
Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the conference moved from in-person to virtual and was conducted over Zoom.

By the numbers

730 Attendees
346 Scholarships Awarded
15 Concurrent Sessions
4 Plenary Sessions
3 Workshops
1 Networking Lunch
Conference Evaluation

Evaluation was conducted during and after the conference. Conference evaluation included the use of polls at the end of each plenary and concurrent sessions and a post-conference survey that was emailed to all attendees. Unfortunately, a computer glitch erased the poll data from concurrent sessions, leaving attendee reactions to the plenary sessions only.

Poll questions
Poll questions provided immediate feedback to the presenters and offered a point in time look at how conference attendees were feeling, how they were processing information, and if they had learned any new skills.

At this point in the conference, I feel: (select up to 2 emotions)
Bored, Excited, Overwhelmed, Positive, Processing, Stuck

This session presented new directions/new ideas for my NAGPRA work:
Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

I learned something new and/or useful for my NAGPRA work in this session:
Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

The session challenged some of my understandings of NAGPRA in a productive manner.
Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

The material presented in this session:
Is immediately useful to me
Will be useful; I have to mull it over a bit
Might be useful to me, I can’t tell
Was not useful to me

I am excited to take the ideas I heard in this session back to work and implement them.
Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, Not applicable

Over the course of the conference, I: (select all that apply)
Came away with new ideas/inspiration
Contributed to peer discussions around NAGPRA implementation
Felt a bit lost and disheartened
Gathered ideas on how to better and more efficiently implement NAGPRA
Learned more about other approaches, goals and rationales
Sensed that the field is still disjointed and uncertain of how best to move forward
Conference Evaluation

Evaluation was conducted during and after the conference. In conference evaluation included the use of polls at the end of each plenary and concurrent session and a post-conference survey that was emailed to all attendees.

Post-Conference Survey

The post-conference survey was sent to participants one week after the conference to allow them the chance to return to work and process some of what they had experienced and heard.

Post survey questions probed to what degree they:

- Networked with colleagues
- Had enough time to network
- Felt part of a community
- Expanded their professional network
- Gained new tools to help with repatriation work
- Were exposed to new ideas
- Felt better positioned to take on repatriation work

Attendees were asked to reflect on the most useful topics as well as topics that were missing from the discussion.

Additional questions focused on technical issues related to Zoom, preferences around the type of conference for 2021, and conference scholarships.
Plenary 1: The Need for Religious Freedom and Human Rights: The Reckoning of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (n=173)

At this point in the conference, I feel: (select up to 2 emotions)

- Processing: 57%
- Positive: 52%
- Excited: 34%
- Overwhelmed: 6%
- Stuck: 3%
- Bored: 1%

Plenary 2: From Repatriation to Rematriation: Honoring the Ancestors and Their Seeds (n=224)

This session presented new directions/new ideas for my NAGPRA work:

- Strongly agree: 49%
- Agree: 41%
Conference Poll Results

**Plenary 3: Mythbusting NAGPRA (n=212)**

At this point in the conference, I feel: (select up to 2 emotions)

- Processing: 66%
- Positive: 50%
- Excited: 14%
- Overwhelmed: 13%
- Stuck: 12%
- Bored: 8%

**Plenary 4: Building Community and Moving Forward (n=183)**

This session presented new directions/new ideas for my NAGPRA work:

- Came away with new ideas/inspiration: 85%
- Learned more about other approaches, goals and rationales: 64%
- Gathered ideas on how to better and more efficiently implement NAGPRA: 50%
- Contributed to peer discussions: 22%
- Sense that the field is disjointed and uncertain of how best to move forward: 15%
- Felt a bit lost and disheartened: 8%
Post-Conference Survey Results

Satisfaction
70% of attendees rated the conference very highly.

New Ideas & Skills
The conference was particularly successful in exposing attendees to new ideas. Attendees reported gaining new ideas and new skills and that they feel better positioned to take on the work of repatriation because of this conference.

Networking
The conference was successful in helping attendees expand their professional network and creating a sense of community.
Attendees wanted more time to network during the conference and found it hard to network with colleagues in the virtual space.

Technology
Technology was not a problem for most attendees and those who had some issues were generally able to work through them on their own.

2021
Participants weren’t sure what format they will want to see next year, but they are not interested in an in-person only conference.

Scholarships
47% of attendees received a scholarship; 72% of them would not have been able to attend otherwise.
Attendees were asked to rate their overall experience on a scale of 1-10, where 1 was poor and 10 outstanding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Overall, participants had a very positive experience with the conference. Only 5% rated the conference less than 7 and no one gave the conference a Poor rating.

70% of attendees rated the conference very highly. These ratings fall into the Promoter category, which means that they are participants who are more likely to talk about the conference and share their experience with colleagues.
One set of statements in the experience matrix focused on whether the conference created a sense of community and provided the ability and time for attendees to network with colleagues.

The conference was **successful in helping attendees expand their professional network and creating a sense of community**.

There was dissatisfaction with the amount of time allotted to networking; **attendees wanted more time to network during the conference**.

Attendees had a **hard time networking with colleagues**; however, most expressed that it was because of the virtual space and not the fault of the organizers.

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**Experience Matrix | Community & Networking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I felt a part of a community during the conference</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I expanded my professional network because of this conference</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had enough time to network with my colleagues throughout the conference</td>
<td></td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was able to network with my colleagues on the Zoom platform</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Another set of statements in the experience matrix new skills and ideas attendees acquired from the conference that would help them in their repatriation work.

The conference was particularly successful in exposing attendees to new ideas.

Overall, attendees reported gaining new ideas and new skills and that they feel better positioned to take on the work of repatriation because of this conference.
Attendees responded to an open-ended question about which topic in the conference was most useful to them.

90 attendees listed a particular conference session as the most useful.

- 26% Decolonize Your Institution
- 16% From Repatriation to Rematriation: Honoring the Ancestors and Their Seeds
- 10% Creating Reciprocal Avenues to Meaningful Change

38 attendees listed a general topic as the most useful.

- 18% NAGPRA Implementation
- 18% Tribal Perspectives
- 16% Legal Perspective
- 13% Cultural Affiliation
Future Topics

Participants were asked to identify topics that were not covered in the conference. These ideas can help provide guidance for future conferences, webinars, and Community of Practice sessions.

**NAGPRA training**
- NAGPRA basics
- Grant writing
- Writing notices

**Work outside of NAGPRA**
- International repatriation
- Archives
- Private collectors

**NAGPRA work happening regionally**

**Disposition of individuals with no cultural affiliation**

**Examples of “success” from the field**

“More positive examples of success stories- institutions/museums working with tribes to promote more outreach about their cultures through museum exhibits, online webinars, publications. I feel that everyone involved in repatriation efforts has so much to contribute towards teaching the general public, professional archaeologists, and tribal members about the past. Each has a set of information that- together- can help fill in gaps in stories of the past.”
This was the first time the Repatriation Conference occurred virtually. Organizers chose to use the Zoom Platform and worked with OpenWater to build the website, set up the Zoom meetings and provide live support.

Technology was not a problem for most attendees and the those who had some issues were generally able to work through them on their own.

Only 2% of participants indicated that technological issues interfered with their ability to enjoy the conference.

As work and meetings will most likely continue to be virtual for the foreseeable future, it is good to know that the Zoom platform worked for participants.
To get a sense about what a 2021 conference might look like, attendees were asked to think what format they would prefer to attend – in person, hybrid or all virtual.

Reflecting the uncertainty that surrounds our society, participants responded that they weren’t sure what format they will want to see come next year. Factors might include institutional budgets, comfort around traveling and gathering, and vaccination rates. This might also signal that the virtual space has created new opportunities for people that don’t exist in in-person conferences.

One thing is apparent, attendees said they are not interested in an in-person only conference.

- I’m not sure, it will depend on a number of factors: 46%
- Hybrid; some in-person, some online options: 28%
- Virtual only: 21%
- In-person only: 4%
Conference Scholarships

47% of the 730 attendees received a scholarship to the conference.

72% of those who received a scholarship would NOT have been able to the conference otherwise.

Put another way…

201 people were able to attend the conference because they received a scholarship.
Respondents wrote about their appreciation for the:

**Overall organization and conference content**
This was the best conference/seminar I have been to in a very long time- it was informative, inspirational, kind considerate and thoughtful, well organized, well run, truly served the purpose…I learned SO much. I am even more interested in this field than I was before.

**The virtual format; many indicated that they wouldn’t have been able to attend in person regardless of pandemic**
Having this conference virtual was fantastic, I could not have afforded to attend in person seeing that my institution provides limited professional development funds to staff.

**Session recordings**
The dialogue, questions, and interactions was really great. Thank you for allowing the opportunity to view the sessions until January.

**Scholarships**
As a scholarship recipient I really appreciated the opportunity to attend and am grateful for the experience.

For future gatherings, consider;
- **Longer breaks or shorter days**
- **Longer sessions or fewer speakers**