

CALL FOR PAPERS

23rd CIÉRA CONFERENCE

"Indigenous Economies in Transformation: Strengthening Relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Territories

15-16 May 2025 - Musée de la civilisation, Quebec City

Deadline for receipt of papers: 21 February 2025

The Centre interuniversitaire d'études et de recherches autochtones (CIÉRA) is joining forces with the Ashukan Institute, the First Nations Economic Development Commission of Quebec (FNQLEDC) the Association étudiante autochtone of Université Laval (AÉA), and the various CIÉRA poles (UL, Mtl, UQO, AT), for the 23rd edition of its annual symposium, which will look at indigenous economies in transformation on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The event will take place on **15 and 16 May 2025 at the Musée de la civilisation in Quebec City.**

The colloquium is a forum for exchange, sharing and connection between actors from different backgrounds interested in indigenous issues. We are looking for students, researchers and practitioners who would like to enrich the discussions by sharing their work, their practices, their experiences or their knowledge about economic reconciliation and the issues of economic autonomy, the right to development, social justice and environmental sustainability. Presentation proposals should preferably focus on one or more of the following areas:

1) Reconciling visions: relations with territories, well-being and development

Indigenous worldviews see development as a means of improving relationships (Troster, 2022) with the ultimate goal of well-being, which can only be achieved if relationships are strengthened. The economic models and concepts of Canada's First Peoples have historically been based on the values of sustainability, respect, self-sufficiency and responsibility (Newhouse, 2004). These principles, applied to traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and gathering, aim to maintain the balance and health of ecosystems for the benefit of future generations (Saint Arnaud and Papatie, 2012). This contrasts with the world's dominant economic models, which favour rapid growth without necessarily taking account of relationships with nature, well-being and human and cultural perspectives. The historical principles of indigenous practices remain relevant in guiding the transformation of indigenous economies around the world. It is therefore important to identify them more clearly in order to understand the solutions they offer to the current ecological and social crises.

2) Strategies and practices of indigenous players

Indigenous communities are intimately linked to their territory, forming an inseparable whole. They therefore demonstrate a strong attachment to the community and pursue non-economic socio-cultural objectives that depart from traditional economic models (Hindle and Lansdowne, 2005; Lindsay, 2005). This situation has often generated numerous intercultural conflicts between communities and industry (Anderson, 1997; Booth and Skelton, 2011), as

well as within communities that have adopted the dominant economic model without really making it their own. The limits of conventional models in an indigenous context can be a route to social innovation (Levesque et al., 2014). This raises the question of what the strategies and practices of indigenous actors are as well as the local and alternative development models that promote the success of indigenous community development projects. In this case, the business practices of indigenous entrepreneurs incorporate the values of harmonious relations and sustainability. They seek to create businesses that benefit not only themselves, but also their communities and the environment. Another major challenge that emerges is the development of indigenous human resources. It is therefore essential to think about systemic issues, training, cultural safety measures and adaptations to human resources practices.

3) Governance of the economy

Around the world, policies that redefine the relationship between the state and indigenous peoples and economic autonomy are essential for indigenous communities committed to the recognition of their right to self-determination (Maaka and Fleras, 2005; Rodon, 2003; Dana and Anderson, 2007). To do this, indigenous communities need governance systems that are inspired by their worldviews and that guarantee the strengthening of their social and environmental relations (Jorgensen, 2007; Beaudoin et al., 2015). These systems involve, firstly, collective decision-making and consensus for the sustainable and equitable management of resources and, secondly, the careful selection of indigenous leaders based on their ability to maintain and strengthen relationships within the community and with the environment (Troster, 2022). This type of leadership differs from the individualistic leadership models seen in Western economies. In such a context, what are the means of ensuring that indigenous rights and systems of governance are recognised and respected within wider state structures? How do models of economic governance rooted in indigenous visions, values and practices respect and protect the health of people and territories?

Non-thematic papers

Student members of CIÉRA whose work does not fall within the theme of this year's colloquium but who are interested in giving a presentation may propose a paper as part of the "Research in progress" seminar. The terms and conditions of application are set out in another call for tenders. Visit [CIÉRA website](#).

Terms and conditions of application

Students, researchers, professionals or practitioners interested in presenting a communication in academic or other format (poster, video, etc.) must prepare an abstract of **300 words maximum** and complete the [FORM](#) before **February 21, 2025**

Presentations will take **between 15 and 20 minutes** (depending on the number of participants).

Proposals for papers will be analysed by the symposium's scientific committee and the selected speakers will be contacted by **17 March 2025**.

For further information, please write to colloque@ciera.ulaval.ca

References:

ANDERSON, R.B. 1997. Corporate/indigenous Partnerships in economic development: The first nations in Canada. *World Development* 25 (9): 1483-1503.

BEAUDOIN, J.-M. BOUTHILIER, L. CHIASSON, G. 2015. Growing Deep Roots: Increasing Aboriginal authority in contemporary forest governance arrangements. *Land Use Policy* 49: 287-295.

BOOTH, A.L. SKELTON, N.W. 2011. "There's a Conflict Right There": Integrating indigenous community values into commercial forestry in the Tl'azt' en first nation. *Society and Natural resources* 24 (4): 368-383.

DANA, L. ANDERSON, R.B. 2007. *International handbook of research on indigenous entrepreneurship*. Edward Elgar. Cheltenham.

HINDLE, K., LANSDOWNE, M., 2005. Brave spirits on new paths: toward a globally relevant paradigm of indigenous entrepreneurship research. *J. Small Bus. Interp.* 18, 131-141.

JORGENSEN, M. 2007. *Rebuilding native nations: Strategies for governance and development*. University of Arizona Press. Tucson

LEVESQUE, B. FONTAN, J. KLEIN, J. 2014. *Social innovation. Les marches d'une construction théorique et pratique*. Presses de l'université du Québec. Québec.

LINDSAY, N.J., 2005. Toward a cultural model of indigenous entrepreneurial attitude. *Acad. Mark. Sci. Rev.* 2005, 1.

MAAKA, R. FLERAS, A. 2005. *The politics of indigeneity: challenging the state in Canada and Aotearoa New Zealand*. University of Otago Press. Dunedin.

NEWHOUSE, D. 2004. The challenges of Aboriginal economic development in the shadow of the borg. *The Journal of Economic Development* 4 (1): 34-42.

RODON, T. 2003. *N partenariat avec l'état : les expériences de cogestion des autochtones du Canada*. Laval University Press. Québec.

SAINT-ARNAUD, M. PAPTIE, C. 2012. Forestry at a crossroads for the people of Kiticisakik. *Recherches Amérindiennes au Québec* 42 (2-3): 111-127.

TROSPER, R.L., 2022. *Indigenous economics: Sustaining peoples and their lands*. University of Arizona Press.