Abstract: Acknowledgement of Indigenous territory, treaties and peoples is now a widespread practice at institutions across Canada. For some individuals this practice is straightforward. For others the practice is baffling. In this lecture/workshop, we will begin with an overview of acknowledgments, including at 98 Canadian universities. We will then discuss some problems with land acknowledgments and turn to the question of how to move forward. The aim is not to provide a final definitive word on the subject. Rather the hope is that this discussion will contribute to a conversation about practice, challenges and possibilities.


The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion, during which Prof. Cheryl Suzack (University of Toronto, Department of English and Centre for Indigenous Studies) and Prof. Douglas Sanderson (University of Toronto, Faculty of Law and Faculty Advisor, Aboriginal Law Students Association) will offer commentary on the presentation based on their experience in indigenous studies and the specific issue of land acknowledgments. The event will be moderated by Prof. Jeffrey Reitz, Director of the Harney Program in Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

This event serves as the keynote lecture for the R. F. Harney 12th Annual Ethnic and Pluralism Studies Graduate Research Conference

Registration: https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/ethnicstudies/event/27005/