

**EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL  
SOUTHEAST NATIVE STUDIES CONFERENCE**  
(formerly known as the SOUTHEAST INDIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE)

[www.uncp.edu/ais/snsc](http://www.uncp.edu/ais/snsc)

**Museum of the Southeast American Indian, Old Main**



**Kirstin Squint**, is an Associate Professor of English, specializing in Native American literatures, at East Carolina University, where she held the Whichard Visiting Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities from 2019-2022. She is the author of *LeAnne Howe at the Intersections of Southern and Native American Literature* (2018), a co-editor of *Swamp Souths: Literary and Cultural Ecologies* (2020), and the editor of *Conversations with LeAnne Howe* (2022). She is also a contributor to *Appalachian Reckoning: a Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy* (2019), winner of the 2020 American Book Award for criticism.

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**Jessica Cory**, teaches at Western Carolina University and is a PhD candidate specializing in Native American, African American, and environmental literature at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She is the editor of *Mountains Piled upon Mountains: Appalachian Nature Writing in the Anthropocene* (WVU Press, 2019) and the co-editor (with Laura Wright) of *Appalachian Ecocriticism and the Paradox of Place* (UGA Press, forthcoming 2023). Her creative and scholarly writings have been published in the *North Carolina Literary Review*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Northern Appalachia Review*, and other fine publications. Originally from southeastern Ohio, she currently lives in Sylva, North Carolina.

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**Tonya Holy Elk Locklear**, writer, author and educator, Tonya Holy Elk Locklear grew up in Southeastern North Carolina, with kinship ties to the Oglala Lakota Nation of Pine Ridge, South Dakota and the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Tonya's poetry is themed around land, kinship and food while reminding readers the importance of preserving Native American culture and identity through oral history traditions. Tonya has presented her poetry in many venues and has published work in poetry anthologies and various Indigenous journals. Her new poetry collection entitled *Soul Food* is forthcoming, from That Painted Horse Press in Los Angeles, CA.

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**Jane Haladay**, (session chair) is Professor of American Indian Studies at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, where she teaches Native American literature and other AIS courses that incorporate service learning, writing enrichment, and international Indigenous travel study. She has published a range of critical and creative work. Among other recognitions, Jane has received UNCP's Excellence in Service-Learning Award (2016) and the Outstanding Allyship Award from UNCP's American Indian Heritage Center (2021).

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**Dr. Leslie Locklear**, a member of the Lumbee, Waccamaw Siouan and Coharie tribes, hails from Hoke County, NC. Leslie received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, her master's in professional School Counseling, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed her doctoral degree in Educational Studies and Cultural Foundations at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Leslie is currently employed at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She also serves as the Co-Chair of the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization ([NCNAYO](#)) Adult Advisory Committee. As a student and educator Leslie's passions include culturally relevant curriculum, working with American Indian youth councils, college and career counseling, and supporting educators in the classroom.

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**Ms. Christina Pacheco**, is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. She was born and raised in Fairmont, NC, where she currently resides. Christina obtained her undergraduate degree from East Carolina University in 2016 and her Master's of Business Administration from UNC Pembroke in 2020. Christina serves as the Project 3C Career Exploration Associate at UNCP and is the founder and campus advisor to WOMAN (Woman Organization for Minorities Achieving Now) of UNC Pembroke, whose mission is to empower, enrich, and encourage all minority women to be strong mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

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**Brittany Danielle Hunt**, is a member of the Lumbee Tribe and is from Lumberton, NC. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech in the School of Education. She is co-host of the podcast *The Red Justice Project* and author of the children's book *Whoz Ya People?*

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**T. Blake Hite**, is a citizen of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, is a PhD student in cultural anthropology at the University of South Carolina. He received his BA in Anthropology and American Indian and Indigenous Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill and his Master's from the University of South Carolina. Research interests include: Tribal Sovereignty, American Indians, Lumbees, and Tribal Citizenship.

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**Victoria Sutton**, is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Indian Nation and served as Secretary of the National Native American Bar Association in 2001-2002, and currently serves as a founding member of the National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center, Advisory Board. Prof Sutton received the Horn Distinguished Professor honor in 2010, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a faculty member at Texas Tech University. She served as the Chief Counsel for the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., 2005-2007. She served as Assistant Director in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, also known as the White House Science Office, 1991-1993. Dr. Sutton has published ten books, more than fifty law review articles, and numerous scholarly articles on law and technology, science, environmental law, American Indian law, Constitutional law and biosecurity law.

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**René Locklear White**, Retired USAF Lt. Col., holds a master's degree, two UNCP bachelor's degrees and currently pursuing a third bachelor's in American Indian Studies at UNCP. Her personal vision is to help leaders first, bring recognition to the contributions of Indigenous peoples to reduce suffering. As co-founder of a Native American non-profit and inspired by her UNCP American Indian Studies courses, she would like to help reintegrate Native Foods back into American's diets through an online interactive food map. This could help American Indians who face higher rates of nearly every health disparity. She is a recipient of UNCP's Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Fellowship (PURC) and UNCP American Indian Studies Fellowship to map out AmericasNativeFoodTrail.org. René sees herself as an intercultural mediator, an Indigenous event-artist and hobby ethnographer. René is a resourceful initiator and helper. Her project is a cultural rescue initiative.

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**Ryan E. Emmanuel**, (chair and moderator) is associate professor of hydrology in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. He studies the movement and status of water through watersheds, and he is interested in cultural connections between Indigenous peoples and the places they call home. He works to promote environmental justice for tribal nations. Emanuel is Lumbee.

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**Beth Roach** (panelist) is the director of water for Sierra Club National as well as project coordinator for Tribal Coastal Resilience within the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary. As Vice Chair of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia Tribal Council, she leads programs that connect her community to their watershed as well as develop policies and external partnerships to elevate and ensure meaningful engagement. She strives to expand water advocacy tools within Indigenous communities in the Southeast.

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**Jefferson Currie II**, (panelist) is the Lumber Riverkeeper with Winyah Rivers Alliance. Currie holds a BA in American Indian Studies from UNCP and has completed coursework for his master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. Jeff has worked with Indigenous and other communities throughout North Carolina for more than 20 years. Currie is a member of the Lumbee Tribe.

**Phillip Bell**, (panelist) is Great Coharie River Initiative Coordinator for the Coharie Tribe of Sampson County. He retired from US Department of Agriculture after 34 years of managing invasive and exotic plant pest programs for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Protection and Quarantine.

His passion is to return access to ancestral waters back to the Coharie Tribe Community and communities at large. Bell is Coharie/Lumbee, 1976 graduate of UNCP, and outdoor enthusiast.

**Brooke Bauer**, is a citizen of the Catawba Nation and an Assistant Professor of history at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Bauer's work focuses on the histories of Southeastern Native Americans and how they responded to the effects of colonialism. She is particularly fascinated with the stories of Native women, which is demonstrated in her recently published book, *Becoming Catawba: Catawba Women and Nation-building, 1540-1840*. In this work, Dr. Bauer examines the vital roles that Catawba women played in promoting and preserving Catawba identity. She weaves family history, cultural context, and ethnohistorical methodologies together to generate an internal perspective on Catawbas' past and present in the South. *Becoming Catawba* illuminates the changes that Catawba women created within their world to ensure the survival of their people.

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