

# Indigenous Data Sovereignty: How Scientists and Researchers can Empower Data Governance



**Wednesday, April 7  
12-1pm Pacific Time**

**Lydia Jennings, Ph.D.**  
Department of Environmental Sciences  
Collaboratory for Indigenous Data Governance  
University of Arizona

Indigenous land management practices result in higher species richness, less deforestation, and land degradation than non-Indigenous strategies. Many environmental researchers, data repositories, and data service operations recognize the importance of collaborating with Indigenous

nations, supporting their environmental stewardship practices, and aligning land stewardship mechanisms with Indigenous rights. Yet these individuals and organizations do not always know the appropriate processes to achieve these partnerships. Calls for government agencies to collaborate with Indigenous land stewards require an increasing awareness of what Indigenous data are and how to manage these data. Indigenous data sovereignty underscores Indigenous rights and interests and can provide a structure for data practices.

In this seminar talk, Dr. Lydia Jennings will discuss what constitutes Indigenous data, how to apply an Indigenous data sovereignty framework to environmental research, examples of Indigenous data governance, Tribal Nations' leading the scientific inquiry process, and how environmental scientists can co-create with Indigenous communities to answer community-driven research questions.

*Dr. Lydia Jennings is a transdisciplinary scholar, braiding together the fields of soil ecology, environmental law, and American Indian Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Arizona with a minor in American Indian Studies. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral Researcher in Community Environment and Policy at the University of Arizona.*

For more information on this seminar series, including a Zoom link, please visit: [www.nceas.ucsb.edu/equity-justice-seminar](http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/equity-justice-seminar)