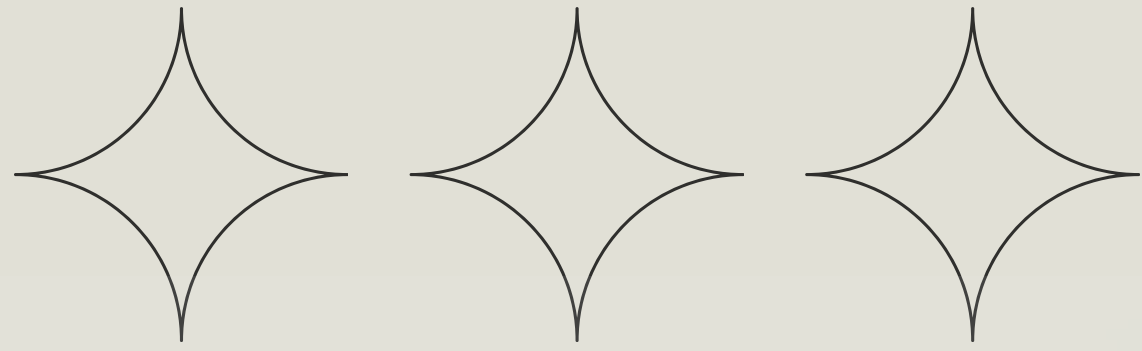


MAY 27, 2026
EDD DEFENSE



Dissertation

Balancing Power and Building Agency:
Creating Educational Pathways within an
Indigenous Community

CHEEBO FRAZIER, ABD, UW-T X MTC



Review Committee



MICHELLE MONTGOMERY, PHD
UW PROFESSOR



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UW PROFESSOR



CHARLOTTE COTE, PHD
UW PROFESSOR



Chee-Tah-Bu Hou-E-Now-E tsi dsda?

My name is Cheebo Hou-E-Now-E.

tuíʔal čəd sǫʷaliʔabš

I am from Nisqually people.

tuíʔal čəd sǫʷaliʔidup

I am from Nisqually lands.

Mildred Rose McCloud tsi sda? ʔə tsi dskʷuy

My mom is Mildred Rose McCloud.

sǫʷaliʔabš tsi dskʷuy

My mom is Nisqually.

sǫʷaliʔabš čət

We are Nisqually.



Chee-Tah-Bu Hou-E-Now-E

Grandaughter of Alloya & Juanita (Russ) Frazier of Round Valley, California and of George & Frankie (Kautz) McCloud of Nisqually-Puyallup, Washington

Daughter of Allen Frazier & Mildred McCloud

Mother to Kenny, Krisa, Lili, Aliya, Nakia, Kal & Logan, bonus children Bobbi, Bessie, Leander, Bo and Rex

Partner to Robert Stryker Blacketer of Skokomish

Nisqually Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman, MBA, ABD

Tribal Business operator and developer, Tribal training specialist



"BIRD LOOKING AHEAD" - KINESTEE

Co-Researcher Positionality

GRANDDAUGHTER

NIECE

DAUGHTER

MOTHER

TRIBAL LEADER

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

GRANDMOTHER

GREAT

GRANDMOTHER

TRIBAL ELDER



STUDENT

ACADEMIC

SCHOLAR

RESEARCHER

ETHNOGRAPHER

ASSOCIATES

BACHELORS

DOUBLE MASTERS

PROFESSOR

DOCTORAL ASPIRATIONS





Mildred Rose

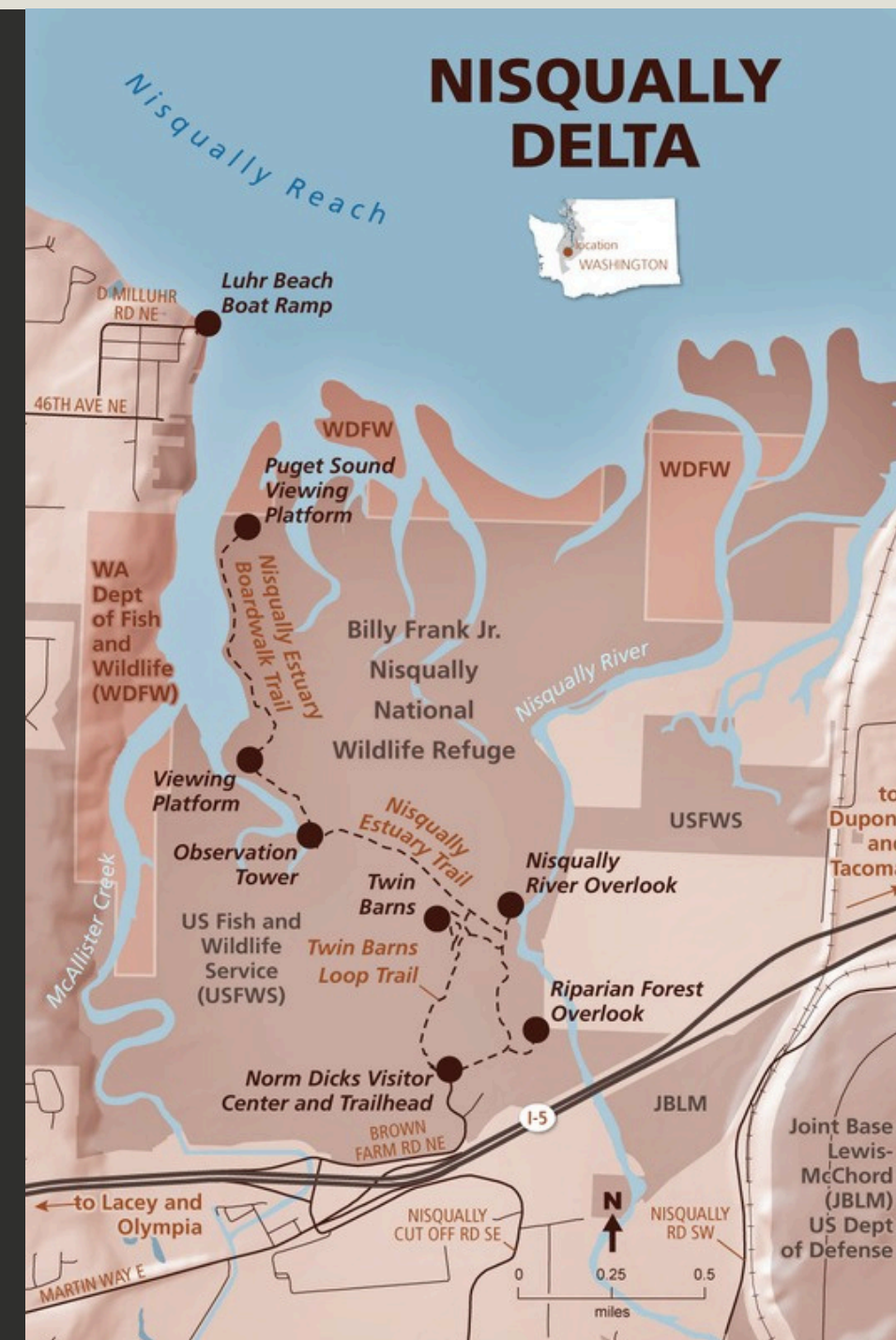




Location /Place

Sqwali?, She-Nah-Num
Nisqually, Medicine Creek Nation

- Nisqually Reservation, a sovereign nation
- Kinship as Methodology
- Research in Honor of my Genealogy
- Relational Accountability to Community





Project

PART I. CO-RESEARCH/CO-WRITING WITH MY MOM AND DIGITIZING ARCHIVES

PART II. CASE STUDY NISQUALLY TRIBAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

01

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: **Community Agency and Self-Determined Education**

How can the Nisqually Tribe strengthen community agency and self-determination in shaping educational pathways for future generations?

02

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: **Policy and Governance Transformation**

In what ways can Tribal education policies and governance structures be Indigenized to reflect Nisqually values, relational accountability, and intergenerational knowledge?

03

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: **Intergenerational Knowledge and Healing Praxis**

How do Elders, families, and community members sustain and transmit ancestral knowledges that contribute to a healing praxis within Tribal education?

Indigenous Research Methodologies

- **Colonial Harms** - Loss of connection and traditional teachings, marginalization, health disparity, forced assimilation, and land destruction.
- **Decolonization** - Sovereignty, Traditional Knowledges, Systemic Change
- **Heartwork** - Community/Tribally-Driven Insurgent Research



Methodology & Methods

- Kinship as Methodology
- Relational Co-Research /Co-Authorship
- Storytalk/Storywork
- Narrative Inquiry & Archival Reflections
- Community Cafes
- Insurgent Research
- Tribally-Driven Participatory Research (TDPR)
- Indigenist Critical Policy Analysis (ICPA)





The Shift

From beginning to end: Proposal to Design & Analysis

Moving from Phenomenological research methods/heuristic process for systematic interpretations, taking interpretations of our collective views and how we experience the process

reductionist - interpretative - individual - data

TO

Moving toward Narrative Inquiry & relational Storywork, application to a specific Case Study - the Education within the Nisqually Community to increase our capacity to self-govern

expansionist - meaning-making - relational - lived



Literature Review

THEME

KINSHIP

Kinship is the linking mechanism that empowers leaders to draw upon ancestral strengths toward collective agency and power in praxis work.

THEME

RECIPROCITY

The natural system within Indigenous ways of knowing and being that ensures sustainable relationships grounded in balance, respect, responsibility and restorative healing.

THEME

SURVIVANCE

The continuity of Indigenous existence and survivorship, based on insurgency centering lived experience as praxis, transforming community through culture.

THEME

STORYWORK

The natural and traditional method of knowledge sharing and meaning making, entailing lived experience, remembrances, and ancestral teachings that guide leadership and values based community work.

THEME

SOVEREIGNTY

Self-determined power and agency toward planning, implementing and operationalizing community grounded praxis, creating the greatest potential for futurity and wellbeing.



Sustainable Educational Pathways

**THEME 1 - Agency & Self-
Determined Education**

**THEME 2 - Indigenizing Policy and
Government Structures**

**THEME 3 - Sharing Knowledges
Toward Community Healing**



*“Our Culture Has
Resisted Erasure
Through Stories”
Makoyiisaaminaa,
2023*



Implications

Kinship as Methodology drives healing praxis through intergenerational knowledges

Storywork as Leadership Praxis and Governance

Educational sovereignty is the futurity we build through relational accountability



© Gloria Olson

Research Limitations

I. RELATIONAL LIMITATIONS

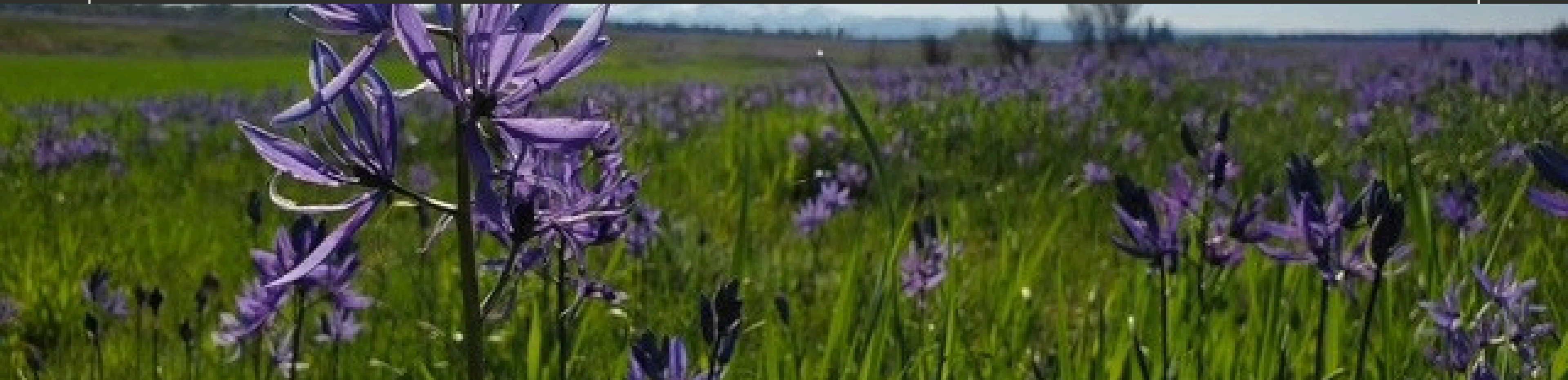
- Proposed and targeted to one lineal genealogy
- Nisqually-specific storywork, relational within our community
- Relational Accountability means interpretations can be delayed as meaning is made in dimensions for the listener

II. SCOPE REALITY LIMITATIONS

- Focus on strengths based storywork
- Selective Sharing - maintaining sensitive information private
- Magnitude of lifetime archival work
- Nisqually specific storywork, applicable to our community

III. ETHICAL LIMITATIONS

- Selective Sharing - maintaining sensitive information private



UW-T SOE EdD

1. **COMMUNITY GROUNDED**
2. **ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGES**
3. **RELATIONAL LEARNING**
4. **DISRUPT AND DISMANTLE**
5. **HEALING PRAXIS**



Seasons Within the Program

YEAR 1 - SALMONBERRY

YEAR 2 - BEAVER

YEAR 3 - TRILLIUM FLOWER

YEAR 4 - TRAILS





Leadership

Walking the Land In Silence

Dr. Dawn Hardison-Stevens

- Lifetime Learners
- Humility
- Gratitude



Thank
You

