I begin with Stacy Kosko’s discussion of agency and levels of democratic participation and its application to questions about the self-determination of indigenous peoples. The conclusion Kosko reaches is that colonial/settler contexts show indigenous peoples to have “agency vulnerability” and few opportunities for meaningful participation that can change conditions, structures, or relationships between the state and indigenous peoples. Kosko’s account can show the how of these conclusions, but I want to unpack the why by applying her accounts of agency, participation, and self-determination to the Canadian context and the history leading up to and producing the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I argue that the TRC process and final report help reveal foundational, structural, and epistemic injustices that get in the way of meaningful accounts of self-determination.

Friday, March 1, 2019
Room: 202 Tory
Time: 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome!