone:

Current institutional affiliation and position:

Research Interests: