

# Hearsay or Indigenous Knowledge?: Contesting Indian Identity and Land Claims in Western Oregon, 1919-1938

Wednesday  
November 7

4:00 pm

Student Center  
Mackinaw  
Room



NATIVE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH  
EVENT

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Dr. Whaley, SIUC History Professor, presents from his collaboration with Dr. George Wasson (Coquille Indian Tribe) on Indian land claims against the U.S. in the first half of the twentieth century. The western Oregon case raised fundamental questions about the legitimacy of indigenous knowledge and Indian identity. Whaley argues that American colonialism undermined Native legal efforts, as federal Indian policies and bureaucratic practices contradicted the liberal individualist premises of the U.S. Court of Claims. Related cases and legal question have resounded in courtrooms from New Zealand to Canada to the U.S. in the past century.