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Bio Sketch

Dr. Robert Keith Collins, PhD received both a B.A. in Native American Studies and a B.A. in Anthropology from UC Berkeley in 1995. He received his M.A. and PhD in Anthropology from UCLA in 2002. His dissertation "Sapokni pit Huklo (Listening to Grandmother): Race, Family, and Identity Resolution in a Choctaw Community" is currently being converted into his first book. Since 1994, Dr. Collins has been the founder and director of Homalusa: Center for African and Native American Research (www.homalusa.net). From 2000-2005 he lectured at California State University, Fullerton in Anthropology and from 2002 – 2006 at UC Berkeley in Native American Studies. In fall of 2006, he joined the American Indian Studies Department at San Francisco State University as an Assistant Professor.

Area(s) of Expertise

African and Native American interaction in North and South America
Native American Cultural Change
Blackness and Indigeneity

Current Research Activities

Intracultural Variation and Choctaw Understandings of Self

This is an on going project that resulted from my dissertation fieldwork in south-eastern Oklahoma and north-eastern Texas from 2000-2002. This is a urban/rural comparative study of African American and Choctaw mixed blood lived experiences in the San Francisco Bay Area and south-eastern Oklahoma, which engages how race and racial admixture affects individual and collective Choctaw understandings of self.

Two Key Publications

Collins, Robert Keith

2006

Katimih o Sa Chata Kiyou? (Why Am I Not Choctaw?): Race in the Lived Experiences of Two Black Choctaw Mixed Bloods. Contribution to 'Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds' Sharon P. Holland and Tiya Miles, eds. Duke University Press. (Expected release August 2006).

Collins, Robert Keith

2005

When Playing Indian is a Misplaced Assumption: Evidence from Black Choctaw Lived Experiences. *In* 'Race, Roots, and Relations: Native and African Americans' Terry Strauss, ed. Albatross Press.