



March 2019

2019 Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Toronto
Indigenous Education Network

The 2019 AERA meeting in Tkaronto is on the shared lands and waters of the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee Nations, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. AERA always takes place on Indigenous land. This was true last year, when AERA was on Lenape land, and it will be true next year, when AERA is on Ohlone land. Wherever AERA is held, there have been Indigenous communities living, learning, and thriving for millennia. This is not a land acknowledgement, but instead, a call to acknowledge land and waters and what it means to be in right and respectful relationship with Indigenous peoples.

Tkaronto has a complex history and has been the home of Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples since time immemorial, and is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. Ouendat (Wyandat/Wyandot-Huron) also have long, deep relationships with this land and water. Tkaronto is home to many other Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island, South America, and the globe. There are important long-lasting connections between Black and Indigenous communities in this city. The Indigenous Education Network, The Centre for Indigenous Studies, Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE), and Deepening Knowledge Project are proud to be a part of this community.

We are committed to pushing the practice of land and water acknowledgements beyond static scripts, towards more meaningful commitments/expressions of relationship, reciprocity and responsibility to land and water. This practice has become commonplace in some settings, with growing tensions around how and why land acknowledgements are being used, and whose responsibility is it to deliver them. The wording of these statements is often political and contested, and our understandings of these practices and histories are evolving.

In addition to other foundational treaties—some between Indigenous nations and others with the Canadian Crown and nation-state—these lands and waters are part of the Dish With One Spoon agreement. This agreement is concerned with taking only what we need, leaving enough for the next one, and cleaning up after ourselves. We ask that you question more deeply what it means to be a visitor to a place that is co-constituted within this agreement. We ask that you think about

what you can leave here for others in exchange for what you will take. We ask that you reflect on what it means to participate in a conference with such a substantial environmental footprint. Unlike many Indigenous communities in Canada, we are fortunate to be in a place where tap water is safe to drink, so please bring a reusable water bottle. We ask that you consider not only what associations like AERA should begin to do in order to be in good relation to Indigenous communities, lands, and waterways, but what they might need to stop doing.

For this year's AERA meeting we encourage all guests to pay attention to this beautiful land on which the gathering is taking place. Please make an effort to notice the waters, land, air and animals around you, and to seek out knowledge about the history and ongoing experiences of Indigenous peoples here. We encourage the exchange of teachings and learnings, and the co-creation of relationships that will happen during the conference.

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FYI: Link to a 2012 statement on being a guest on Indigenous land
<http://www.aera.net/Events-Meetings/Annual-Meeting/Previous-Annual-Meetings/2012-Annual-Meeting/Annual-Meeting-2012-Details/-i-Vancouver-Preview-i-April-9-2012/Being-a-Guest-on-Indigenous-Land>