

Abraham Francis

Environmental Science Officer for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Abraham Francis has a BS in Microbiology, 2014, and a MA in Natural Resources, 2019, from Cornell University. His past experience includes community empowerment, engagement and research with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and a variety of other community-based organizations. His Master's Thesis focused on research to develop a biocultural land stewardship strategy for protecting newly-landed Native American Land Claims on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, Akwesasne. Currently, he works as the Environmental Science Officer for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne - Environment Program. The position allows him to develop and implement project that are inspired and directed by community needs as well as influenced by his research interests at the intersection environmental studies, Indigenous methodologies, community engagement, education, health, social services, law, and cultural foundations as a means for empowerment and healing within Indigenous Communities.

Keynote address:

The context-specific and strong relationships present between Indigenous Communities and land provide opportunities for community empowerment and meaningful engagement through research and approaches to caring for the land. The research presented engages the the Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) community of Akwesasne and draws on their context specificity, historical and environmental history and cultural context, to inform a biocultural forest stewardship strategy. The strategies developed draw on Akwesasronon (Akwesasne Community Member) voices, which convey land-based stories and knowledge and helps in understanding the context specificity of the complex connectivity of Indigenous relationships, knowledge, and values with the land. Furthermore, the research forms the foundations of an ever growing understanding of diverse Akwesasronon relationships with the land. The understandings gained will help the Akwesasne in protecting and caring for knowledge and the land, so future generations have access to the resources necessary to live healthy and happy lives.

Brittany McBeath

PhD student in Kinesiology & Health Studies,
Supervised by Dr Lucie Lévesque

Brittany is currently studying for her PhD in Kinesiology, completing her research in partnership with the Kahnawake School Diabetes Prevention Project, under the supervision of Dr. Lucie Lévesque. Her research focuses on the role of physical activity in promoting health and well-being in Indigenous communities. She is currently completing her dissertation on the role of physical activity in promoting health and well-being in Indigenous communities.

Program	
8:30 - 8:45	Registration & Sign in
8:45 - 9:00	Ceremonial Opening Allen Doxtator, Cultural Advisor, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Queen's University
9:00 - 9:05	Welcome and Introduction to Keynote Dr. James Reynolds, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Queen's University
9:05 - 10:00	Keynote Address Abraham Francis, Environmental Science Officer for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
10:00 - 10:15	Morning Break
10:15 - 11:45	Graduate Studies Presentations Moderator: Dr James Reynolds Brittany McBeath Kacey Dool Panel Q&A
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 1:30	Breakout Group Discussions Moderator – LindsayMarie Brant Facilitators: Mofiyinfoluwa Badmos Yasmine Djerbal Antoinette Thornton Lavie Williams Vanessa McCourt Heather Castleden Wanda Beyer
1:30 - 2:00	Wrap-up and Closing LindsayMarie Brant (CTL) Dr. James Reynolds (SGS)



Indigenous Research Collaborations Workshop

Friday 8th November 2019

JDUC, McLaughlin Hall, Queen's University

