



MANU AO
Academy

Seminar Series 20 July 2011



Dr Alexis Buntun

Toi huarewa Visiting Indigenous Fellow

Indigenous Capitalisms are rooted in local concepts of wealth, accumulation and distribution, but they must operate within current global markets. Indigenous Capitalisms reflect Indigenous peoples' shifting political relationships to settler colonial states and the supranational organizations that drive international policy. As such, articulations of Indigenous Capitalisms can be measured as indices of self-determination, demonstrating to the world that Indigenous political entities engaging in global commerce will likely not simply dissolve into a multicultural body politic. Future research in this area should offer new ways of understanding the ties between economic issues and Indigenous lives, challenging existing stereotypes about Indigenous peoples' stakes in the global economy contributing to the growing discipline of Indigenous Studies.

Alexis Buntun was born in Seattle, Washington. Her tribes are Yup'ik and Aleut and she is a member of Bristol Bay Native Corporation. Throughout her career, Alexis has remained committed to forwarding Native-owned cultural tourism, heritage management, and the performing arts. After receiving a BA in art history from Dartmouth College, Alexis returned to Alaska where she worked for heritage organizations on language revitalization and other cultural programming. Alexis earned her doctorate in anthropology at University of California Los Angeles in 2006. Her dissertation explored the political economy of Native-owned tourism and expressions of tribal identity against this backdrop. Since then, she has broadened her research interests to comparative Indigenous development, particularly in the areas of tourism and diversified corporate structures.