

Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

'McGirt Ruling 2020: Implications for Indian Country and Beyond'

Date: Wednesday 28 July 2021

Venue: Kailis Room NDB8/112

Time: 10.00am -11.00am

Also available via Zoom: <https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/87248907508>

Passcode: [210500](#)



Presenter: Bobbie Chew Bigby

Abstract

This presentation will focus on the results of last year's US Supreme Court Case, *McGirt v. Oklahoma* and its potentially monumental impacts on Indian Country in Oklahoma. Oklahoma is a state in the southern United States that is home to 39 different federally-recognized tribes, including the Native Nations of the Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw peoples. Due to complicated layers of colonial history, forced removals and land dispossessions, there have been ongoing disputes over land jurisdiction and sovereignty between the tribes and the state of Oklahoma. In July 2020, the US Supreme Court stunned much of the nation by siding with the tribes and affirming that much of what is today Oklahoma has always been Native lands. The direction that our Tribal Nations take in the light of this decision is important for Indigenous peoples here and everywhere.

Biography

Bobbie Chew Bigby is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bobbie has BA degrees in Chinese Language/Literature, as well as Anthropology. Bobbie obtained her MA degree in International Studies, Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia as a Rotary Peace Fellow from 2014-2015. Bobbie also holds an MS degree in Arts and Culture Administration as an AIANTA Scholar from Drexel University. Bobbie completed her thesis research on examining the potential for cultural tourism development among Tribal Nations (Quapaw, Shawnee and Miami Tribes) in far Northeastern Oklahoma. Bobbie has engaged in research focused on Indigenous peoples, tourism and connections to traditional culture in China, India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Australia and back home in Oklahoma Indian Country.

Bobbie is currently based between Broome, Australia and Tulsa, Oklahoma where she is pursuing a PhD at the University of Notre Dame Australia focused on comparative Indigenous cultural tourism. This research is being supported through the West Australian Government's JTSI Science/Tourism Fellows program and the University's Research Training Program.

Bobbie has recently co-edited and co-written a book focused on reexamining the possibilities for tourism post-COVID 19 and the ways that tourism can better support social and ecological justice. Click on this link to the book is <https://www.routledge.com/Socialising-Tourism-Rethinking-Tourism-for-Social-and-Ecological-Justice/Higgins-Desbiolles-Doering-Bigby/p/book/9780367759223>

Bobbie has a deep passion for Indigenous-participation in tourism and believes that tourism can be used as a tool for culture and language revitalization, along with environmental stewardship.