



## Shawn Wilson

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## Bio Sketch

**Shawn Wilson**, B.Sc. (U of Manitoba, Canada), M.A. (U of Alaska, USA), PhD. (Monash University, Australia).

I am Opaskwayak Cree from northern Manitoba in Canada. My personal roles include being father to three boys, being a son, uncle, husband, teacher, student, world traveller, knowledge keeper and knowledge seeker. In my professional roles as community psychologist, researcher and educated Cree, I've spent much of my life straddling the Indigenous and mainstream worlds. Most of my time these days is spent teaching other Indigenous knowledge seekers (and my kids) how to accomplish this balancing act while still keeping both feet on the ground. In addition to being a full-time dad, I also work part-time for the Northern Rivers University Department of Rural Health in Lismore, NSW Australia, building research capacity with primary health care workers.

Travelling and meeting people from other nations and cultures has been a big part of my life, as has my work with traditional Healers, Elders and Knowledge Keepers. In my previous book *Gwitch'in Native Elders: Not just knowledge but a way of looking at the world*, I began to document some ideas about just what an Elder is and how they can be supported. My newly released book *Research is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods* examines some of the similarities in philosophy underlying Indigenous peoples' research methodologies in Canada and Australia. In addition to further articulating Indigenous philosophies and research paradigms, my research focuses on the inter-related concepts of identity, health and healing, culture and wellbeing.

## Area(s) of Expertise

*International Indigenous research methodologies and epistemologies;*

*Counselling and Counsellor Education,*

*Indigenous mental health and identity;*

*Indigenous health and wellbeing*

## Current Research Activities

I am currently working on documenting my parents' life stories, as they provide living examples of Indigenist philosophy in action.

## Two Key Publications

Wilson, S. *Research is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods*. (2008) Fernwood Publishing: Halifax, NS Canada. ISBN: 9781552662816

Wilson, S. "What is an Indigenist Research Paradigm?" (2007) Editorial in *Canadian Journal of Native Education*, 30(2), 193-196