

Darren Edward Lone Fight

Proud Citizen: Three Affiliated Tribes (MHA Nation)

lonefigd@dickinson.edu | darrenlonefight.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., American Studies — University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2021.

Dissertation: Indigenous Impositions in Contemporary Culture: Knotting Ontologies, Beading Aesthetics, and Braiding Temporalities.

Language Certificate, Hidatsa Language Track — MHA Summer Language Institute at Nueta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish College (Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation), 2016–2018.

M.A., American Studies — University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2010.

B.A., Philosophy & Religion — University of North Dakota, 2006.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & LEADERSHIP

Founder and Executive Director (Interim), Jim Thorpe Center for the Futures of Native Peoples (formerly Center for the Futures of Native Peoples / CFNP) — Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA (Summer 2023–Spring 2024).

\$20 million institutional initiative; dedicated building under construction (Jones & Jones, OZ Collaborative). Secured \$800K Mellon Foundation grant by exclusive invitation (2023). Primary author of Dickinson's campus-wide Living Land Acknowledgement. Established committee to develop NAIS minor/major/certificate and initiated the multi-college Central PA NAIS Consortium. Convened representatives from five tribal nations on rematriation efforts with the U.S. Army. Mentored two post-doctoral scholars (Dr. John Truden, Dr. Daniel Schniedewind). Hosted residencies, lectures, and programming with Tara Houska (Rose-Walters Prize), Audra Simpson (co-sponsored with the Clarke Forum), Theodore Van Alst Jr., Samuel J. Redman, Jenna Kunze, and Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate delegates including SD Rep. Tamara St. John.

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track), Department of American Studies — Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA (2020–Present)

Courses designed/taught: Weird; Indigenous Theory; American Futures: Digital Cultures & the Imagined Tomorrow; Back to the Future: American Retrofuturism; Native American Intellectual Traditions; Indigenous Futurism & Contemporary Culture; Introduction to

American Studies; Workshop in Cultural Analysis; Senior Research Seminar in American Studies.

Visiting Faculty (Instructor of Record), Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, & Diaspora — Tufts University, Medford, MA (2018–2020)

Courses designed/taught: Indigenous Futurism and Transnational Tribal Culture; Ethnicity, Literature, and the Nation in the 21st Century; (Native) American Studies Methods and Theory; Internal Migrations: Im/migration and the American Character; Alter-Natives: Indigenous Speculative Thought; Indigenous Urban America; Contemporary Indigenous Literature and Culture.

PUBLICATIONS & ACADEMIC MEDIA

- Article (forthcoming). “Constitutive Immobility: Immobile Knowledge for Mobility Scholars.” *Transfers*, Ideas in Motion section.
- Article Under Review. “Persistence Conditions: Relational Ontology and the Infrastructure of Refusal.” *Big Data & Society* (submission BDS-26-0267). Preprint: Zenodo, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18894365>.
- Article. “Archival Ontology and the Art of Indigenous Adornment: Wendy Red Star's Relational Care and Temporal Plaiting.” In *Wendy Red Star: Her Dreams Are True*, edited by Shannon Egan. Carlisle, PA: The Trout Gallery, Dickinson College, 2025.
- Article. “The Indigenous Imposition: Settling Expectation, Unsettling Revision, and the Politics of Playing with Familiarity.” *Studies in American Indian Literatures* 31(3–4), Fall–Winter 2019.
- Exclusive Interview. “Elizabeth LaPensée on Indigenous Futures, Video Games, and Art as Resistance.” October 23, 2019. <https://www.darrenlonefight.com/news>
- Scholarly Book Review. “Susan Naramore Maher, *Deep Map Country: Literary Cartography of the Great Plains*.” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 39 (3), 2016.
- Podcast Host. Adam Colman and Darren Lone Fight, [Conversations on American Studies](#)

In Preparation / In Progress

- Essay on Cannupa Hanska Luger and Surveillance Capitalism — working title: “Mirror, Refract, Resonate: Protocols for Relation in an Extractive Interface Economy.”
- Book Manuscript. *Indigenous Counter-Interfaces*. In progress.

DIGITAL PROJECTS & TOOLS

- PAVA: Provenance and Affiliation Viability Assessment (pava.tools). NAGPRA governance and tribal records infrastructure. Active development. Supabase backend, fuzzy-search alias resolution, documentation quality indicators.
- Sovereign Relational Architecture (SRA-2). Working prototype at darrenlonefight.com. Counter-interface framework in functional form.

REPATRIATION & ARCHIVAL RECOVERY

- NAGPRA demand letters to the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), 2025–2026.
- NAGPRA demand letter to the University of Michigan regarding a Sahnish Owl Society bundle, March 2026.
- Recovery of 289 audio recordings (approximately 204 hours) of archival Hidatsa and Mandan material from the American Philosophical Society, with authorization from CNAIR Reference Archivist Karen Trop, 2025–2026.
- 822+ records identified and retrieved from the Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives (SOVA).

PUBLIC LECTURES, CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, & PANELS

- Invited Public Lecture: “The Carlisle Indian School and the Futures of Native Peoples,” United Methodist Church Commissions on Native American Ministries, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, April 23, 2026
- Invited Lecture: Wendy Red Star and Archival Ontology, “Introduction to American Studies,” Dickinson College, April 2026.
- Panelist. “Indigenous Family Narratives: Reconceptualizing Education,” Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, Nov 2024.
- Convener and Closing Speaker. CFNP Native American and Indigenous Studies Symposium, Dickinson College, April 20, 2024.
- Invited Conversation & Q&A. “Indigeneity in Pennsylvania and Beyond,” Central PA Food Bank, Harrisburg, PA, Nov 2023.
- Invited Class Lecture. “Indigenous Futurism.” Indigenous Intellectual Traditions, Dickinson College, Nov 2023.
- Invited Lecture & Q&A. “Why Land Acknowledgements?” Clarke Forum Salon, Dickinson College, Aug 2023.
- Conference Roundtable. “Texts, Paratexts, and Stories from the Archives: Coming in from the Margins.” ASAIL (Virtual), Apr 7, 2022.

- Documentary Screening/Panelist. *Home from School: The Children of Carlisle*, Carlisle Theatre, Nov 18, 2021.
- Host & Interviewer. "A Conversation with Sky Hopinka." SMFA, Boston, MA, Mar 28, 2019.
- Invited Class Lecture. "Embodied Indigeneity," Tufts University, Nov 2019 (Profs. Kris Manjapara & Bo Forbes).
- Panel Presenter/Organizer/Moderator. "NAIS: Reclaiming Our Future Now." Tufts University, Oct 2019.
- MLA. "Archival Profanation and Re-revisionist History in Stephen Graham Jones' *Ledfeather*." New York City, Jan 2018.
- NEASA. "I Am the Ironic Indigenous Immigrant!: Sherman Alexie, Immigration, and the Politics of Playing with Tradition." Boston, Mar 2017.
- Invited Public Lecture. "Rebel Alliances, the Force, and Other Good Medicine." Trinity College, Apr 2016.
- SWPACA. "That which keeps us safe will also keep us free: Revision, Surveillance, and Justice in The Minority Report." Albuquerque, Feb 2016.
- Invited Public Lecture. "Other Good Medicine: Strategies of Indigenous Representation." Five College NAIS Group, Amherst, Dec 2015.
- NAISA. "Revising the Indigenous Immigrant: Identity and Change in *The Business of Fancydancing*." Uncasville, Jun 2012.
- Red River Graduate Student Conference. "Science Fictions, Cold War Dreams, and the Nuclear Mind." Fargo, Apr 2009.

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE & INTERVIEWS

- Feature. Charles Fox. "A 'Bright Path' forward: Dickinson College builds new center in Carlisle." *Indian Country Today*, Dec 15, 2025. ([link](#))
- Cited Scholarly Source. Diane Cole. "Why this Indigenous winter scene is not what it seems." *BBC Culture*, November 29, 2025 (updated December 10, 2025). ([link](#))
- Print Appearance. "Native American Artifacts Under Increased Scrutiny." *The Dickinsonian*, Feb 8, 2024. ([link](#))
- Print Appearance. "Dickinson College debuts Center for the Futures of Native Peoples." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Oct 14, 2023 (paywalled). ([link](#))
- Interviewee. "Indigenous People Making Their Mark at Dickinson College." *WTTF (The Spark)*, Oct 9, 2023. ([link](#))
- Print Appearance. "New center for Indigenous studies opens, looking to create minor program." *The Dickinsonian*, Sep 21, 2023. ([link](#))

- Print Appearance. “Dickinson College debuts Center for the Futures of Native Peoples.” *The Sentinel*, Oct 12, 2023.
- Print Appearance. “Dickinson College launches new program focused on Native American and Indigenous Studies.” *Fox43*, Feb 20, 2023. ([link](#))
- Roundup Mention (with quote). “Native American News Roundup, Feb. 19–25, 2023.” *Voice of America (VOA)*, Feb 2023. ([link](#))
- Q&A. “Founding director, Center for the Futures of Native Peoples at Dickinson College.” *Native News Online*, Feb 25, 2023. ([link](#))
- Interviewee. “Pop Culture’s Possibilities.” *Open Source with Christopher Lydon*, Nov 2021. ([link](#))
- Interviewee. “Parks and Recreation: Our Conversation with Darren Lone Fight!” *Pop DNA Podcast*, Nov 2021. ([link](#))
- Interviewee. “Native American News: COVID-19 Infection Rates, Tribal Casino Shutdowns, And Reservation Land Legal Battles.” *WGBH Boston Public Radio*, Jun 5, 2020. ([link](#))
- Interviewee. “Colonialism and a [Hopi](#) Princess: Why Star Wars Resonates with Indigenous Audiences.” *CBC Unreserved*, Jan 10, 2020. ([link](#))
- Co-Author. “Acknowledging Our Settler-Colonial Present.” *Tufts Daily*, Oct 10, 2019. ([link](#))
- Author. “MHA Nation and Tufts University Co-Sponsor Indigenous People’s Day Events.” *MHA Times*, Oct 19, 2018.
- Print Appearance. “A Call for Native Studies.” *Tufts Observer*, Dec 10, 2018. ([link](#))
- Print Appearance. “Medford Cancels Auction of Native American Artifacts, Citing Federal Law.” *Tufts Daily*, Dec 5, 2018. ([link](#))
- Print Appearance. “Students, Faculty Support Proposed Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor.” *Tufts Daily*, Dec 4, 2018. ([link](#))

GRANTS, HONORS, & AWARDS

- Seminarian — Futures of American Studies Institute, Summer 2026.
- Mellon Foundation — \$800,000 (Co-Primary Investigator). Three-year grant to establish CFNP and related initiatives (NAIS programming/curricula, full-time director hire, post-doc, etc.).
- Dickinson College — Dana Research Assistant Grant for “The Three Affiliated Tribes Peoples’ Experiential History at Carlisle Indian Industrial School and Hampton Indian School,” Summer 2022.
- Mellon Foundation — C3 Faculty Funding recipient, 2020–2022.

- University of Massachusetts Art Council — \$2,000 co-authored grant to bring Joy Harjo to UMass, Oct 2011.
- University of Massachusetts Graduate School — Diversity Dissertation Summer Fellowship, 2016.
- University of Massachusetts Residential Academic Programs — Residential First-Year Experience Teaching Award, 2009 & 2010.
- University of North Dakota English Department — Neva-Hydle Award for Writing, 2005.
- Three Affiliated Tribes (MHA Nation) — \$1,000 to support Tufts “Indigenous People’s Day” events, Oct 2018.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Search Committee Member — CFNP Administrative Assistant, Dickinson College, 2025 (Successful).
- Planning Committee Member — SR Planning Committee, Dickinson College, 2025–2026.
- Search Committee Member — American Studies Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, Dickinson College, 2025 (Successful).
- Search Committee Member — American Studies Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, Dickinson College, 2024 (Successful).
- Working Committee Co-chair — AR/VR & Liberal Arts Committee, Dickinson College, 2024. Deliverable: Guidance paper on curricular applications of AR/VR.
- Search Committee Chair — CFNP Director Position, Dickinson College, 2023–2024 (Successful).
- Founder and Initial Organizer — Tribal/National Advisory Board, Center for the Futures of Native Peoples, Dickinson College, 2023–Present. Recruited inaugural members including Tara Houska, Lindsay Robertson, and Elizabeth Rule.
- Search Committee Chair — CFNP Director Position, Dickinson College, 2022–2023 (Failed search: candidate declined).
- Search Committee Chair — CFNP Post-Doctoral Fellow (two-year), Dickinson College, 2022–2023 (Successful).
- Search Committee Chair — CFNP Post-Doctoral Fellow (one-year), Dickinson College, 2022–2023 (Successful).
- Search Committee Member — American Studies Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, Dickinson College, 2022–2023 (Successful).

- Hiring Authority — CFNP Administrative Assistant, Dickinson College, 2022–2023 (Successful).
- Search Committee Member — American Studies Faculty Search Committee, Dickinson College, 2020–2021 (Successful).
- Faculty Liaison — American Studies Majors Committee, 2021–2023; 2024–Present.
- Land Acknowledgement Committee Member & Lead Author — Dickinson College, 2021–2022.
- Faculty Advisor — ~25+ undergraduate advisees, Dickinson College, 2021–Present.
- Review Committee Member — Master’s Thesis Committee for G. G., Tufts University, 2019–2020.
- Review Committee Member — Master’s Capstone Committee for S. A., Tufts University, Spring 2019.
- Mentor — Tisch Summer Scholars for S. K., Tufts University, Summer 2019.
- Faculty Advisor — P. T., Tufts University, Spring 2019.
- Working Committee Member — Tufts University NAIS Minor Planning Committee, 2018–2019.
- Search Committee Member — UMass College of Humanities & Fine Arts Faculty Search Committee, 2007–2008.