

The Challenges of Culturally Unidentifiable Remains

A central feature common to nearly every Native American tribe and community is that the Indigenous peoples of the United States have deep respect for their deceased ancestors and consider grave sites sacred places. However, there are many voices from the mainstream scientific community and the press that a recently proposed rule to NAGPRA upsets the "balance" of NAGPRA agreed to by these two disparate communities. In addition, varying interpretations of NAGPRA regulations are having an impact on governmental policies and legislation. This session takes an in-depth look at the issue from various tribal and governmental perspectives. Examining solutions to these dilemmas require coming to an understanding of mutually beneficial approaches and policies that are both community-based and utilize innovative perspectives.

Panelists:

- Walter Echohawk, Jr., Senior Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
- Rosita Worl, President, Sealaska Heritage Institute (Invited)
- Suzan Shown Harjo, President, Morningstar Institute
- James Pepper Henry, Museum Director, Anchorage Museum