

SOLIDARITY LOOM

Weaving a Global Network of Engaged Creatives

in a world of rising authoritarianism

virtual series January-June 2026

INDIGENOUS APPROACHES TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

June 18

**11 am EDT | 12 pm BRT | 5 pm
CEST | 4 pm WAT | 6 pm EAT
6 pm AST | 8:30 pm IST**

REGISTER at:
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THE SESSION FLOW

5 minutes

Welcome and Introduction

Armine Avetisyan (IMPACT)
Cynthia Cohen (IMPACT)

5 minutes

GROUNDING RITUAL

Polly Walker

30 minutes

PRINCIPLES OF INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

Taiaike Alfred

15 minutes

QUESTIONS AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

20 minutes

FIRST PEOPLES GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS AND THE RELATIONALIST ETHOS

Dr. Mary Graham (recording)

10 minutes

REFLECTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

5 minutes

WRAP UP AND CLOSURE

TAIAIAKE ALFRED

Kahnawà:ke Mohawk philosopher, writer, and political strategist

Taiaiake Alfred is a Kahnawà:ke Mohawk philosopher, writer, and political strategist with four decades of experience in First Nations governance, politics and cultural restoration and environmental impact assessment. Taiaiake served as an infantryman in the United States Marine Corps, and after a 25-year academic career during which he founded Indigenous programs at Concordia University and the University of Victoria and originated Indigenous Resurgence as an intellectual paradigm, he left academia to devote himself to working directly with his own and other First Nations people at the community level to breathe life into ancestral visions of nationhood. He is an Indspire/National Aboriginal Achievement Award laureate in the field of education, holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University, and is the author of four books: *Heeding the Voices of Our Ancestors and Peace, Power, Righteousness*, from Oxford University Press, *Wasáse: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom*, and most recently, *It's All about the Land: Collected Talks and Interviews on Indigenous Resurgence*, from the University of Toronto Press. He presently leads the Kahnawà:ke Governance Project, a community initiative to restore traditional government, the Onkwehón:we Project, a large-scale research collaboration on Ancestral Iroquoia, and is the Senior Advisor on Indigenous Initiatives at McGill University.



DR. MARY GRAHAM

University of Queensland, Australia

Mary is a Kombumerri person (Gold Coast) through her father's heritage and affiliated with Wakka Wakka (South Burnett) through her mother's people. She has worked across government, community, and academic sectors, including the University of Queensland, the Aboriginal and Islander Childcare Agency, and the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action. Mary is adjunct associate professor at the University of Queensland and has taught and developed curricula on Aboriginal history, politics, philosophy, and Indigenous approaches to knowledge, and has lectured extensively across Australia.



DR. POLLY WALKER

IMPACT Senior Fellow

Polly O. Walker is of Cherokee ancestry and a member of the New Mexico Cherokee Community. She is Assoc. Professor Emeritus of Peace and Conflict Studies at Juniata College. Polly serves as Board Chair of the Indigenous Education Institute whose work supports ethical collaboration with Indigenous peoples and western scientists, supporting the revitalization of Indigenous knowledge systems. In 2026 she was a presenter at the Second Indigenous Peacebuilding Summit in NYC, highlighting the work of the knowledge collective at Ottawa Dialogue that brings together Native peacemakers and Western two track diplomats. Polly earned her PhD at Australia's University of Queensland where her research focused on conflict transformation between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous Australians. Polly is co-editor of the two-volume "Acting Together: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict". She also contributed to the documentary "Acting Together on the World Stage," and is co-author of the accompanying toolkit. She was a director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute of Australia for 12 years.





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