



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

URGE Policies for Working with Communities of Color for the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

This is what was discussed by the Breccia pod at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities on Policies for Working with Communities of Color as well as plans for improved processes and/or needed resources.

- **Current issues and challenges with wild rice studies**
 - One of the key issues with past wild rice studies is not acquiring tribal consent (e.g., for genetic analyses on wild rice); Studies have been carried out since 1960's; Another issue is not recognizing the environmental and social injustices extending to communities that are indirectly impacted by industrial activities (e.g., mining).
 - We need to develop better ethical codes and be responsible w.r.t. “academic freedom” as scientists that go beyond how they are legally defined; But, it is unclear whether we can actually have our own ethical codes that we can abide ourselves to.
 - We need to learn and understand that tribes are NOT special interest groups that received special rights; they retained those rights through treaties.
 - Tribal data sovereignty; Currently, institutions may not allow researchers to give up the rights to the data that they collected to the relevant tribe(s) (the right referring to publication without consent) for various reasons (e.g., protecting researchers and research activities; protecting tax-payers' money).

- **Land Acknowledgement**
 - For our school, conversation has been started - we are committed to have a land acknowledgement on our website; this will be a team effort, reviewed by the American Studies department; we may want to consider hiring a tribal liaison.
 - MGS's acknowledgement will be slightly different from the department's as MGS engages in mapping, for example.

- **Resources**
 - <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901120313599>
 - Data sovereignty:
<https://nni.arizona.edu/programs-projects/policy-analysis-research/indigenous-data-sovereignty-and-governance>
 - Paper on research ethics:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260121496_Protecting_Dignitary_Interests_of_Biobank_Research_Participants_Lessons_from_Havasupai_Tribe_v_Arizona_Board_of_Regents