

# Guidelines for an Indigenous Research Methodology

The following are important guidelines and steps to remember when engaging with Indigenous communities in order to conduct a research project



## → Constructing your methodology

Begin sooner rather than later on thinking through the planned contours of your project. It does not need to be set in stone, but you will want to have some idea of what you'd like to do, where you'd like to do your work, and how you want to do your work.

## → Think through positionality and subjectivity

We all have our own unique viewpoints, biases and worldviews that we carry with us into our work. Think deeply on yours, and how they may affect your engagement with community, and how community may engage with you.

## → Engaging with community oversight processes

Every community you engage with will have some way of approving and overseeing your research. Learn what structures might exist in the community you are working with, and work with them, being open to what they have to say about your work. Be prepared to make shifts in your work based on their input.

## → Consent as an ongoing process

Consent for your work is never a one time thing. Be prepared to consistently check in with research participants, and to re-consent with them if significant portions of your work change. If they do NOT say yes, treat that as them NOT consenting to the project.

## → Data stewardship and repatriation

Data collected from Indigenous communities belong to the communities. We do not want to reproduce a legacy of academic extraction from Indigenous peoples. Work with the community on a plan as to how you will return transcripts/data/maps to them when you are finished with your project.

## → Continuing Relationships

Whether we work with a community once, or embark on a long term working relationship, our accountability and connection to that community continue. Think deeply on how you plan to maintain relationships even after your project concludes.

