

[The following was originally written by 2026 ASAIL president Lisa Tatonetti and slightly amended to reflect updates.]

Yá'át'ééh /Osiyo / Greetings!

Welcome to the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL). Founded in 1972, ASAIL is a professional academic organization created to promote the study and teaching of Indigenous written, oral, and visual literary traditions. We hope that the resources on this site, which include syllabi, academic program listings, and conference information, can help expand knowledge about the innovative scholarship and powerful Indigenous creative productions that form the basis of the field.

ASAIL's current membership includes leading scholars, creatives, and activists committed to the interdisciplinary study and continuance of Native American and Indigenous languages, cultures, and aesthetic traditions. Membership includes access to the ASAIL listerv and a subscription to our journal, *SAIL: Studies in American Indian Literatures*. We welcome you to [join us](#)!

First created at the Modern Language Association conference, ASAIL moved its meetings to the Native American Literary Symposium (NALS) in the early 2000s. An Indigenous-run conference held on Indigenous Nation land, NALS was a rich source of inspiration and community for many years. Since 2020, when NALS went on hiatus, ASAIL began to host virtual conferences that enabled broad access and participation. We are proud to extend that tradition and each year we continue to have lively scholarly exchanges, presentations, readings, and film showings that highlight Indigenous creative and intellectual production. Importantly, graduate students are particularly valued by the organization. We take pride in our history of mentorship and consider relationality and capacity building to be one of the strengths of ASAIL. We offer several conference fellowships to offset expenses for graduate students presenting their research and have been able to support a number of gratis graduate student memberships as a result of generous donations. Please consider attending, and potentially submitting work to the 2027 in-person conference to be held in Flagstaff, AZ. Details are forthcoming! We invite you to check out the archive for the [virtual 2026 ASAIL conference](#).



As your 2027 ASAIL President, allow me to briefly introduce myself:

Tódich'ii'nii éinishłi dóó Kinyaa'áanii báshíshchíín. Dóó Tsídii (Tsalagi) éí da shichei. Táchii'nii éí da shináí. Naat'áanii Nééz déé' iiyisi naashá, áádóó Haudenosaunee dóó Mississauga bikéyah, dii shighaan. Ákót'éego Diné dóó Tsalagi Asdzáan nishłi.

I am a citizen of the Navajo Nation (Shiprock agency) in New Mexico. I am Bitter Water, born for the Towering House People. My maternal grandfather was a Cherokee Nation citizen and we are Bird Clan. My paternal grandfather was from the Red Running Through the Water People. I am a professor and Paul R. MacPherson Chair in Indigenous Studies at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. I am also an interim co-Director of the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute (MIRI). My teaching and research interests are in Indigenous literary and expressive arts, Diné analytics, and transnational collaborations. I am the 2025-2027 Faculty of Social Sciences "Scholar-In-Community," as well as the Dawn Martin-Hill "Community Fellow." I am the author of *Restoring Relations Through Stories: from Dinétah to Denendeh* (2024, University of Arizona Press) and co-editor with Hartmut Lutz and Florentine Strelczyk of *Indianthusiasm: Indigenous Responses* (2020, Wilfrid Laurier Press).

We at ASAIL look forward to being in conversation with you about the vibrant intellectual traditions that make up historical and contemporary Indigenous literatures. Ahéhee', Wado!