

# Research & Sovereignty



Deana Around Him, DrPH, ScM  
Leander "Russ" McDonald, PhD  
Don Warne, MD, MPH

# **RESEARCH & SOVEREIGNTY**



***2015 Collaborative Research Center on American  
Indian Health Summit***

***June 11, 2015***

***Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn  
Rapid City, South Dakota***

Leander R. McDonald, PhD, President, UTTC

# Introduction

- ▶ United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) was founded in 1969 as an intertribal organization, the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation
- ▶ The nonprofit corporation is chartered in the State of North Dakota by the five North Dakota tribal nations to include: Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation, Spirit Lake Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
- ▶ The ten member UTTC Board of Directors directs activities and is comprised of the chairperson and one delegate from each of the five North Dakota Nations.
- ▶ UTTC is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) comprised of 37 tribal colleges, 36 in the United States and one in Canada



# MISSION STATEMENT

*United Tribes Technical College is dedicated to providing American Indians with postsecondary and technical education in a culturally diverse environment that will provide self-determination and economic development for all tribal nations.*



# Sovereignty Definition

- ▶ According to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), *Sovereignty* is a legal word for an ordinary concept—the authority to self-govern. Hundreds of treaties, along with the Supreme Court, the President, and Congress, have repeatedly affirmed that tribal nations retain their ***inherent*** powers of self-government. These treaties, executive orders, and laws have created a fundamental contract between tribes and the United States.  
<http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/tribal-governance>
- ▶ Individual perception of sovereignty in contemporary times is based in land and the ability to govern within the lands we occupy
  - ▶ Ex. We own land on Spirit Lake Reservation...

# Historical Research Context

- Research is not a new concept to Native populations
  - Ex. Oral tradition – grass dance story

# Community Based Research Definition

- ▶ According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, four issues should be considered by researchers when conducting community research:
  - ▶ Interaction with the community as partners not just subjects.
  - ▶ Use of community knowledge to understand issues and develop interventions.
  - ▶ Community involvement in the design and outcomes.
  - ▶ Immediate **benefits** from results to participating communities.

# Native focused research emphasizing sovereignty should ensure:

- Tribes retain ownership of the data
- Data analyses, publication, and/or presentation must be approved by tribal council
- Data archives in chronological order assists in tracking research that could assist in better research being conducted
  - i.e., trend analysis
- Research benefits to the tribe
  - Compensation to participants
  - Tribal research capacity is developed or enhanced
  - Reports are provided to tribal council and/or research contact person(s) or team for dissemination and cataloging
  - Graduate students may wish to utilize data to complete thesis or dissertation requirements





# QUESTIONS



Leander R. McDonald, PhD, President  
United Tribes Technical College  
3315 University Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
Tel: 701-255-3285  
Fax: 701-530-0605  
Email: [president@uttc.edu](mailto:president@uttc.edu)

# **Tribally Driven Research**

**CRCAIH Annual Conference**

**June 11, 2015**

**Rapid City, SD**

**Donald Warne, MD, MPH**

***Oglala Lakota***

**Chair, Department of Public Health**

**North Dakota State University**

# Epidemiology & PH Data

## Morbidity & Mortality

- Life Expectancy (2013)

AI/AN	<b>73.6 years</b>
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US	77.7 years
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- Average Age at Death in ND (2005-2010)

AI	<b>54.7 years</b>
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White	75.7 years
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# State Mortality (All COD) Rates by Race, 1990-2002

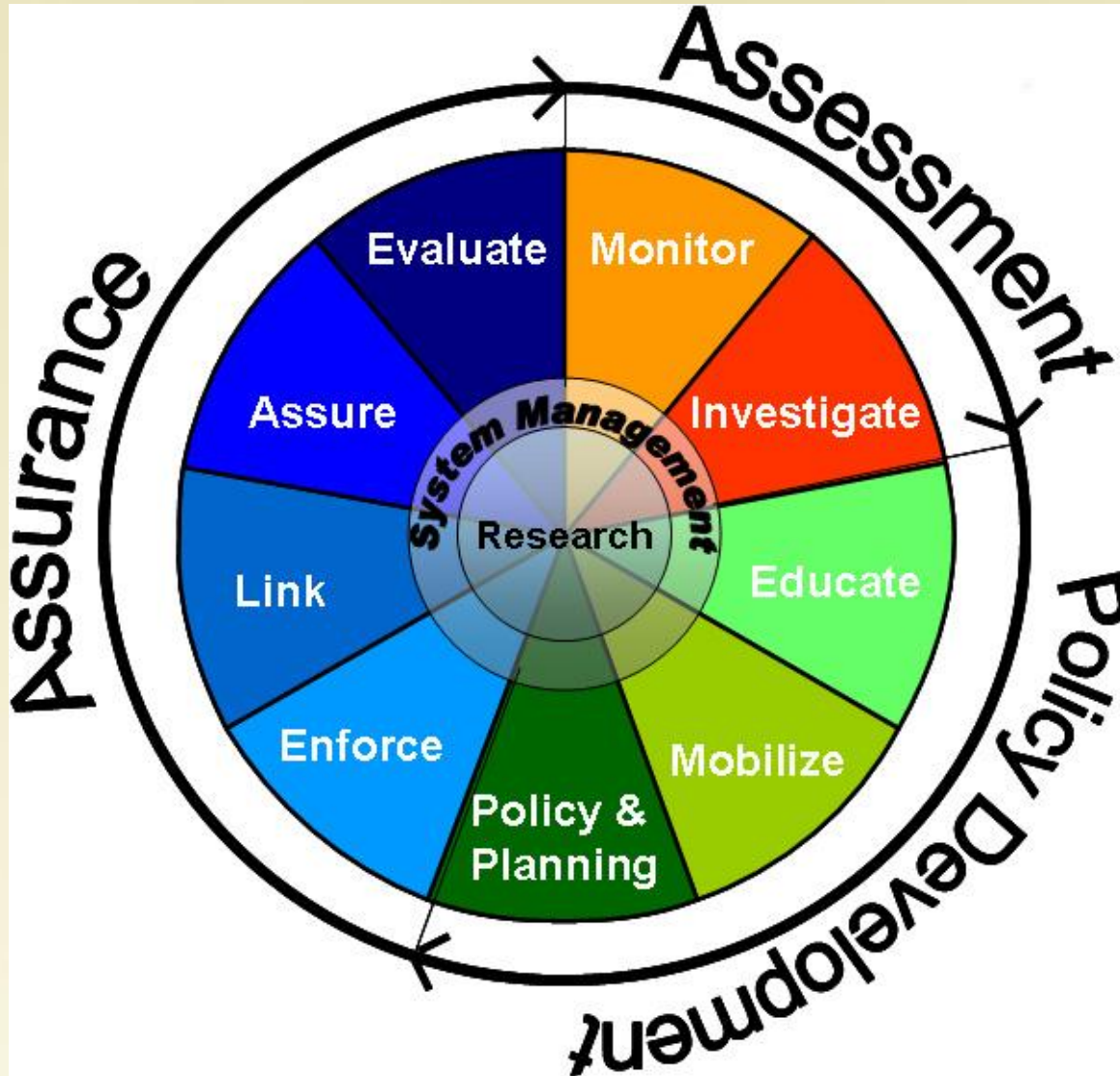
	Population	Count	Rate (95% CI)	Rate Ratio (95% CI)	P value
<b>North Dakota</b>					
American Indian	381,129	2,470	1542 (1471, 1615)	<b>2.0</b> (1.9, 2.1)	<b>&lt;0.0005</b>
White	7,866,524	73,738	771 (766, 777)		
<b>South Dakota</b>					
American Indian	760,486	5,937	1638 (1591, 1686)	<b>2.1</b> (2.0, 2.2)	<b>&lt;0.0005</b>
White	8,690,598	82,261	778 (773, 784)		

Underlying mortality data provided by NCHS ([www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)).

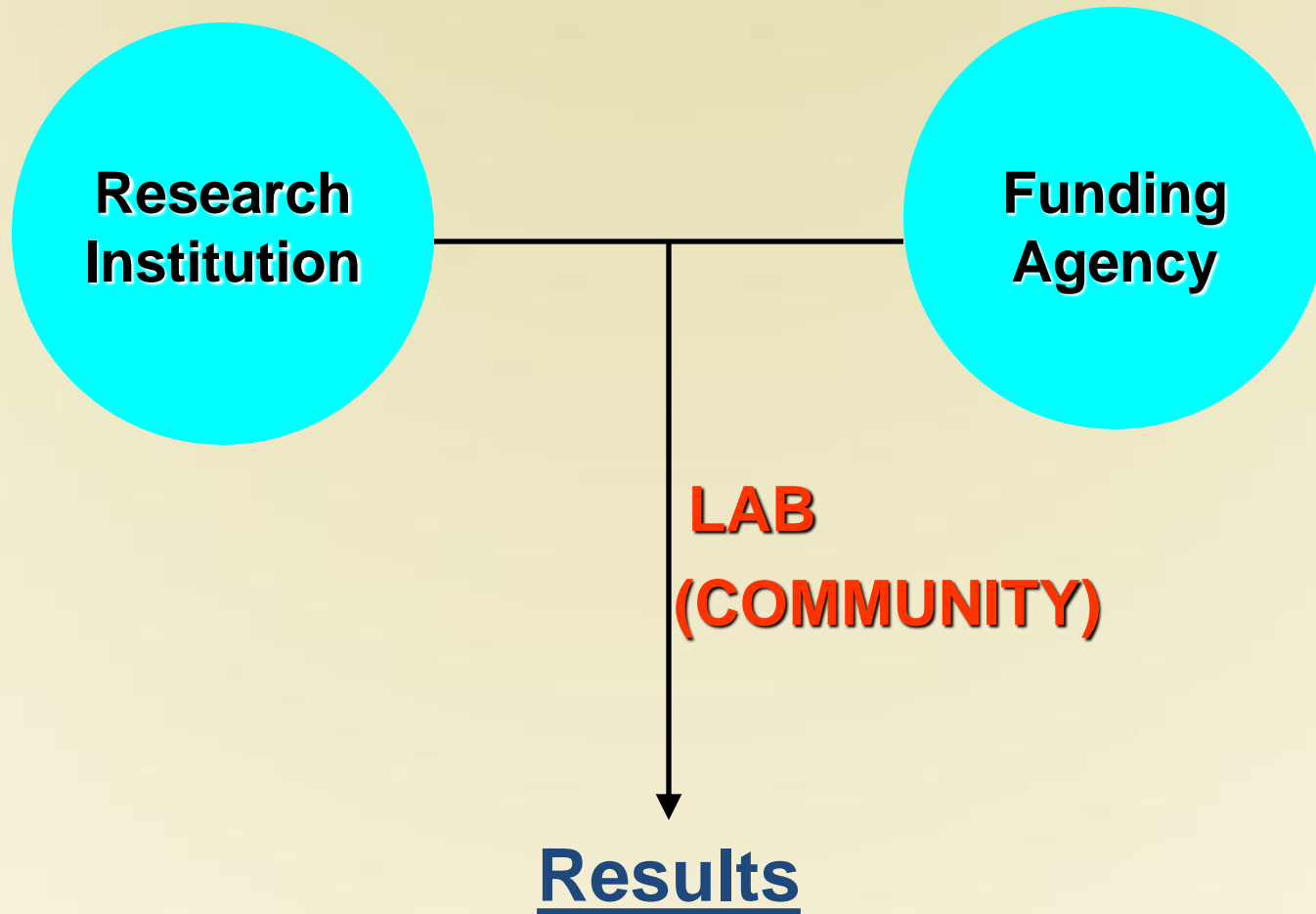
Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Std Population (19 age groups, Census P25-1130) standard; Confidence intervals (Tiwari mod) are 95% for rates.

Population estimates represent a total over the 12 years from 1990-2002

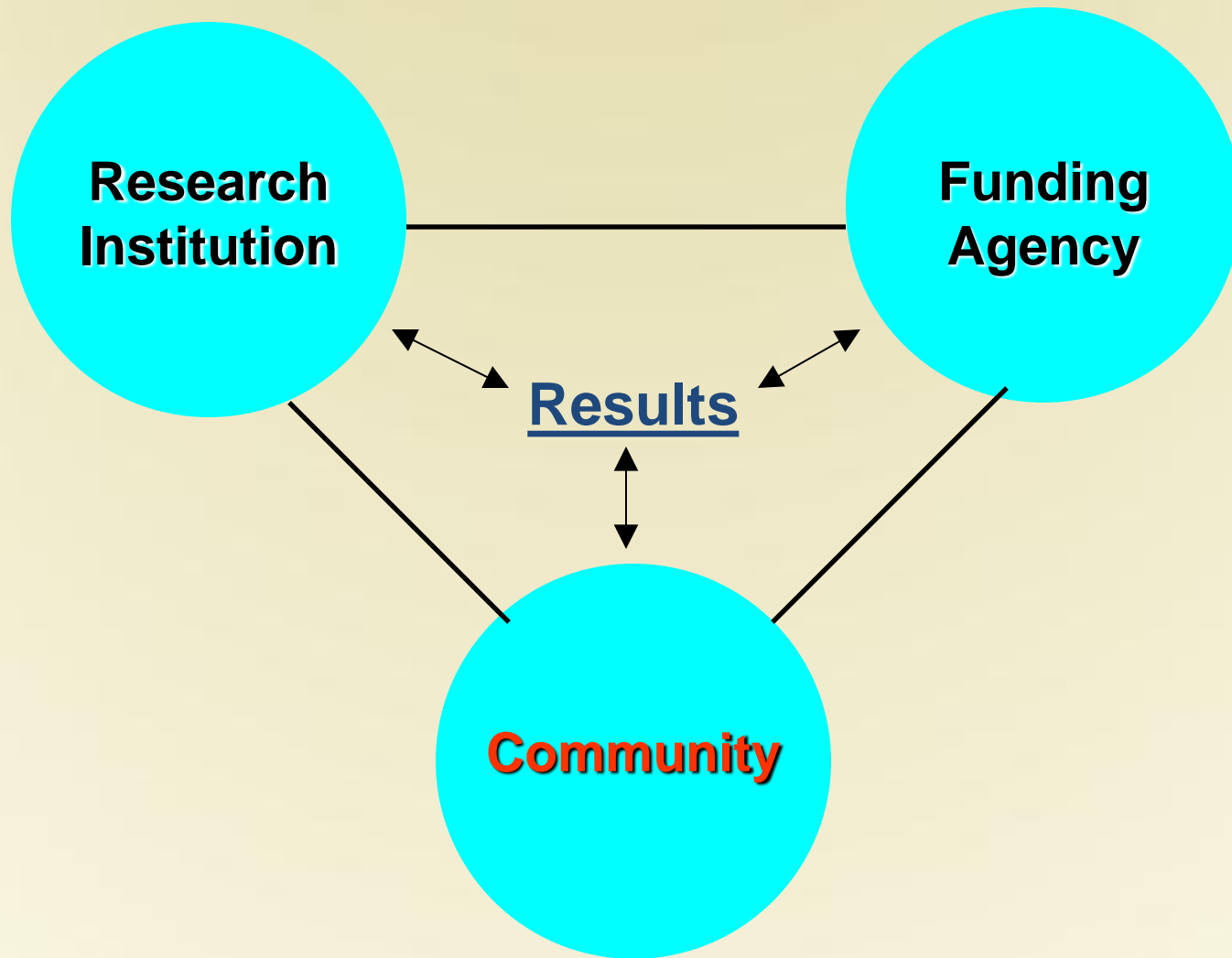
# Public Health Wheel



# HISTORICAL RESEARCH PARADIGM



# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PARADIGM



# Tribally Driven Research

- Sovereignty and Control of Research

1. Core Values

2. Partnership

3. Protection

4. Agenda Setting

5. Cultural Factors



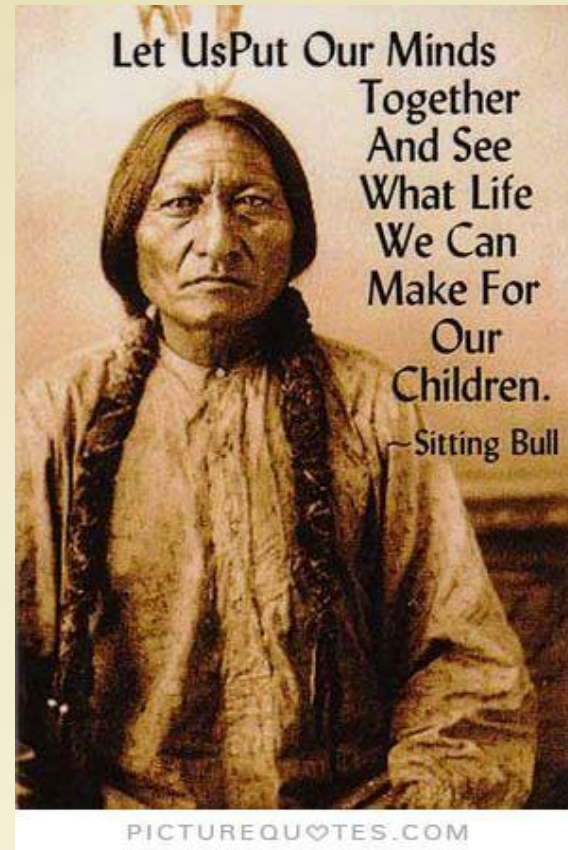
- Involve the Communities—

“participatory research” v “Tribally-Driven”



# Evaluation and Research in a Cultural Context

*Helps us to understand the effectiveness of new approaches and intervention design*



# Evaluation and Research in a Cultural Context

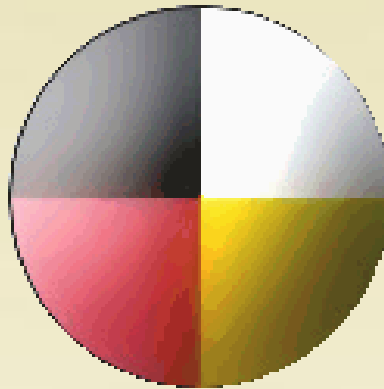
- Storytelling
- Science—objective, distant, factual
- Culture—subjective, close, experiential



# MEDICINE WHEEL

**NORTH**

**WEST**



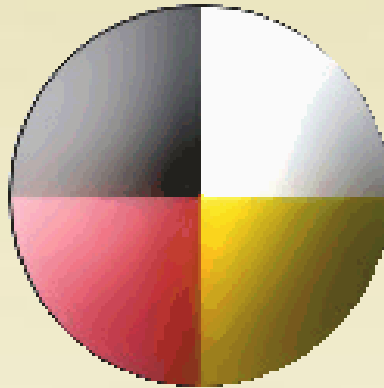
**EAST**

**SOUTH**

# MEDICINE WHEEL

**MENTAL**

**PHYSICAL**



**SPIRITUAL**

**EMOTIONAL**

# MEDICINE WHEEL & Determinants of Public Health

**EDUCATIONAL**

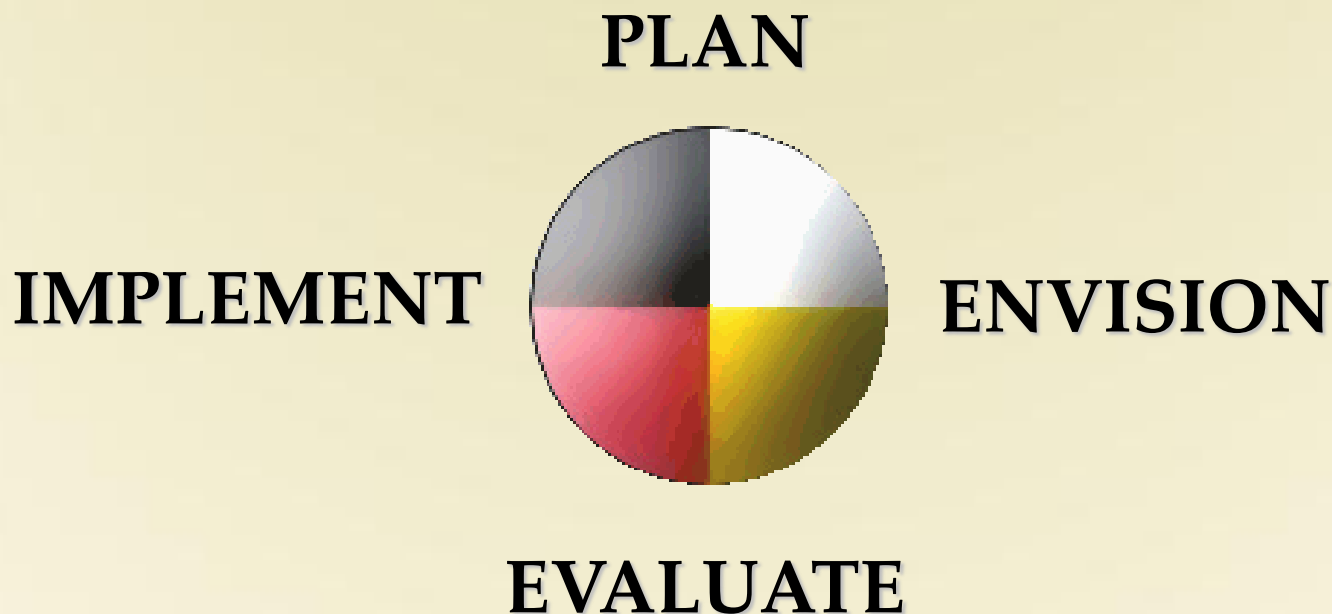
**ENVIRONMENTAL**



**CULTURAL**

**SOCIAL**

# MEDICINE WHEEL & Evaluation of Public Health



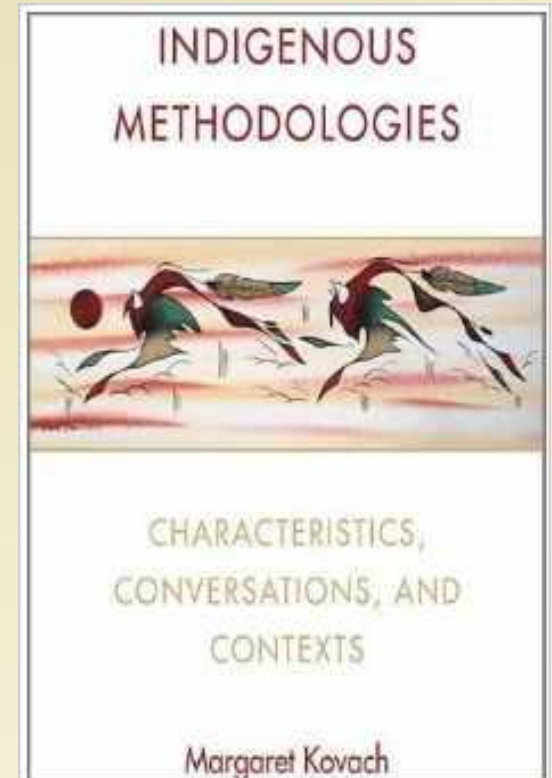
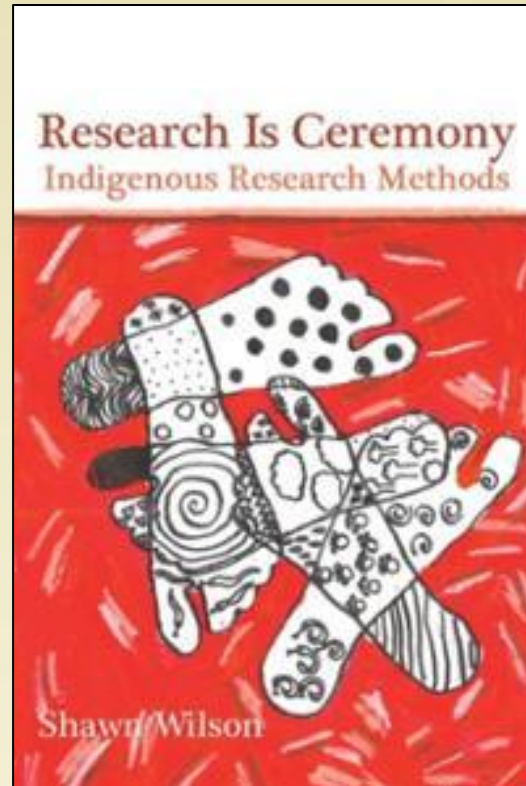
# NDSU MPH Specializations/Tracks

## American Indian Public Health

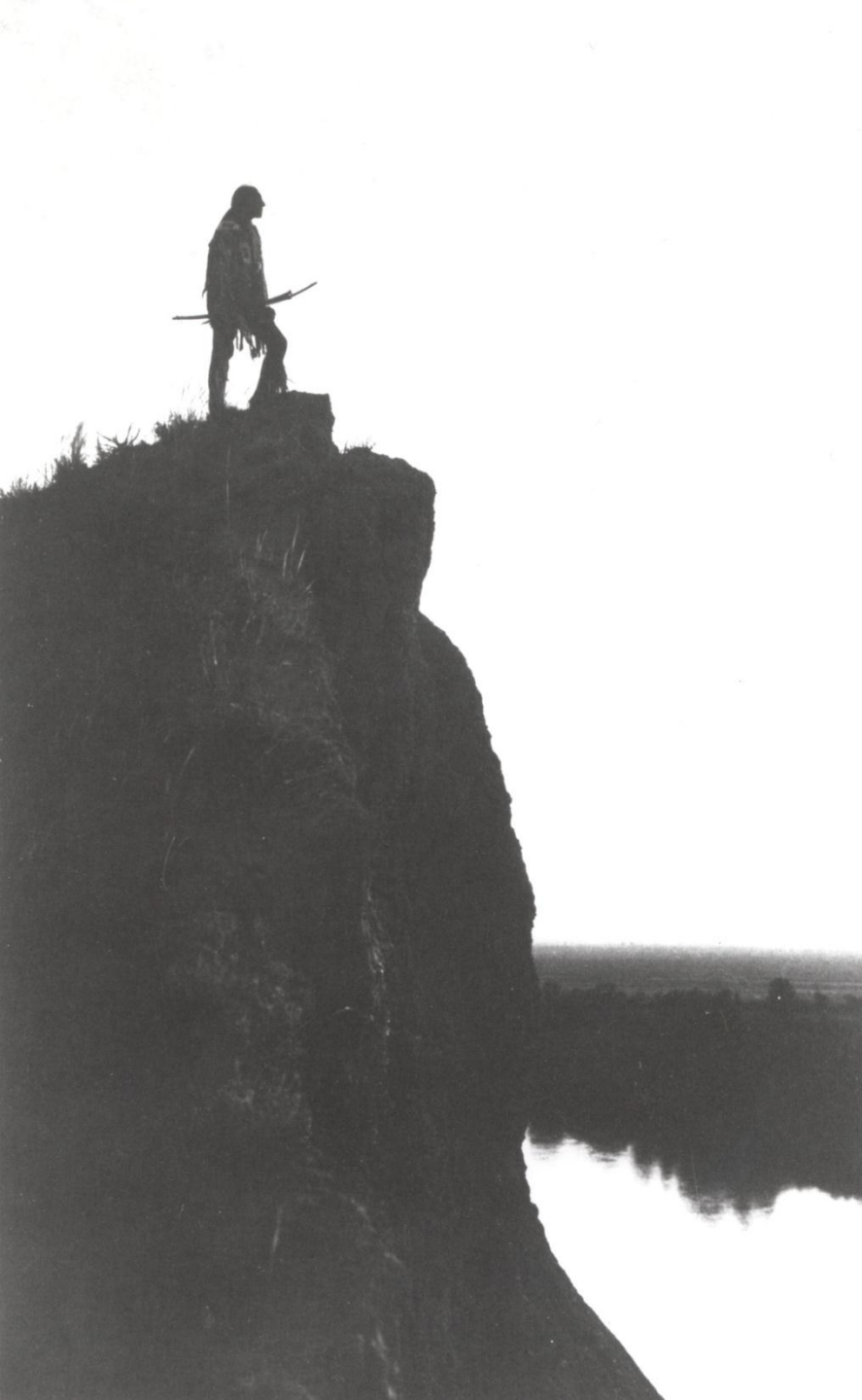
- Required Courses
  - American Indian Health Policy
  - American Indian Health Disparities
  - Cultural Competence in Indian Health
  - **Research Issues in Tribal Communities**
  - Case Studies in Indian Health
- Elective Courses (Choose 1—any other MPH course)  
Under Development:
  - American Indian Elder Care
  - Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition

# Research Issues in Tribal Communities

(MPH 774)







**Donald Warne**

**[donald.warne@ndsu.edu](mailto:donald.warne@ndsu.edu)**

# Questions

