Cherokee Voices for the Land: Tribal Policy, Land Conservation, and Indigenous Well-Being in Oklahoma

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Abstract: Indigenous ancestral teachings commonly present human health as dependent upon healthy relationships between humans, the land, and more-than-human beings. But how do persons conversant with ancestral teachings effectively convey such perspectives in contemporary contexts, and to what extent does the general tribal citizenry share them? Can media technology provide knowledge keepers with opportunities to communicate their perspectives to larger audiences? What are the implications for tribal citizens’ knowledge and views about tribal land use policies? This presentation will explore these questions through my past and ongoing work with Cherokee people in Oklahoma, using participatory and community-based methods in the environmental social sciences. Findings include the significant effect that elder knowledge and perspectives have on tribal priorities and policies regarding land use, and how such research can guide tribal strategies for land-based resurgence and conservation.

Bio: Clint Carroll is an Associate Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. He received his doctorate from the University of California Berkeley in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, and his bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona in Anthropology and American Indian Studies. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, he works with his Cherokee community in Oklahoma on tribal land conservation, ethnobotany, and cultural revitalization. He writes and thinks at the intersections of Indigenous studies, anthropology, and political ecology.

Dr. Carroll has received fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Udall Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Science Foundation. He currently co-edits the Cambridge University Press series, Elements in Indigenous Environmental Research. He also serves on the editorial boards for Cultural Anthropology and Environment and Society.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022
Time: 4:10 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Join via Zoom: https://osu.zoom.us/j/93275868693?pwd=M3U3S21yL2plV1VhZWlEdG1lejF1QT09