UC SANTA BARBARA



Society + Culture

Experts to discuss repatriation, religion and law

Keith Hamm

October 20, 2025

Share this article



A panel of tribal authorities, legal experts and scholars will discuss "<u>Indigenous</u> <u>Religious Traditions and Law in the Current Political Moment</u>," hosted by UC Santa Barbara's Walter H. <u>Capps Center</u> for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life. Free and open to the public, the event takes place from 4–5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at the Multicultural Center Theater, with a reception to follow.

Panelists will include Vincent Diaz (UCLA professor of American Indian and Indigenous studies), Walter Echo-Hawk (former president of the Pawnee Nation), Anishinaabe historian Eric Hemenway, Christina Gonzales (Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation and UCSB repatriation committee chair) and UCSB associate English professor Amrah Salomón.

The panel discussion is the public-facing portion of a two-day workshop involving nearly two dozen participants, including a number of Indigenous representatives from as close as Santa Ynez and as far as Nagaland, in northeast India, plus several scholars of religion, and other repatriation and legal experts.

"In partnership with our Chumash neighbors, UCSB has begun to turn the corner on this profoundly important work," said panel moderator Greg Johnson, a UCSB religious studies professor and director of the center. "Now we have the opportunity to convene a group of experts to help us think about the future of repatriation, especially as it relates to other pressing issues at the intersection of law and religion, including land protection and educational access."

Media Contact

Keith Hamm

Social Sciences, Humanities & Fine Arts Writer (805) 893-2191 keithhamm@ucsb.edu

Share this article



About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.