

Gabrielle A. Tayac, Ph.D.
210 Philadelphia Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(703) 963-0331 (cell)
tayacg@ gmail.com

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Department of Sociology, Ph.D. 1999

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Department of Sociology, A.M. 1993

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, Department of Human Service Studies, B.S. 1989

Undergraduate Concentrations: American Indian Studies and Community Organization

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

Piscataway Indian Nation, State Recognized Tribe of Maryland

LANGUAGE

Spanish, Conversational Fluency

RESEARCH

October 2019 – present

Co-Principle Investigator, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Washington, D.C. (Contract Appointment)
Leads a National Park Service funded project with Dr. Marya McQuirter (University of Arizona) to investigate content and supervise research on the ethnohistorical, ethnographic and contemporary relationships at Lafayette Square. Oversees team of graduate, undergraduate, high school, and professional researchers. Covers the importance of the site as a park, as a memorial site, as a gathering place for protest and as the seat of the U.S. government over the past three centuries with emphasis on underrepresented narratives. Time span proposed for 18 months with resulting report to develop interpretive plan.

June 2017 – September 2019

Director of Legacy Collections, Spirit Aligned Leadership Program for Indigenous Women and Girls, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, New York City, NY.

Created a trans-disciplinary curatorial methodology rooted in diverse indigenous cultural patterns, developed through intensive field work, and collaborative rigorous museological applications to gather and preserve Native knowledge. Innovated self-determined process with sixteen elder indigenous women “Legacy Leaders” considered cultural treasures to appropriately archive, design material, and survey their practices for their internal benefit as well as share active teachings with varying audiences. Advised on means to blend traditional ways of protecting knowledge with digital components leading to secure repositories. Supervised and trained community-based apprentices merging relevant curatorial, ethnographic,

interpretive, and tribally specific means to record and to expand Native practice. Developed grant processes, administrative techniques, and material categorization that melded with elders. Consulted widely with tribal communities, cultural institutions, and practitioners across the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, and Cuba to research and implement a form of indigenous scholarship accessible to communities at the center of trauma-informed and regenerative work.

December 2006 – June 2017

Historian, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C. (Permanent Appointment)
Researched, lectured, scripted, and advised on hemispheric indigenous peoples histories, philosophies, and self-representations. Taught seminars, classes, and workshops in museum education setting. Developed new scholarly unit at museum geared to indigenizing methodologies, theory, and content. Curated exhibitions and directed content for digital projects, public programs, and publications within NMAI, across the Smithsonian, and in collaboration with outside agencies and institutions. Focused on topics including Atlantic history, indigenous social movements, transnationalism, identity, racism and eugenics, and American Indian policy formation. See exhibits list. Served on editorial board of American Indian Magazine and Latin American Committee. Served on SI fellowship selection committees for Anthropology and History. Supervised undergraduate, graduate, and visiting senior fellow research including sitting on dissertation committees. Advised national and international museum professionals, governments, and other entities on policy and practice.

August 2005 – December 2006

Curator, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C. (Contract Appointment).
Curated and researched exhibit, computer interactives, and website on Chesapeake Native Peoples' social history and contemporary identity, Return to a Native Place, to open 2006. Researched, selected images, and wrote internet exhibition on Chesapeake Native peoples for NMAI's Indigenous Geography. Curated and wrote historic portion of New Tribe, New York: The Urban Vision Quest exhibition. Served on editorial committee for American Indian Magazine and as resource to staff on areas of expertise including Eastern United States and Latin America.

May 2006 – December 2006

History and Culture Consultant, National Geographic Television, Washington, D.C.
Provided content for and review of proposed docudrama on the encounter between the Powhatan and the English at the establishment of Jamestown, 1607. Served with team of expert advisors including geographers, ethnohistorians, archeologists, and indigenous community leaders on the film treatment, now at the proposal stage for funding.

September 2006 – December 2006

Historical Sociologist/Exhibition Consultant, The National Colonial Farm, Accokeek, Maryland.

Researched and evaluated exhibition at the National Colonial Farm to include material on Piscataway Indian history. Trained interpreters. Presented and organized lecture series on Native history of the Chesapeake Bay. Participated in short-term programming for the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown and in long-term programming for public awareness of ethnic dynamics in a sociohistorical context.

September 2005 – May 2007

Historical Sociologist/Exhibition Consultant, Maryland Heritage Interpretive Center Project, Historic St. Mary's City and St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Conducted foundational research and provided initial content as well as methodological consultations centering on colonial-era indigenous sociocultural history in transatlantic systems dynamic for the creation of a new multi-million dollar exhibit hall scheduled to open in 2009. Worked on team including Dr. Lonnie Bunch, Founding Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Dr. Martin Sullivan, Director of Historic St. Mary's City, and Dr. Nancy Davis, Director of the Maryland Historical Society.

March 2003 – March 2005

Curator, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C. (Temporary Staff Appointment for 2004 Opening) Directed content and supervise research team for overview areas of an inaugural exhibition, *Our Lives: Contemporary Native Life and Identity* in collaboration with Dr. Jolene Rickard (Tuscarora) and Dr. Gerald McMaster (Plains Cree). Developed theoretical frameworks underpinning hemispheric Native identities, wrote exhibit script, assessed educational goals, determined object selection, and consulted on design. Provided curatorial consultation to curator Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche), on *Our Peoples*, inaugural exhibition on indigenous histories. Conducted trainings for teachers and museum educators on NMAI topics and substantive areas of expertise. Researched content for *New Tribe, New York* exhibit. Consulted with Native peoples on museums as self-representative, empowering educational spaces in the United States and Latin America. Lectured publicly on museum education and indigenous topics. Served on Editorial Committee for *American Indian Magazine*.

February 1999 - June 1999.

Research Consultant, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C.

Assembled and presented research on Piscataway and Chesapeake indigenous ethnography to staff at NMAI for use in public programs, community services, architecture, and cultural resources. Wrote monograph on the Piscataway. Conducted seminars and field-trips pertaining to local indigenous culture.

June 1992 - August 1992.

Research Fellow, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Conducted research on Piscataway history and ethnography utilizing primary data available at the National Museum of Natural History in preparation for the Master's qualifying paper and dissertation. Advised by Dr. Joallen Archambault, Director, Native American Program and Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ruell, Director, National Anthropological Archives.

February 1992 - June, 1992.

Research Assistant, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Conducted research on Caribbean-United States immigration and economic flows and other interactions to assist Professor Orlando Patterson, Department of Sociology.

January, 1989 - August, 1989.

Special Project Coordinator, Indigenous Communications Resource Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Developed survey to assess the impact of the Columbian Quincentenary on indigenous communities. Analyzed and published results. Initiated and implemented a coordinating clearinghouse for information addressing the Quincentenary. Networked with concerned international organizations. Responded to human rights violations in the international indigenous community.

Summer 1987.

Teagle Foundation Research Fellow, Cornell Graduate School, Ithaca, NY.

Conducted research concerning power abuse in the human services under advisement of Dr. Donald Barr, Professor, Human Service Studies. Applied experience to launch independent study on the Piscataway Indian Nation's oral history.

EDUCATION

August 2005 – August 2006

Guest Education Curator (Contract Appointment), Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C.

Researched and wrote educational guide on Chesapeake indigenous societies. Train NMAI educational staff and K-12 teachers on content and presentation of substantive material.

September – December 2005

Guest Lecturer, St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD.

Conducted series of lectures for Dr. Martin Sullivan's classes on Museum Studies and Colonial America to explore issues of cultural representation.

June 1999 – February 2003

Education Director, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C. (Term Appointment)
Served as Unit Head for Education. Initiated, developed, and implemented public programs and permanent installations. Served on committee to devise research policy for NMAI. Consulted on exhibits, community services, and curatorial staff on native peoples of the Chesapeake region and hemisphere. Oversaw fellowship program research on endangered community traditions. Acted as educator on team planning all permanent exhibits. Served on editorial committee for museum publications. Supervised graduate student research. Coordinated public programs for hemispheric exhibit tours. Researched in NMAI archives and collections for curatorial purposes. Conducted teacher trainings. Coordinated panel discussions and ceremonial events related to the NMAI Groundbreaking Ceremony. Initiated children's book series, My World: Young Native Americans Today and wrote award-winning first publication, Meet Naiche.

July, 1990 – December 2006

Curriculum Consultant, Independent Contractor.
Advised text book publishers and educational boards, wrote articles, and conducted seminars concerning diversity education topics as they relate to Native American issues.

September, 1991 - January, 1992

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA..
Led discussions for graduate students enrolled in "Introduction to Native American Religious Traditions." Lectured on topics regarding American Indians of the Eastern United States and social movements. Arranged for guest speaker from the Kuna Indians of Panama. Graded and evaluated student work. Assisted Professor Ines Talamantez in exam design and class activities.

AREAS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Public History
Museum Studies
Historical and Comparative Methodology
Early Colonial Chesapeake
Race and Ethnicity
Global Indigeneity
Collective Behavior and Social Movements
Sociology of Religion
Human Rights

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 1995 – January 2012

Recognition Coordinator, Piscataway Indian Nation, Accokeek, MD.
Prepared and submitted 1200-page petition under tribal direction for state recognition of Piscataway Indian Nation that resulted in a unanimous positive recommendation by state-appointed Recognition Committee,

including Dr. Helen Rountree, Dr. Chris Goodwin, Ron Andrade, and Dr. Carson Gibb. Advocate for tribal position that 1979 Maryland General Assembly resolution and several court findings recognizing the Piscataway Indian Nation and chieftainship already carries recognition. Recognition obtained January 2012.

March 1994 – January 2017

Research Director, Repatriation Project, Piscataway Indian Nation, Accokeek, MD.

Conduct and supervise study to establish cultural affiliation of modern Piscataway community to historic Piscataway human remains (circa 1600) held in museum collections. Utilize primary genealogical, oral, ethnographic, and historical materials. Consult with archeologists and government officials using repatriation legislation. Results of study led to Maryland Historic Trust and Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs finding that the modern Piscataway are culturally affiliated with remains held by the State of Maryland and recommendation for repatriation.

September, 1989 - June, 1990.

Ralph J. Bunche Human Rights Fellow, Amnesty International USA, Washington, D.C.

Advised and serviced 250 Amnesty International high school and college groups. Implemented and supervised student leadership structures. Developed programs for Native American outreach. Created Indigenous Peoples' Urgent Action Network. Advocated Indigenous Peoples' Campaign for 1992, the Columbian Quincentenary. Organized human rights assistance for Central and South American Indian cases as well as crisis at Oka, Canada. Conducted workshops on indigenous peoples' issues.

September, 1986 - June, 1989.

Program Coordinator, American Indian Program, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Provided support, counseling, and information for Native American students. Planned and supervised student activities. Networked with minority student programs. Developed student newsletter. Assisted in recruitment of Native American students. Organized events to promote awareness of Native American issues in the Cornell and Ithaca community. Represented Native American students at conferences.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

“Our Morning Star: The Sacred Compass of Suzan Harjo,” with Patsy Phillips, In K. Gover and P. Phillips (Eds.), *A Promise Kept: The Life and Legacy of Suzan Harjo*, National Museum of the American Indian, In Press for 2020.

“Curation as Three-Dimensional Authorship,” In C. Anderson and J. O’Brien (Eds), *Sources and Methods in Indigenous Studies*, London: Routledge, 2016.

“IndiVisible: The Making of an Exhibition at the National Museum of the American Indian,” In A.S. Parent and U. Wiethaus (Eds), Trauma and Resilience in American Indian and African American Southern History, Baltimore: Lang Publishers, 2013.

Indivisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas, (Editor) Smithsonian Institution Press, October 2009.

“Eugenics and American Indians,” American Indian Magazine, Fall 2009.

“Eugenics as Indian Removal: Sociohistorical Processes and the De(con)struction of American Indian in the Southeast,” With Angela Gonzales (Hopi) and Judith Kertesz (Lumbee), The Public Historian, Vol. 29, No.3.

“The Land Has Memory,” In D. Blue Spruce and T. Thrasher (Eds.), Native Landscape, University of North Carolina Press and the National Museum of the American Indian, 2008.

“From the Deep: The Native Identity Layer of New York City,” In G. McMaster (Ed.) New Tribe, New York: The Urban Vision Quest, National Museum of the American Indian, 2005.

Book Review of Real Indians: Identity and Survival of Native America by Eva Marie Garroutte, in Journal of American Ethnic History, Winter 2005.

“Keeping the Original Instructions,” In C. Trafzer and G. McMaster (Eds.), The Native Universe:Voices of Indian America, National Geographic Society and Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, 2004.

Spirits in the River: A Report on the Piscataway People, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of the American Indian, June 1999.

“Sovereignty of Body and Nation: Captivity and Resistance of Indigenous Female Adolescents,” Shared Visions: A Leadership Journal, Fall 1998.

“Stolen Spirits: An Illustrative Case of Survival through Religious Freedom” In D. Morrisson (Ed.), American Indian Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach, Baltimore: Lang Publishers, 1997.

“As One Heart: Pan-Indian Movements in the Old Northwest,” Proceedings of the Writing Cultures II Conference at University of Maryland College Park, March 1995.

"Today in Native America," Multicultural Connection, Silver, Burdett, and Ginn Publishers, April 1992.

"Native American Perspectives on Columbus," Multicultural Connection, Silver, Burdett, and Ginn Publishers, January 1992

"500 Years: Preliminary Results," Northeast Indian Quarterly, Cornell University Fall, 1990.

"So Intermingled with This Earth," Northeast Indian Quarterly, Cornell University Spring 1989.

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

Meet Naiche: A Native Boy of the Chesapeake Bay Region, Beyond Words Publishing and National Museum of the American Indian, 2002. [Children's book, received UNESCO International Youth Library's White Raven Award and Skipping Stones International Multicultural Magazine's Honor Award].

"The Ceiba Endures: Salvadoran Indians Seek Political Space," Native Americas, Cornell University, Winter, 1996.

"Indigenous Salvadorans face eviction and human rights abuses," Native Americas, Cornell University, Spring 1996.

"The Funeral of Louis Hall," Red Sticks Press, July 1994.

"Human Rights in the Fourth World," Northeast Indian Quarterly Cornell University, Fall, 1990.

"The Nations Invisible: Denial of Native Reality in Curriculum," Student Coalition against Apartheid and Racism News, June, 1990.

"Living in Two Worlds: An Interview with Carlos Nakai," Northeast Indian Quarterly, Cornell University Fall 1989.

"The Spirit Lives: Indians of El Salvador," Akwesasne Notes, Winter 1988.

"Voices from the Land," Human Rights Bulletin, The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, New York City, Spring 1987.

EXHIBITIONS

Curator (2012-2017)

Native New York: Where Nations Rise

National Museum of the American Indian, New York, Opening 2021

Co-Curator (2009-2012)

Americans

National Museum of the American Indian, Washington DC, 2017

Co-Curator

IndiVisible: African-Native American Peoples of the Americas

National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C., 2009.

Curator

Welcome to Native America: Your Journey Begins Here

National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C., 2008.

Curator

Native Peoples and the Land

National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C., 2007.

Consultant

The View From Here: Maryland and the John Smith Voyages

The Accokeek Foundation, Accokeek, Maryland, 2007.

Curator

Return to a Native Place: Peoples of the Chesapeake Region

National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C., 2006.

Co-Curator

Our Lives: Contemporary Native Life and Identity

Inaugural Exhibition, National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C., 2004.

Curatorial Consultant

Our Peoples: Native Histories

Inaugural Exhibition, National Museum of the American Indian, 2004, Washington, D.C., 2004.

Researcher

New Tribe, New York: The Urban Vision Quest

NMAI George Gustav Heye Center, New York, 2004.

Education Curator

Newborn Ancestors: Plains Children

NMAI George Gustav Heye Center, New York, 2001

Education Curator

Gifts of Pride and Love: Kiowa Cradleboards

NMAI George Gustav Heye Center, New York, 2001

Programs Coordinator and Exhibition Writer

Woven by the Grandmothers: Navajo Weavings

Latin American tour of NMAI exhibition to Mexico, Guatemala, Uruguay, Peru, and Bolivia sponsored by United States Department of State, 2000.

Lectures, Workshops, and Academic Conference Presentations

Due to the extensive nature of this list, available upon request.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance of Museums
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Advisor, National Park Service (2010 – present)
Declaration of Independence 250th Commemoration
African American Heritage Sites (in collaboration with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)
Indigenous Cultural Landscapes Initiative

Advisor, Virginia Indian Heritage Program, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

Commissioner, St. Mary's Historic Commission (2009-2015)
Appointed by Maryland Governor O'Malley

Mentor, Latino Youth Leadership Council, Latin American Youth Center (2017-present)

Mentor, International Indigenous Youth Council (2017-present)

Trustee and Vice President, The Accokeek Foundation (2007-2013)
Serve on Program Committee and consult on exhibitions at The National Colonial Farm.

Advisor, Smithsonian World Cultures Consortium
Guide directives for institution-wide initiatives.

Advisor, National Geographic Society Magazine (2006)
Consult on planned article and map regarding the indigenous world circa 1607 to offer insight to the impact of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia.

Advisory Board, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (2000 – 2010)
Work with MARCH to establish inclusive and appropriate strategies for region as part of National Endowment for the Humanities project.

Committee of Distinguished Academic Advisors, Maryland Historical Society (2002-03)
Advised on inaugural survey exhibition for Maryland Historical Society's new museum facility in Baltimore, Maryland.

Advocate, Asociacion Nacional Indígena Salvadoreña, 1987-2017
Support and promote human rights for Nahuat, Lenca, and Maya peoples in El Salvador and in other countries living as refugees.

Educator's Advisory Council, George Catlin Website Project, National Museum of American Art (2001)
Provided guidance on Native voice inclusion and assessing indigenous perspectives on educational website accompanying NMAA Catlin exhibition.

Advisory Board, Potomac National Heritage Trail Advisory Board (2000-2002)
Assisted in development of cultural content for regional trail with National Park Service.

Commissioner, Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA) (1995-2000)
Appointed by Governors Schaefer and Glendening to serve as liaison between state government and Native communities.

Chairperson, MCIA Archeological Liaison Committee (1996-2000)
Elected to facilitate community involvement with state and federal archeologists to better repatriation efforts.

Co-Founder, League of Indigenous Sovereign Nations (1990 – 1994)
Conceptualized and formed LISN with hemispheric indigenous partners to address international rights issues heightened during the Columbian Quincentenary.

Research Editor, Red Sticks Press (1994-1995)
Worked with American Indian grassroots publication to emphasize human rights material.

Indigenous Peoples Steering Committee, Amnesty International USA (1989-1994)
Established indigenous peoples' urgent action networks and assisted AIUSA in creating appropriate policy to address indigenous human rights abuses.

Co-Founder, Council of Native American Students at Harvard (1990-1993)
Formed university-wide Native student's organization for mutual support and public education, served as co-chair..

Co-Founder, Native American Students at Cornell (1986-1989)
Helped to re-invigorate Native student organization and served as co-chair.

Representative, Women of All Red Nations (1990 – 1994)
Served as a WARN spokesperson in numerous social justice meetings including those held by NOW and National Council of Negro Women.

Member, Committee on Women, Population and the Environment (1990 – 1995)
Collaborated with CWPE to craft policy recommendations and mandates leading up to the UN Conference on Women in Beijing and beyond.

Participant, Colombia Human Rights Committee, 1993-2001
Work with CHRC to heighten public awareness about human rights in Colombia, especially emphasizing conditions of indigenous peoples.

Board of Directors, Survival International USA (1990-1992)

Actively promoted work of SIUSA to lobby for and to provide grassroots support for global indigenous peoples at risk focusing on Amazonian concerns.

Board of Directors, Human Rights Office of Cathedral of St. John the Divine (1987-1990).

Assisted Cathedral of St. John the Divine (NYC) in human rights work geared towards American Indian issues including the Leonard Peltier incarceration case and forced removals at Big Mountain.

