

Abstract

Submitted by:

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Deer (2015) confronted the difficult topic of rape among Native American women and questioned the impact of rape on sovereignty. Smith (2005) also addressed sexual violence and American Indian Genocide. In Canada, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015) called for action to conduct a national inquiry on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. Crimes and traumas are ongoing. The report was released in 2019. An untenured Cree researcher, armed with a Ph.D., from Treaty 8 proposed to ask the research question: As Indigenous peoples, can we have healthy sovereignty if we have not determined our sexual experiences? Immediately institutional red flags went up and the Research Ethics Board from the academic institution circled the Indigenous researcher virtually probing with questions about anonymity, honorariums, and indigenous research methods. This presentation identifies how a culture clash impacted relationality between the institution and researcher, institution and co-creators of the research, and researcher with co-creators.