

EAAS Transatlantic Travel Grant 2023

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(Doctoral Program in English Literatures, Language, and Translation)

Host institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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In March 2023, I had the opportunity to spend one month at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which was made possible by the generous support of the European Association for American Studies through the EAAS Transatlantic Grant program.

During my visit to the University of Illinois, my primary focus was on researching the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and its implementation. This experience was enlightening and allowed me to delve deeper into the significance of NAGPRA and its impact on Native American cultural heritage.

One of the highlights of my visit was the privilege of engaging with esteemed experts in Native American studies. I had the pleasure of meeting Professor Robert Parker, a distinguished scholar of English with a specific focus on Native American literature. Our discussions provided valuable insights into the subject matter and broadened my understanding of the complexities of Native American literary traditions.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet Professor Brenda Farnell, an anthropologist who is actively working with Indigenous playwrights. Her expertise in the field of Indigenous studies enriched my research and provided valuable perspectives on the intersection of culture, performing arts, and academic research.

I also had the honor of meeting Professor Deena Rhym, whose teachings on Indigenous literatures informed by the environmental humanities, gendered histories of colonization, and theories of biopower were incredibly insightful. Our discussions deepened my understanding of the intricate connections between literature, culture, and power dynamics.

During my visit, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Krystiana Krupa, the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act program officer. Dr. Krupa provided valuable insights and guidance regarding the act's impact and the university's efforts in repatriation. Her expertise and support were instrumental in shaping my research.

Attending lectures organized by the Native American House on campus further enriched my understanding of Native American studies. These lectures provided valuable perspectives on various aspects of Native American culture and heritage and enhanced my appreciation for the intersectionality of cultural practices.

Furthermore, I had the opportunity to witness the opening of the "Welcome to the Pow-wow" exhibition at the Spurlock Museum on campus. This collaborative effort with the Bizhiki Culture and Dance Company offered profound insights into the elements of pow-wows, including drumming, dancing, and regalia. The performance by the Bizhiki Culture and Dance Company provided an immersive experience and highlighted the significance of cultural preservation.

Additionally, I had the privilege of attending the "Ledger Art Workshop" led by Plains Cree artist Josh Atcheynum. Mr. Atcheynum's art and oral traditions shared during the workshop conveyed the rich history and cultural heritage passed down through generations. The

workshop offered a unique opportunity to engage with Indigenous artistic expressions and deepen my appreciation of their significance.

Moreover, my visit to the University of Illinois provided access to an extensive range of resources related to NAGPRA and Native American studies. The university's library and archives offered a wealth of primary and secondary sources, including documents, scholarly works, and publications dedicated to Native American literature and culture and the repatriation process. These resources greatly contributed to the progress of my research and facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the European Association for American Studies for their financial support, which made this research trip possible. The EAAS Transatlantic Grant played a vital role in advancing my research and academic pursuits.

I am especially grateful to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for hosting me and providing me with access to their valuable resources. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Professor Jane Desmond, director of the International Forum for U.S. Studies (IFUSS) for her guidance and support throughout my visit. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Dr. Joseph Lenkart, the librarian who provided expert guidance and expertise that significantly enhanced my research experience.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the individuals who have supported and inspired me throughout this research journey. Specifically, my supervisors Professor Giorgio Mariani from the University of La Sapienza in Rome, Italy and Professor Eugenia Sojka, from the University of Silesia in Katowice. Their guidance, advice, and encouragement have been invaluable in shaping this trip and will contribute significantly to the development of my doctoral dissertation.

In conclusion, my research mission to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was an invaluable experience that deepened my understanding of NAGPRA, Native American studies, and the repatriation process. The knowledge and materials gathered during my visit will play a crucial role in contributing to the understanding and promotion of Native American cultural heritage. I am excited to incorporate these findings into my research and contribute to the scholarly discourse on this important topic.



Native American House – U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Main Library – U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Welcome to the Pow-Wow: an Intertribal Pow-wow Experience - Spurlock Museum - U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign