

Michael Yellow Bird to conduct a “Decolonization Redux” Workshop, give public reading at UNO this month

Dr. Michael Yellow Bird will conduct “Decolonization Redux,” a workshop on decolonization methodologies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Wednesday, March 30 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. That evening he will read “Cowboys & Indians: Toys of Genocide, Icons of American Colonialism,” which was published in *Wicazo Sa Review*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Fall 2004).

The workshop will be held on the UNO campus in the Dodge Room in the Milo Bail Student Center. During the workshop, Yellow Bird will lead exercises, present from his research in decolonization methodologies, and engage in discourse with workshop participants regarding regional Indigenous issues. Pre-registration is required and participants are asked to commit to attending the full seven hours of the workshop.

The evening reading will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Ballroom on the second floor the Milo Bail Student Center. This event is open to the public without pre-registration.

Yellow Bird is a citizen of Sahnish and Hidatsa First Nations. He is director of Indigenous Nations Studies (<http://www.ku.edu/~insp/>) and Associate professor of American Studies at Kansas University.

Yellow Bird’s research interests focus on indigenous peoples, US foreign policy, oral histories of Native American Viet Nam veterans, effects of colonialism and methods of decolonization, indigenous men, human rights, indigenous political prisoners and prisoner rights. He conducts research that empowers tribal communities, and speaks at national and international human rights events on topics important to indigenous communities.

He is considered a Master Teacher and has received numerous awards for his teaching including the 1999 Archie and Nancy Dykes Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at the University of Kansas (\$5000). He is a member of WUNSKA, the Canadian Original Social Work Faculty and Educators Network, and a member of the Association of American Indian and Alaskan Native Professoriate. He is a member of the board of directors for national American Indian Studies Consortium and serves on the editorial boards of the *American Indian Quarterly* and *Wicazo Sa Review*.

He is currently co-editing with Dr. Angela Cavender Wilson, *For Indigenous Eyes Only: The Decolonization Workbook* and is co-editing with Dr. Hillary Weaver and Charlotte Goodluck, *Social Work Practice with First Nations Peoples: Systems of Helping in the Next Millennium*. His “Reservations: Spiritual and Cultural Implications” is forthcoming in *American Indian Religious Traditions: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Suzanne J. Crawford and Dennis F. Kelly.

Participants can pre-register for the workshop by leaving their name and phone number with Barbara Robins, Department of English, ASH 192, University of Nebraska at

Omaha, 402-554-3636 or via email, brobins@mail.unomaha.edu. There is no cost to participate in the workshop but there is a limit of 100 participants.

People do not need to register for the evening reading which is presented at no charge to the public.

Dr. Michael Yellow Bird's visit to the UNO campus is funded by an American Democracy Project Grant. Dr. Linda Parker, reference librarian, UNO University Library and Dr. Barbara Robins, assistant professor, Department of English and Native American Studies are organizers of this special series of events.

Special Note: Decolonization definition

A series of methodologies and philosophies that may serve individuals and communities to diminish the impact of colonialism and create opportunities that promote traditional ways in contemporary settings. The goals of decolonization include better health, protected spiritual practices, greater awareness of Indigenous history, language preservation, traditional education techniques, community building, economic development that is respectful of the environment and traditional values.