

# Lukanka

Lukanka is a Miskito word for “thoughts”



RUDOLPH C. RYSER  
Editor in Chief  
Fourth World Journal



Scholars in the Fourth World engage in a wide range of intellectual and practical pursuits directly benefiting nations throughout the world. Our [Associate Scholars Program](#) benefits from the extraordinary efforts of more the forty-five dedicated researchers, social activists, political leaders, healers, writers, and traditional knowledge holders. These scholars carry on the traditions of intellectual inquiry practiced in many different cultures in addition to conventional empirical inquiry. The results are often quite surprising and always informative. The disappearance or declining use of ancient knowledge systems mirrors the destruction of cultural communities throughout the world. This increasingly rapid destruction of cultural communities reflects the damage to societies by the removal of peoples from their territories either as a result of natural disasters or imposed force by outside peoples. When a people is forced to leave a long used territory and the population is subsequently fragmented, culture collapses and the continued use and application of a knowledge system risks decline or complete disappearance. UNESCO and other international institutions as well as individual knowledge holders struggle to preserve these knowledge systems, but it is more apt to suggest that ancient knowledge systems must be maintained with the people and their culture in relation to their lands and territories. These forms of knowledge should be applied as systems of thought existing in parallel with each other with no system of thought dominating another. While knowledge systems may influence each other they tend to inform and prove beneficial if they are understood as discrete systems of thought. The culture embraces the language and the system of thought in relation to the land in the material world as well as phenomena in the immaterial world. We have new samples of scholarship in this issue that reflect aspects of different knowledge systems that have practical applications as well as important contributions to the greater body of human knowledge.

In *An Assessment of Oral Health on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation* **Dr. Terry Batliner, DDS, Tamanna Tiwari, Dr. Judith Albino, PhD** and a team of researchers discuss in their Peer Reviewed article an innovative assessment tool appropriate for various native peoples that can significantly improve their health. Noting a significant frequency of decayed teeth, periodontal disease and people with missing teeth in Lakota on the Pine Ridge reservation the research team reports its findings, policy implications and possible solutions.

Drawing on her groundbreaking experience as a touch therapy practitioner and noted researcher **Dr. Leslie Korn** shares here knowledge and recommendations for new researcher originally presented before the International Massage Therapy Research Conference in her article, *Somatic Empathy, Restoring Community Health with Massage*. As the Center for Traditional

Medicine Director for more than a generation and research director at the Center for World Indigenous Studies, Dr. Korn reflects on lessons learned in indigenous communities and their influence on new pathways for research and policy application for touch therapies.

**Casimir Ani, Phd**, examines in his article, *Managing Climate Change in Africa* what he explains is a significant gap between climate change research conducted in Western Europe and how scholars and researchers in Africa understand the phenomenon for effective mitigation and adaption strategies that will benefit the diverse peoples on the continent. The article makes the case for applying African knowledge systems to the understanding of phenomenon of changing climates in Africa.

Associate Scholar **Renee A. Davis, MA** explores historical trauma, abuse and genocide through the lenses of the chronic disease of diabetes and the role of plant medicines in the restoration of health in US northwest coastal native peoples in her article, *Coping with diabetes and generational trauma in Salish tribal communities*. She contrasts conventional medical interpretations of chronic disease with native peoples' construction of chronic disease as a part interrelated factors.

**Ms. Dina Gilio-Whitaker, MA**, Research Associate at the Center for World Indigenous Studies considers the problem of American Indian representation in the US political system in her article, *Barriers to Fair and Effective Congressional Representation in Indian Country*. In her reflective analysis Gilio-Whitaker reviews US federal laws, court decisions, and congressional member attitudes that block effective political expression by Indian leaders, their governments and individual tribal members.

Another Associate Scholar, **Ms Elise Krohn, M.Ed.** discusses in her essay, *Recovering Health through Cultural Traditions* how the Northwest Indian Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center sponsored by the Squaxin Island Tribe serves individuals from many different tribes with the application of knowledge from many different and related cultural systems.

In *International Trusteeships, the Unfinished Responsibility*, **Dr. Rudolph Rýser** opens a rarely considered discussion of what the US government claims as its "Trust Responsibility" to Indian nations and Alaskan Natives as compared to the international trusteeship system. I offer an historical assessment as well as the suggestion that the moribund United Nations Trusteeship Council should become the supervising body for negotiated Trust Compacts between Indian nations choosing to change their political status in relation to the United States. The concept would benefit nations in Australia, Canada as well as Panama, Brazil and Europe as well.

As you will note, we continue to offer scholarly essays that touch on critical issues affecting the interests of Fourth World nations throughout the world. You will want to consider the new books available on many topics of concern to Fourth World nations in the [Center for World Indigenous Studies Book Store](#) where you will find my new book [Indigenous Nations and Modern States](#) and Dr. Leslie Korn's new books [Rhythms of Recovery](#), and [Preventing Diabetes Naturally, The Native Way](#); and of course continue to have access to the [Center's work at our website](#). You may order your own paperback issue of *Indigenous Nations and Modern States* directly from the Center at price considerably lower than the hardcover price (see the promotion in this issue).