

# Reclaiming Indigenous History: Pyroepistemology and Social Justice

## Indigenous Politics in the Face of the New Right Lecture Series

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Anthropology Algoma University

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Zoom Register at <https://bit.ly/psteeves>

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The Indigenous past of the Americas has been fabricated to fit into neoliberal time frames of imagined “New Worlds. The past remains a tool of dis-empowerment created by American archaeologists to keep Indigenous civilizations as “infantile” on a global scale. In the Americas, the deep Indigenous past prior to 12,000 years before the present has been aggressively denied for over a century. Anthropologists’ denial of the deep Indigenous past of the Americas, has cleaved Indigenous people’s links to their homeland and created them as recent immigrants to the Americas, on a global scale of human history. Yet, Indigenous oral traditions of First People of the Americas tell a much different story of the past. In many oral traditions, Indigenous peoples say that they have been here forever, since time immemorial. All people have an inalienable right to tell their history and their stories in their own voice and their own ways of knowing. Based on research and the published data of hundreds of pre-12,000 years before present archaeological sites, oral traditions, environmental evidence, and paleo-mammalian migrations, I argue that people have been in the Western Hemisphere for over 130,000 years. Pyroepistemology works to cleanse the academic and literary landscape of dehumanizing literature that erases Indigenous communities from the land and creates space for Indigenous knowledge and voices.



***Dr. Paulette Steeves** Cree- Metis) is an Indigenous archaeologist. She was born in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, and grew up in Lillooet, Canada, British Columbia. She is a first-generation college graduate. Dr. Steeves received her BA in Anthropology, Honors Cum Laude, from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 2000. In 2008, Dr. Steeves was awarded the Clifford D. Clark fellowship for attending graduate studies at Binghamton University in New York State; she successfully defended her dissertation in 2015. Dr. Steeves has taught Anthropology and Archaeology courses in Canada and the USA, focusing on Native American and First Nations histories and the decolonization of academia and knowledge production. She is currently an Associate Professor in Sociology- Anthropology and Chair of the Geography Geology and Land Management Program at Algoma University, and a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous History Healing and Reconciliation.*

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