

Indigenous Knowledge in a Relational World

Keynote lecture by Shu-mei Shih
Professor of Comparative Literature, UCLA

Presented by Carleton University,
The Centre for Transnational Cultural Analysis, and the National Gallery of Canada

Friday, November 8, 2019

5:30 – 7:00 PM

National Gallery of Canada, Lecture Hall
380 Sussex Drive

The event is free
and open to the public

carleton.ca/ctca
facebook.com/CarletonCTCA
ctca@carleton.ca

The premise of the method of “relational comparison” is that the world has always been an interconnected place and a site of infinite interrelations. The study of any given place or region therefore requires both vertical and horizontal perspectives to understand the interrelations across time (vertical) and space (horizontal). Situating indigenous knowledge in this relational world thus necessitates a comparative view of other times and other places. But this comparative method, contrary to most comparative practices, is not for the comparison of similarities and differences, but to excavate relationalities between and among different entities brought together, in this case, different indigenous knowledge formations across the world. Taking indigenous knowledge as a site of relation and situating it in a relational world, we will explore how indigenous knowledge as both ontology and epistemology makes and remakes worlds, or in the language of Zapatistas, “a world where many worlds fit,” such that relationality also becomes a site of ethics.

This event is free and wheelchair accessible.



Image Credit: Idas Losin, *I Saw Hei ti ki*, 120 x 120 x 5 cm, oil on canvas, 2018. Image courtesy of Shu-mei Shih.