



Image courtesy of Skawennati

Indigenous Futures Cluster Presents

Indigenous Future Imaginaries and the Question of Utopia

Kristina Baudemann

In Indigenous speculative arts and literatures, the future can be anything: a playful what-if scenario where the land is returned to the Indigenous people; a cyberpunk town where Indigenous artists prowling about in their bioengineered bodies; or a powerful feeling of hope as the viewer watches Indigenous people beat the colonial monsters at their own game. But what about utopia? The term is frequently used to describe hopeful visions of the future, but its colonial history makes it a problematic concept for Indigenous literary and artistic expression. In her talk, Kristina Baudemann will explore how utopia might fit into the heterogeneous field of Indigenous futurisms (Indigenous-centered stories about the future). Can we apply the concept meaningfully to Indigenous future imaginaries? And what do we gain by reading/watching Indigenous futurisms for utopia? This talk aims not only at providing answers, but also at raising questions; listeners are cordially invited to join the discussion.

Indigenous Futures Cluster Presents is the public event arm of the Indigenous Futures Cluster (IFC) at the Milieux Institute for Art, Culture, and Technology. The IFC explores how Indigenous people are imagining the future of their families and communities. We are interested in narratives, frameworks, and technologies that help us articulate a continuum between our histories, our present, and the seventh generation and beyond. We take a research-creation approach to these issues, employing art-and technology-making coupled with scholarly analysis and conceptual development to illuminate how the challenges of the present can be addressed, in part, through concrete, constructive, and critical dreams of the future. IFC Presents is our ongoing series of talks, performances, exhibitions, and other public engagement activities.

THURSDAY

3:00PM

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Resource Room — Concordia
EV Building 11.705
1515 Saint-Catherine St W
Montreal, QC H3G 2W1



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