

CGD Seminar Series

Returning Ancient Wisdom to the Earth Sciences

Dan Wildcat,

Haskell Indian Nations University

Date: Tuesday, 18 January 2022

Time: 11am – 12pm

For Zoom information, please contact

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For live stream information, visit the

CGD Seminar Webpage

ABSTRACT

The challenges of modeling global dynamics in the age of the Anthropocene confirm the broad consensus widely shared among the sciences: understanding the world we live in is all about relationships. That recognition in and of itself is nearly taken-for-granted by those who work with and attempt to improve models of climate change, so what is the big deal? Ancient Indigenous wisdom regarding the complex relational character of the world was and remains the touchstone of the deep spatial (place-based) experiential knowledge on which traditional ecological knowledges (TEKs) and/or Indigenous knowledges (IKs) are founded. This presentation will suggest that not only is much gained with the inclusion of IKs in the important work of down-scaling model impacts, but IKs also illustrate the critical importance of sharing with the general public the complex relational character of the work one does in global dynamics modeling. If one steps away from graphs, logarithms, and mathematical shorthand a vitally important opportunity presents itself: the explanation of global climate change as it pertains to where and how people live in ordinary language folks can understand without sacrificing the complexity of the information shared. We cannot address the physical climate change we now face unless we foster a cultural climate change.

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