



# Western

Centre for Research on  
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Fall Colloquium  
Series 2016**

## **\*Dr. Ravi de Costa\***



Ravi de Costa is an Associate Professor and the Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. He co-directs the Las Nubes Semester Abroad program at York's EcoCampus in Costa Rica. He has written on the politics of reconciliation in Australia and Canada, as well as on treaty-making, the global Indigenous movement and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. His previous work includes *A higher authority: Indigenous transnationalism and Australia* (UNSW Press, 2006); *Indigenous peoples and autonomy: insights for a global age* (Co-edited with Mario Blaser, Deborah McGregor and Will Coleman) (UBC Press, 2010); and *The Limits of Settler Colonial Reconciliation: Non-Indigenous People and the Responsibility to Engage* (Co-edited with Sarah Maddison and Tom Clark) (Springer, 2016).

### **Who are Indigenous peoples in the modern world? The role of colonial histories and state practice in defining Indigeneity.**

The colonization of Indigenous territories brought with it the imposition of arbitrary and racist colonial regimes to define and manage Indigenous peoples. Demographic change, urbanization and migration patterns have added to the complexity, to leave Indigenous communities subject to confusing and inconsistent state practices of definition and entitlement. This presentation reviews the practices of states in all regions of the world to defining Indigenous populations, and describes systems based on “descent”; those based in constructions of “culture”; and systems that provide for some measure of managed Indigenous self-definition or autonomy. The presentation then discusses several issues that arise from this situation, including the impact of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples, which includes specific Indigenous rights over identity and self-definition. It also examines recent developments in practices of Indigenous self-definition, as well as debates about “authenticity” and the impact of genetic testing on ideas of Indigeneity.

**Thursday, November 17, 2016**

**4:00 pm, SSC 5220**

**Refreshments at 3:30pm in SSC 5230**

**All Welcome!**

**For More Information email: [mer@uwo.ca](mailto:mer@uwo.ca)**