

Billy-Ray Belcourt, M.St.

Education

M.St. in Women's Studies with *Distinction* (2016 – 2017)

University of Oxford & Wadham College

Thesis: "Decolonial Sight: Indigenous Feminist Protest and the World-to-Come"

Supervisor: Dr. Kerrie Thornhill

B.A. (Hons.) in Comparative Literature with *First-Class Honours* (2012 – 2016)

University of Alberta

Supervisor: Dr. Carrie Smith-Prei

Research Positions

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Research Assistant, June & July 2016

Human Resource Services, University of Alberta

I was tasked with 1) investigating the University of Alberta's child care policies and conducting an environmental scan of child care policies at major research universities throughout Canada; and 2) conducting a literature review of the scholarly writing on decolonization and the university.

Research Assistant, June – November 2015

Imaginations: A Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies, University of Alberta

I completed administrative tasks, monitored emails, and liaised with reviewers and authors, etc.

Research Intern, August 2013 – January 2014

Old Strathcona Youth Society, Edmonton, AB

I interviewed street-involved and homeless youth who frequent the inner city of Edmonton to make claims about the high incidence of police brutality and other forms of social violence in the city.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Meditations on reserve life, biosociality, and the taste of non-sovereignty." *Settler Colonial Studies* (2017): 1-15. Web.

"A Poltergeist Manifesto." *Feral Feminisms* 6 (2016): 22-32. Web.

"Animal Bodies, Colonial Subjects: (Re)Locating Animality in Decolonial Thought." *Societies* 5.1 (2015): 1-11. Web.

Articles in Progress

"Indigenous Studies Beside Itself," a short commentary for *Somatechnics*.

"Native-Woman-Trans: An Essay on the Afterlife and Prison Abolition in Seven Parts," under peer review for an anthology called *Intergenerational Indigenous Feminisms*.

"Thinking Paradoxically," in progress for an anthology called *Messy Eating*.

Conference Activity

Panels Organized

"Queer Indigenous Energies," 2016 Sexuality Studies Association, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2016, University of Calgary, 31 May 2016.

"Decolonial + Love + Otherwise," 2016 Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, 21 May 2016.

Papers Presented

"Meditations on Reserve Life, Biosociality, and the Taste of Non-Sovereignty," 2017 Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, Vancouver, B.C., 21 June 2016.

"A Poltergeist Manifesto," 2016 Sexuality Studies Association, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2016, University of Calgary, 31 May 2016.

"Anarchic Objects and the Autoerotics of Decolonial Love," 2016 Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, 21 May 2016.

"Indigenous Feminism as Abolitionist Praxis: An Essay in Ten Parts." Workshop on Indigenous Feminisms: Decolonization, Pedagogy, & Resurgence, University of Alberta, 11 March 2016.

---. 2016 Spatializing Sovereignty Symposium, The Society for Radical Geography, Spatial Theory, and Everyday Life, University of California, Berkeley, 4 March 2016.

"Ontological Murder: Queer Feelings in Colonial Times." 2015-16 Inside/Out Speaker Series, University of Alberta, 24 March 2016.

"Post-Tradition Indigeneities." A Symposium on Indigenous Masculinities, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, 4 December 2015.

"Queer Indigenous Poltergeists." 2015 Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. Washington, D.C. 6 June 2015.

"The Homonormativity of Settler Colonialism." 3rd Annual Critical Ethnic Studies Association Conference. Toronto, ONT. 1 May 2015.

"Adapting The Color Purple: Black Queerness and the Non-Ontological." University of Alberta's 9th Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature. 13 March 2015.

Invited Presentations

"Reserve Dying and the Taste of Non-Sovereignty," Decolonizing Critical Animal Studies, Crippling Critical Animal Studies, University of Alberta, 23 June 2016. Plenary Panel.

"Gallstones and the Colonial Politics of the Future," TEDxUAlberta, University of Alberta, 4 March 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ohSatwGtil>.

"State Wounds," Aditawazi Nisoditadiwin: Reconciliation, Responsibilities & (Re) Creating Relationships, Carleton University, 19 March 2016, Keynote.

"A Poltergeist Manifesto," The Landing's Body Politics Speaker Series, University of Alberta, 21 January 2015. Lecture.

"State Wounds/ Bad Non-Sovereignty." 2015 Aboriginal Student Council Annual Lecture, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, 5 November 2015.

Public Scholarship

with Lou Comum, Thel Seraphim, and Kay Gabriel, "Top or Bottom: How do we desire?" *The New Inquiry* 62 (2017): 32-37.

"To be Unbodied," *Canadian Art* (2017): n.p.

"The body remembers when the world broke open," *ArtsEverywhere.ca*, February 8, 2017, <http://artseverywhere.ca/2017/02/08/body-remembers-world-broke-open/>.

with Maura Roberts, "Making friends for the end of the world," *GUTS: A Canadian Feminist Magazine*, 23 May 2016, <http://gutsmagazine.ca/featured/making-friends>.

"Can the Other of Native Studies Speak?" *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*. 1 February 2016, <https://decolonization.wordpress.com/2016/02/01/can-the-other-of-native-studies-speak/>.

"Political Depression in a Time of Reconciliation," *ActiveHistory.ca*, 15 January 2016, <http://activehistory.ca/2016/01/political-depression-in-a-time-of-reconciliation/>.

"The day of the TRC Final Report: On being in this world without wanting it," *rabble.ca*, 15 December 2015, <http://rabble.ca/news/2015/12/day-trc-final-report-on-being-this-world-without-wanting-it>

Creative Writing

THIS WOUND IS A WORLD: POEMS, forthcoming with *Frontenac House* (2017).

"Two Poems," *The Next Quarterly* (2017)

"GAY INCANTATIONS," *Voicemail Poems* (2017).

"LOVE IS A MOONTIME TEACHING," *The Malahat Review* (2016); winner of the 2016 P.K. Page Founder's Award for Poetry.

"NOTES FROM A PUBLIC WASHROOM," *Yellow Medicine Review* (2016).

"SEXUAL HISTORY," *PRISM International* (2016).

"sacred," *SAD Mag* Issue 22 (2016); nominated for a 2017 Pushcart Prize.

"i am hoping to help this city heal from its trauma," *mâmwî-âcimowak* 1 (2016).

"we were never meant to break like this," The Fraud That Goes Under the Name of Love, Audain Gallery, Simon Fraser University, June 2 – August 1, 2016, <http://www.sfu.ca/galleries/audain-gallery/The-Fraud-That-Goes-By-The-Name-Of-Love.html>.

"Battle Cry," "OkCupid," "Love and Other Experiments," "Grindr Poems," "Boyfriend Poems," "Colonialism: A Love Story," "Native Too," "Gay Sex," *Assaracus: A Journal of Gay Poetry* (2016). "Love and Other Experiments" nominated for a 2017 Pushcart Prize.

"god's river," *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, <https://decolonization.wordpress.com/2016/04/18/gods-river/>. (2016).

"OkCupid," *Red Rising Magazine*, no. 2 (2016).

Media Coverage

Benaway, Gwen, "Decolonial love: These Indigenous artists are taking back the self-love that colonialism stole," CBC Arts, July 4, 2017, <http://www.cbc.ca/arts/decolonial-love-these-indigenous-artists-are-taking-back-the-self-love-that-colonialism-stole-1.4189785>.

Elliot, Alicia, "Ten Indigenous Writers You Need to Read Right Now," VICE, May 23, 2017, https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/nejmmx/ten-indigenous-writers-you-need-to-read-right-now.

"60 Indigenous writers to read, as recommended by you," CBC Books, July 14, 2017, <http://www.cbc.ca/books/108-indigenous-writers-to-read-as-recommended-by-you-1.4197475>.

"The Sixth Sense of Decolonial Thought: David Eso in Conversation with Billy-Ray Belcourt," The Malahat Review, 2017, http://www.malahatreview.ca/interviews/belcourt_interview.html.

"Six Indigenous writers to watch," CBC Books, July 9, 2016, <http://www.cbc.ca/books/six-indigenous-writers-to-watch-1.4150045>.

Awards, Fellowships, & Achievements

July 2017

Queen Elizabeth II Doctoral Scholarship – University of Alberta

\$15,000

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| July 2017 | Graduate Entrance Award for Excellence in Literary Studies – University of Alberta \$10,000 |
| July 2017 | University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship \$5,000 |
| June 2016 | The Governor General's Silver Medal Awarded to the three undergraduate students who achieve the highest academic standing overall upon graduation at the University of Alberta. |
| June 2016 | Chancellor's Leadership Medal \$500 and a silver medal awarded to a convocating undergraduate student at the University of Alberta that has demonstrated outstanding leadership involvement throughout an undergraduate degree, while maintaining superior academic achievement in a final year of study. |
| June 2016 | Dr. John MacDonald Medal in Arts \$1300 and sterling gilt medal awarded to a convocating student with superior academic achievement in the BA Honors program in the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta. Recipient will be the student who has shown the highest distinction in scholarship. |
| May 2016 | SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (Declined) \$80,000 over 48 months awarded for study of a PhD in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Declined to take up a Rhodes Scholarship at the University of Oxford. |
| March 2016 | University of California, Berkeley Multi-Year Fellowship, Department of Ethnic Studies (Declined) \$68,000 over 24 months and teaching appointments in years three and four. Declined to take up a Rhodes Scholarship at the University of Oxford. |
| Nov. 2015 | Rhodes Scholarship Considered the most academically prestigious scholarship in the world, the Rhodes Scholarship is awarded to "exceptional students from around the world to study at the University of Oxford." Covers all University and College fees, a personal stipend (£13,658 per annum) and one economy class airfare to Oxford, as well as an economy flight back to the student's home country. |
| August 2015 | Peter Lougheed Leadership Scholarship \$10,000 awarded to students with superior academic achievement registered in either of the final two years of an undergraduate degree at the University of Alberta. Recipients selected on the basis of demonstrated leadership in university of community organizations, sports activities, or cultural activities. |

- 2014 & 2015 Louis McKinney Scholarship
\$2500 awarded on the basis of superior academic achievement (top 1.5-2% of faculty) to students at the University of Alberta who are also Alberta residents.
- 2014 & 2015 Dean's List, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta
Awarded to students in the Faculty of Arts whose average on a minimum of 30 units of course weight during the preceding Fall and Winter term is 3.5 or better.
- 2015 Dr. Geneva Misener Memorial Scholarship in Modern Languages
\$1,000 Awarded to a student with superior academic achievement completing the third year of an honour's program with a principle subject area in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies.
- June 2015 Iris Marion Young Diversity Scholar
Awarded to students across North America from underrepresented groups in professional philosophy. Sponsored by the Rock Ethic's Institute at Penn State University. Successful applicants attend the Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute.
- April 2015 Roger S. Smith Undergraduate Research Award
"Carceral Canines and the Affective Politics of Settler Colonialism"
\$5000 to cultivate and support research partnerships between undergraduate students and faculty members, providing for 15 weeks of research-based activity over the summer.
- March 2015 SSHRC Undergraduate Research Award
\$4500 tenured by Dr. Chloë Taylor to support an undergraduate research assistant to assist with a SSHRC-funded project.
- 2014 Michael Phair Leadership Award
\$1000 awarded to students with satisfactory academic standing entering the second, third, or fourth year of studies. Selection based on demonstrated leadership qualities and involvement in extracurricular and community activities. Preference given to students who have demonstrated commitment to the advancement of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, or queer communities.
- 2014 Hooper-Munroe Academic Award
\$1000 in recognition of the highest overall academic standing in the preceding Winter term at the University of Alberta. Can only be awarded to an applicant once.
- 2013 The Edmonton Journal/Dean of Arts Award of Distinction
\$4500 awarded over three years to a student with satisfactory academic standing of at least 3.3 GPA studying Humanities and/or Social Sciences.

- 2013 Jason Lang Scholarship
\$1000 designed to reward the outstanding academic achievement of Alberta post-secondary students who are continuing into their second, third, or fourth year of studies. Cannot be awarded to a student who wins the Louis McKinney Scholarship.
- 2012 University of Alberta Academic Excellence Scholarship
\$2000 awarded to students with superior academic achievement entering the first year of an undergraduate degree at the University of Alberta.
- 2012 Alexander Rutherford Academic Excellence Scholarship
\$2500 rewards exceptional academic achievement at the senior high level and encourages students to pursue post-secondary studies.

Other awards include: the ConoccoPhillips Aboriginal Award, 2013 (\$3,000); Indspire Post-Secondary Education Scholarship, 2013, 14, 15, 16 (\$5,800/\$3,000/\$3,800/ \$1,000); FAAY Scholarship, 2013 (\$2,500); 2015-16 Prize in Aboriginal/Indigenous Literatures (\$500); the June Callwood Harmony Scholarship, 2012 (\$1000).

Affiliations & Memberships

Critical Ethnic Studies Association
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
Sexuality Studies Association

Employment & Volunteer History

Intern, Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and *Canadian Art*, July 2017 – Present
I will write three articles over six weeks on contemporary Indigenous art. Two of these will be published online and one in print.

Indigenous Feminist Collective, Founding Member, 2014-Present
Edmonton, AB

I am one of the founding members of the Indigenous Feminist Collective, an academic-activist group that seeks to theorize the realities of Indigenous women and queer and trans Indigenous people in Edmonton and at the University of Alberta. In March 2015, we hosted a two-day workshop called “A Workshop on Indigenous Feminisms: Decolonization, Pedagogy, & Resurgence,” bringing together activist-scholars from across Canada.

Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Youth Facilitator, 2014-16
Edmonton, AB

The Native Youth Sexual Health Network is an organization by and for Indigenous youth that works across issues of reproductive health, rights, and justice throughout the United States and Canada. As a Youth Facilitator, I conducted workshops and community events across Canada (i.e., northern

Alberta, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Toronto) around harm reduction, gender and sexual diversity, gendered violence, and colonialism

Aboriginal Student Council, President, 2014-16

University of Alberta

The Aboriginal Student Council is an autonomous student group at the University of Alberta, representing and advocating for self-identified Indigenous students (approximately 1000 students) and providing opportunities for social, academic, athletic, and cultural engagement. As President for two consecutive terms, I lobbied university administration to commit to Indigenous flourishing and sat on the Council for Aboriginal Initiatives, the Faculty of Native Studies Council, and the Aboriginal Focus Group.

ACCESS Youth Advisory Council, Member, 2015-16

University of Alberta

I was tasked with providing guidance for ACCESS-CANADA's University of Alberta-based initiatives around mental health and first-year students. My involvement focused primarily on Indigenous students and mental health

Department of Modern Languages & Cultural Studies, Undergraduate Rep, 2015-16

University of Alberta

I represented and advocated for undergraduate students in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, attending monthly department council meetings.

The Landing: a student space for gender and sexual diversity, Volunteer, 2014-15

University of Alberta

I was a member of The Landing's inaugural volunteer cohort, working primarily on community awareness. I had weekly volunteer hours in which I would provide a space for patrons to discuss gender- and sexuality-related topics

Sprinkle: An Undergraduate Journal of Feminist and Queer Studies, Reviewer, 2014-15

Based at California Polytechnic State University

I was an Assistant Editor and Reviewer with Sprinkle, which is based at California Polytechnic State University, working to engender an academic culture that values the intellectual labor of undergraduate students. I solicited work from University of Alberta students and peer-reviewed interdisciplinary papers from students across North America. The editorial board met bi-weekly.

YouAlberta, Student Communicator, 2013-14

University of Alberta

YouAlberta is the University of Alberta's official student blog, and I was tasked with producing stories about its student life. I focused on rural, Indigenous, academic, and athletic topics. I was essentially a voice for students on campus, communicating how students were creating communities.

The Gateway, Staff Writer (Volunteer), 2013-14

University of Alberta

The Gateway is the University of Alberta's official student newspaper. I wrote a minimum of one story a week for the News, Opinion, and Arts & Culture sections. I was also the lead writer for two blogs, one on Indigenous issues and politics and the other on pop culture. I covered such controversial stories as the Peter Lougheed Leadership College and the Accountability Action Project. I was awarded the News Volunteer of the Year Award in 2013.

South Peace News, Intern, 2013

High Prairie, AB

The South Peace News is the community newspaper in High Prairie, Alberta. I wrote stories for the town and its surrounding, mostly Indigenous, communities.