

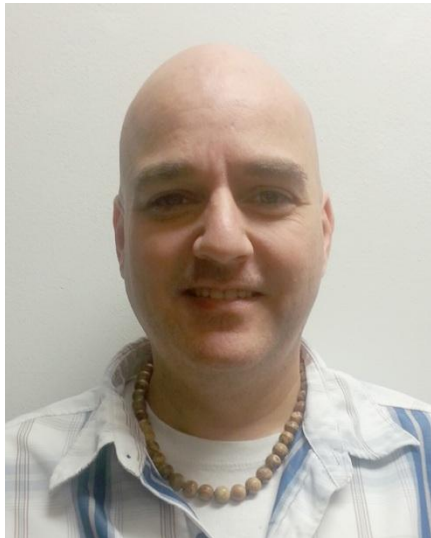
INDIGENIZING COMPUTER PROGRAMMING PRACTICES

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Abstract

This work originates in my MFA thesis, completed at the University of British Columbia Okanagan in 2015, and involved translating my Métis hand-beading practice into a digitally beaded form. This work exposed a disparity between my physical understanding of beading and the underlying programming code I used to digitally recreate it. This experience led me to pursue the development of a more suitable computing language and platform that aims to “Indigenize” computing interfaces to be more reflective of Indigenous community practices and methodologies. In essence, I am not merely interested in creating a programmatic translation tool – I am focused on the encoding of Indigenous thought, culture, and practices as the foundational components of computer programming. Thus, I am challenging the historical logic and colonial constructions prevalent in modern day computing and attempting to alter the way our digital world can be created and interacted with. My talk will describe briefly the background behind my work, and I will present visual example(s) of what I am aiming to generate.



Biography

John Corbett is a Métis of Cree and Salteaux descent, a media artist, and a computer programming professional. His MFA thesis, completed at the University of British Columbia Okanagan in 2015, involved translating his Métis hand-beading practice into a digitally beaded form.

John was recently accepted into the PhD program at UBC Okanagan where he is working on research regarding the Indigenization of Computer Programming Practices and Principles.