

Unsettling Ideas: The Promise and Limits of Social Justice in North American Anthropology

Since the publication of the landmark volume *Decolonizing Anthropology: Moving Further Toward an Anthropology for Liberation* in 1997, anthropologists have made theoretical, methodological, and pedagogical efforts to make the discipline more reflexive and responsive to historically marginalized communities. These efforts have been championed by what Jafari Sinclair Allen and Ryan Cecil Jobson have called the “decolonizing generation,” a growing cohort of Indigenous, Black, feminist, and allied anti-racist scholars. More recently, the language of social justice has been drawn upon to frame these broader calls for anthropology to become a more civically engaged discipline.

This lecture will critically consider the concept of social justice, which holds out the promise of restitution and equity, but which is also constrained by the ongoing reality of settler colonialism in North America. Building on the work of black and Indigenous scholars, Montgomery argues for a more radical approach that uses decolonization and abolition as emancipatory frameworks to enact disciplinary change.

MONDAY
April 11th 2022
5:00 PM

About Dr. Montgomery:

Dr. Lindsay M. Montgomery is an anthropological archaeologist whose work seeks to create complex counter-histories focused on Indigenous persistence, resistance, and survivance in the North American West. Her work particularly focuses on the material and social histories of equestrian communities living in the Southwest and Great Plains from the 16th-20th centuries.

Her research employs a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach, which brings together archaeological, archival, oral historical, and ethnographic sources to understand interethnic interactions among Indigenous Peoples and with European settlers. Her current research revolves around a collaborative research project with Picuris Pueblo in northern New Mexico. This work explores the evolving social and economic relationship between Picuris Pueblo, other Pueblo communities, the Jicarilla Apache, and Hispano settlers through an investigation of agricultural practices at the Pueblo between 1400-1750 CE.

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Dr. Lindsay M. Montgomery

