

Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference 2019

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Conference Paper Title:

Decolonizing American Indian History: Influences that Created Shifts in Cherokee Ethnogenesis

Biography:

Janna Rogers is a social and cultural historian who holds a Master's degree in U.S. History with a minor in European History. Janna incorporated an interdisciplinary approach to her Master's thesis which includes Anthropology and Critical Whiteness Studies to situate pre-removal Cherokee as a central paradigm for Genocide and Holocaust Studies. She is currently pursuing a doctorate from Oklahoma State University in United States History with a major in Race and Ethnicity and a minor in Public History. Her doctoral focus centers on deconstructing the ideology of whiteness as a racial identity and how this intersects shifting identities, hybridity, and comparative histories.

Janna does not consider herself a scholar of ancestry or Indigenous histories but rather as a decolonization scholar who examines the past through the lens of race and ethnicity. She engages her research as race work. She unpacks racialized policies and tensions in order to better understand socially constructed concepts of race that supports power structures and dominance. Janna hopes our research as scholars will lessen the divisive gulf in race relations and liberate tomorrow's children and grandchildren from our own experiences of ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and the resurgence of racialized aggression that she feels has become normalized.