



## Sovereignty and Survivance in Spatial Archives and Urban Landscapes

NCAIS Graduate Workshop in Research Methods  
Oklahoma State University  
March 12-14, 2020

Dr. Douglas Miller, History, *Oklahoma State University*  
Dr. Louise Siddons, Art History, *Oklahoma State University*  
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Image: Creek Council Oak Tree that stands right in the heart of Tulsa.

“What’s more American than Native American history?” – Bunky Echo-Hawk (Pawnee/Yakama)

“We did not move to cities to die. The sidewalks and streets, the concrete, absorbed our heaviness. The glass, metal, rubber, and wires, the speed, the hurtling masses—the city took us in.” – Tommy Orange (Cheyenne/Arapaho)

**Workshop Theme and Description:** Our interdisciplinary workshop in Native Studies research methods will feature Tulsa, Oklahoma, as not only our principal gathering place but also our principal “archive.” This approach is significant in that Tulsa features the highest per-capita urban Native American population in the country. Native peoples living in 1920s Tulsa christened the city the “Indian capital of the World.” Tulsa is Indian Country indeed. So, rather than pore over traditional archival materials filed away in Halogen boxes stacked in research center basements, we intend to explore the primary sources embedded in Tulsa’s historical and contemporary Indigenous avenues, spaces, structures, and communities and what these places tell us about the topics of Indigenous sovereignty and survival. While we will read some standard literature in the form of monograph chapters, journal articles, maps, and Native newspapers, we are more interested in reading Tulsa’s Indigenous cityscape, while inviting some key members from Tulsa’s Indigenous community to help guide us. If Indian Territory Oklahoma was an endpoint on the traumatic trail of nineteenth-century gunpoint removals, then we might appreciate how Native peoples willingly moved to Tulsa for work, education, and social opportunities, while creating an important Indian city, and remaking and reclaiming Indigenous space.

One student from each NCAIS institution may participate in the three-day workshop as part of an introduction to critical methodologies in American Indian Studies. Housing will be provided and participants will be reimbursed up to \$600 for travel.

**Interested students should apply directly to their NCAIS Faculty Liaison by October 21.**