



## **American Indian Studies Association**

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
February 5-6, 2026

4th Annual Graduate Student Pre-Conference  
February 4, 2026

University of New Mexico, Student Union Building  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### **Constellations of Indigenous Belonging and Kinship**

The American Indian Studies Association (AISA) continues to honor the visionary scholars, community leaders, and knowledge holders who founded and continue to grow the field of American Indian Studies (AIS). The 2026 conference invites reflection on and celebration of the *Constellations of Indigenous Belonging and Kinship*—those intricate, interwoven relationships that sustain

Indigenous communities across generations, geographies, and experiences.

This year's theme centers on kinship's intellectual, cultural, and political significance as both an analytic and a lived practice. Belonging and kinship ground Indigenous Sovereignty, Peoples, and Governance, offering frameworks of accountability, relationality, and care that challenge settler-colonial structures. We invite proposals that explore how belonging and kinship connect to land, language, gender and sexuality, policy, environmental and social justice, activism, treaty rights, education, and representation in media and the arts.

**We welcome submissions from academics, faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, community members, and activists.** We especially welcome submissions grounded in Indigenous epistemologies and those created collaboratively with and alongside Indigenous communities. This year's gathering will also honor the experiences and wisdom of long-time intellectuals, students, and community members who have shaped AIS as a discipline and practice.

We encourage proposals that engage critical theories, methodologies, pedagogies, and practices of Indigenous Studies. Let us gather to reflect, build, and imagine together—across our diverse positionalities and nations—as we map out *Constellations of Indigenous Belongings and Kinships*.

## Submission formats may include:

- Individual paper presentations
- Panels
- Roundtables
- “Thinking Out Loud” sessions
- Workshops
- Films and media
- Creative performances

(Descriptions of submission types are provided below.)

Join the American Indian Studies Association, February 4-6, 2026, at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque. Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. Since time immemorial, the original peoples of New Mexico – Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache – have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations, and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Submit your proposal using this link:

<https://forms.gle/mZ2UNhdJjL3h3pgL9>

**Deadline: September 15, 2025**

**Notifications: October 15, 2025**

Questions? Email:

Souksavanh T Keovorabouth, Diné, AISA President

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## **Session Types:**

**Individual paper** – A single paper submission. In paper sessions, authors present abbreviated versions of their papers. Four to five authors are grouped together to each present their papers, followed by audience discussion.

**Panel** – Submitted by organizer. A complete panel (3-5 panelists) should include a panel description or abstract, panel title, names of panelists, and include a chair

**Roundtable** – An organized discussion with a moderator (or audience) posing questions to the 3-5 discussants.

**Thinking Out Loud** – Work or ideas in progress. This is an informal presentation around a table to share your ideas for future research, new research in progress, or to talk through your ideas with interested colleagues. Each table will have three to five researchers clustered around related topics, along with interested audience members at the table who participate in the discussion.

**Workshop** – A workshop provides hands-on learning opportunities. Workshops should be interactive and allow time for audience members to practice and/or discuss concepts/ideas presented.

**Film or Creative Performance** – Presentation of a film or demonstration of a creative artistic performance.

## **4th Annual AISA Graduate Student Pre-Conference: February 4, 2026**

Come join graduate students and faculty mentors for a day of networking and conversation about professional development, career exploration, finding support and building community in American Indian Studies.

**Registration coming soon!**