

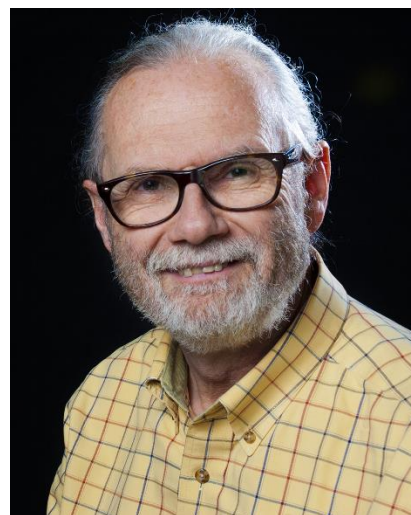
Righting the wrong of child welfare: Challenging the basic assumptions

Theme: Decolonizing the mind and developing respectful relationships;

Abstract: Child welfare remains one of the most intrusive systems in the lives of Indigenous families and communities. The current methodology in use is rooted in colonial assumptions about Indigenous peoples. It is also rooted in definitions about what constitutes good enough behaviors to be raising children or to be raised as an Indigenous child within your culture. Courts then apply these colonial approaches to influence decisions around care and placement. By advancing a social advocacy agenda, this presentation will outline how advocacy can be leveraged in demanding Indigenous control of services, the creation of their own legislation and return of power of protection to the communities. Some steps have been made but advocacy is also required to ensure that current child welfare systems stop colonial approaches and begin processes of bringing Indigenous world views into decision making. By implication, this means the cessation of approaches that white stream child protection.



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