

# Wayne Wapeemukwa

CV revised 15 June 2026

Department of Philosophy  
The University of British Columbia

[wayne.wapeemukwa@ubc.ca](mailto:wayne.wapeemukwa@ubc.ca)  
[www.waynewapeemukwa.com](http://www.waynewapeemukwa.com)

## EDUCATION

- 2024                    **Ph.D.:** Philosophy, The Pennsylvania State University  
  
Dissertation: “[Journey to a Critical Theory of Discovery](#)”  
  
Committee: Amy Allen, Eduardo Mendieta (co-chairs); Robert Bernasconi, Ted Toadvine, Julie Reed (examiners); Brenda Macdougall (external, Métis Studies Chair, University of Ottawa)
- 2017                    **M.A.:** Philosophy, The New School for Social Research
- 2013                    **B.A.:** Philosophy and Political Science, *honors*, University of British Columbia

## Areas of Specialization

Political Theory; 19<sup>th</sup> Century History of Philosophy; Indigenous and non-Western philosophy

## Areas of Competence

Critical Philosophy of Race; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024–present    University of British Columbia, Izaak W. Killam Post-Doctoral Research Fellow  
2023–2024      Pennsylvania State University, Mellon Just Transformations Pre-Doctoral Fellow

## RESEARCH

### Books

- 2026    *Partisans of the Soil: Métis Political Thought and the Struggle against Speculative Expropriation*. Under review at Harvard and Oxford UP.

### Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2026    “Opulent Colonialism: Bagot, Vattel, Marshall, and the Canadian Afterlife of Discovery.” Accepted pending revision at *Modern Intellectual History*.

- 2026 “Michif Bolshevik: Jim Brady and the Shadow of Indigenous Bolshevism.” Accepted pending revision at *Critical Historical Studies*.
- 2026 “Investing in Whiteness.” *Critical Philosophy of Race*, accepted for publication.
- 2025 “Speculative Expropriation.” *Political Theory*, 54(2), 179-207. ([LINK](#))
- 2024 “Primitive Speculation: Marx on Precapitalism, Social Relations to Land, and Indigenous Dispossession.” *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Vol. 38. **Winner:** “Best Submission by a Graduate Student,” SPEG Conference 2023. ([LINK](#))
- 2023 “Teaching and Learning Indigenous Philosophy in Viral Times: Personal and Pedagogical Reflections on how to Teach Indigenous Philosophy.” *Teaching Philosophy* 46(2) ([LINK](#))
- 2023 “It Feels Fake”: Creating Decolonizing Syllabi in the University.” *Bank Street Occasional Paper Series*, Vol. 49: Indigenous Pedagogies. Co-authors: H. Kulago and P. Guernsey ([LINK](#))
- 2021 “Land, Water, Mathematics, and Relationships: What Does Creating Decolonizing and Indigenous Curricula Ask?” *Education Studies* 57(3): 345-363. Co-author: H. Kulago ([LINK](#))

### Book Chapters

- 2026 “Indigenous Critique of Environmental Localism,” in *Unsettling Environments*. Eds. Tom Lynch, April Anson, Kyle Whyte, and Izzy Lockhart. University of Nebraska Press.
- 2021 “Oedipal Empire: Psychoanalysis, Indigenous Peoples, and The Oedipus Complex in Colonial Context” in *Lacan and Race: Racism, Identity and Psychoanalytic Theory*. Eds. S. George and D. Hook. Routledge. ([LINK](#))

### Book Reviews

- 2026 *Spirits of Extraction: Christianity, Settler Colonialism, and the Geology of Race*, by Claire Blencowe. Currently reviewing at the request of *Political Theory*.
- 2026 *The Long Shadow of Extraction: The Origins of Indigenous Autonomy Demands*, by Christopher L. Carter. Currently reviewing at the request of *Political Theory*.
- 2024 *The Late Marx’s Revolutionary Roads: Colonialism, Gender, and Indigenous Communism*, by Kevin B. Anderson. Reviewed for *Contemporary Political Theory*. ([LINK](#))

### Non-Refereed/Specialized Articles

- 2023 “We Hear an Angel: Oedipal Empire, Rematriation, and Land Back” *Parapraxis* Issue 02: Repair. Article commissioned by the editors: Hannah Zeavin, Alex Colston, Noor Asif, Wendy Lotterman, M.E. O’Brien, Michella Rada, and Zoé Samudzi ([LINK](#))

### Translations

2018 “The Vulnerability of the Ordinary: Goffman, Reader of Austin.” *The Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 39(2): 367-401. Translated from the French ([LINK](#))

### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 Izaak K. Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of British Columbia  
2024-2026 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council  
2023-2024 Mellon Just Transformations Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University  
2023 “Best Submission by a Graduate Student,” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy  
2023 *Finalist*: Newcomb Doctoral Fellowship  
2022 McCourtney Democracy Research Grant, Centre for Democratic Deliberation  
2021 Philips Fund for Native American Research, American Philosophical Society  
2019-2023 Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council  
2018-2023 Edwin Erle Sparks Doctoral Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University  
2015-2017 Provost Scholarship, The New School for Social Research  
2015-2017 *Declined*: Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship

### INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

2025 Invited Presenter: “The Doctrine of Discovery,” University of British Columbia Political Theory Workshop.  
2025 Invited Presenter: “Europe’s Theory of Dispossession,” University de Ateneo, Manila, Philippines. Departments of Philosophy and Political Science.  
2025 Invited Presenter: “Land Back and Rematriation,” McMaster University Department of Philosophy Speaker Series, Hamilton, ON. ([LINK](#))  
2024 Invited Presenter: “Philosophy’s Doctrine of Discovery,” McGill University Department of Philosophy and Critical Social Theory, Montréal, QC. ([LINK](#))  
2023 Prize-Winning Presenter: “Speculative Expropriation, Indigenous Dispossession,” *Society for Phenomenology Existential Philosophy*, Toronto, ON. (“Best Submission by Graduate Student”)  
2023 Invited Presenter: “Land Back as Ameliorative Politics.” *American Philosophical Association* (Pacific Division), San Francisco, CA.  
2021 Invited Respondent: “Territorial Rights, Relational Value, Climate Change.” *American Philosophical Association* (Eastern Division), New York, NY.  
2020 Invited Respondent: “Here, We Are: A Native American Relational Social Ontology.” *American Philosophical Association*, Philadelphia PA.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 “Marx’s Antiquity from Dissertation to 1883.” *Political Theory Roundtable*, Santa Cruz, CA.  
2024 “Logic of Dispossession.” *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*, Albany, NY.  
2024 “Primitive Accumulation and Sociogeny of Race.” *Historical Materialism*, New York, NY.

- 2024 "Original Expropriation." *Critical Theory Roundtable*, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 2022 "Marxism, Settler-Colonialism, and Historicism." *Historical Materialism*, London, UK.
- 2022 "Decolonizing Primitive Accumulation." *American Philosophical Association*, Vancouver, BC.
- 2022 "WEB Du Bois on Racial Capitalism." *American Philosophical Association*, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 "Re-grounding Recognition Politics." *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy* (online)
- 2021 "Indigenous Femicide and Settler Reproductive Futurism." *Psychology of the Other* (online)
- 2020 "Métis Scrip as Primitive Accumulation." *Association for Political Theory*, Amherst, MA.
- 2020 "Métis-Marxism." *Native American Indigenous Studies Association* (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 "Howard Adams on Marx, Race, and Class." *Historical Materialism*, London, UK.
- 2019 "Métis Racialization and Dispossession." *Canadian Philosophical Association*, Vancouver, BC.
- 2019 "Métis Resistance and Racialization." *Diverse Lineages of Existentialism*, Washington, DC.
- 2018 "Lacan and Adorno on the Ethics of The Real." *Critical Theory Roundtable*, Amherst, MA.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2025 Translating Marx's *Capital* with Paul North and Paul Reitter, UC Santa Cruz. February 5 – 7
- 2023 Standpoint Theory Workshop, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. Nov. 16 – 18
- 2021 Critical Theory Summer School. Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. July 4 – 9.
- 2019 Atelier de Théorie Critique. Sorbonne, Paris, France. June 3 – July 21.
- 2019 Decolonial Feminist Workshop. University of North Carolina, Charlotte. May 14 – 17.
- 2018 Critical Theory Summer School. Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. July 16 – 20

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of British Columbia**

- 2025 Graduate Seminar: Indigenous Political Theory – 500-level, Department of Political Science
- 2025 Ethics in Democratic Politics – 400-level, Department of Political Science
- 2024 Social and Political Philosophy – 300-level, Department of Philosophy
- 2024 Contemporary Political Theory – 300-level, Department of Political Science
- 2023 Contemporary Political Theory – 300-level, Department of Political Science

#### **The Pennsylvania State University**

- 2023 Normative Ethics – 300-level, Department of Philosophy
- 2022 Normative Ethics – 200-level, Department of Philosophy
- 2020 The Human Condition – 200-level, Department of Philosophy
- 2020 Race, Racism, Diversity – 200-level, Department of Philosophy

### **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

#### **University of British Columbia**

- 2023 "Indigenous Philosophy": Commissioned by the Department of Philosophy to develop and complete a syllabus for an undergraduate seminar on Indigenous philosophies

### **SERVICE**

#### **Academic Service**

- Reviewer: *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*
- 2019-2022 Co-Founder, Indigenous Peoples Student Association, Pennsylvania State University

2019 Volunteer GED Tutor, Quehanna Bootcamp, Student Restorative Justice Initiative  
2019 Student Volunteer, *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*  
2015-2016 New School for Social Research Lacan Salon Founder

### **Community Service**

2023-Present Board Secretary: Vancouver Sea to Sky Métis Association/Chartered Community  
2023-Present Board Member: Environmental Advisory Committee, Métis Nation of BC  
2022-Present Youth Mentor: Métis Nation of British Columbia

### **LANGUAGES**

English (fluent) French (research and translation)  
German (research and translation) Michif (intermediate)

### **REFERENCES**

*Glen Coulthard*

Associate Professor

Departments of Political Science and First Nations and Indigenous Studies  
The University of British Columbia

Email: [glen.coulthard@ubc.ca](mailto:glen.coulthard@ubc.ca)

*Amy Allen*

Associate Dean and Distinguished Professor

Departments of Philosophy and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Pennsylvania State University

Email: [ara17@psu.edu](mailto:ara17@psu.edu)

*Kevin B. Anderson*

Distinguished Professor

Department of Sociology  
University of California, Santa Barbara

Email: [kanderson@soc.ucsb.edu](mailto:kanderson@soc.ucsb.edu)

*Robert Nichols*

Chair and Professor

Department of History of Consciousness  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
Santa Cruz, CA

Email: [ronichol@ucsc.edu](mailto:ronichol@ucsc.edu)

*Alison Wylie*

Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 1)

Department of Philosophy  
The University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, Canada

Email: [alison.wylie@ubc.ca](mailto:alison.wylie@ubc.ca)

## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT:

### “JOURNEY TO A CRITICAL THEORY OF DISCOVERY”

In July 2022, Pope Francis undertook a penitential pilgrimage to Canada, where he apologized to Indigenous peoples for “the evil” committed by Christians during the Age of Discovery. Then, in March 2023, the Holy See—the ‘government’ of the Catholic Church—issued a historic “Joint Statement [on] the ‘Doctrine of Discovery,’” identifying this “Doctrine” as *the* philosophical framework Europeans used to colonize the globe and the articulation of a conjunction of factors that birthed anti-Indigenous racism.

Despite this increased public profile, the “Doctrine of Discovery” is not salient to philosophers. Yet this paucity is not benign. Those who ignore this Doctrine’s historical and ongoing impact on Indigenous peoples offer missed opportunities at best or eliminationist agendas at worst. These are existential stakes, indeed; but there is also much at stake, philosophically.

*Journey to a Critical Theory of Discovery* stakes a claim on Indigenous social relations to land. In Chapter One, I examine how the Doctrine of Discovery evolved into a racialized “agricultural argument” for Indigenous dispossession and a new religion of whiteness. In Chapter Two, I reanimate Karl Marx’s lost texts on dispossession and offer my distinctive research contribution, *speculative expropriation*. In Chapter Three, I use my novel concept to demonstrate how the invention of private property and white masculinity lay at the social, political, and erotic origins of the settler state. In Chapter Four, I explore Indigenous responses to Discovery developed by Jim Brady (1908 – 1967), an Indigenous Marxist who established a partitioned mode of eco-decolonial communism. In the Conclusion, I suggest that Brady’s land-based economic co-ops pose crucial, urgent, and necessary implications for the history of our present climate crisis.

As an urgent contribution to Indigenous philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, and Political Theory, this “journey” presents an alternative eco-political imaginary that opens up for us only when we seriously consider the wisdom embodied in Indigenous social relations to land, relations that contain concrete solutions for transcending capitalism, colonialism, and climate change. Responses to settler-colonialism must not merely seek to re-possess the land—as if it were inherently fungible—but take the even more radical step of ameliorating and recruiting land as a *subject* in decolonization; an ameliorative politics of territorial rematriation we hear echoed in the grassroots call, “Land Back.”