

**CULTURAL
CONNECTEDNESS AS A
PREVENTATIVE FACTOR FOR
VIOLENCE & HEALTH
OUTCOMES**

5/4/22: AKIRP

Goals

- Introductions
- Prevention with Youth
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Trauma and Collective Healing
- Discussion



WHO'S IN THE ROOM?





genealogy



Article

“Then Who Are You?": Young American Indian and Alaska Native Women Navigating Cultural Connectedness in Dating and Relationships

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Cultural Connectedness

- Expressed through **engagement, identity, belonging, and connections** to land, language and spiritual and cultural practices
 - *(Chandler and Lalonde 2008; Mohatt et al. 2011; Njeze et al. 2020).*
- Indigenous Connectedness Framework: cultural connectedness is a key mechanism of Indigenous wellbeing (Ullrich 2019).
 - *environmental, community, family, intergenerational and spiritual connectedness*

Healthy Relationships among Native Youth

- How AI/AN youth
 - *conceptualize and define healthy relationships*
 - *identify abuse and understand causes of abusive relationships*
- Culturally-specific strengths and protective factors



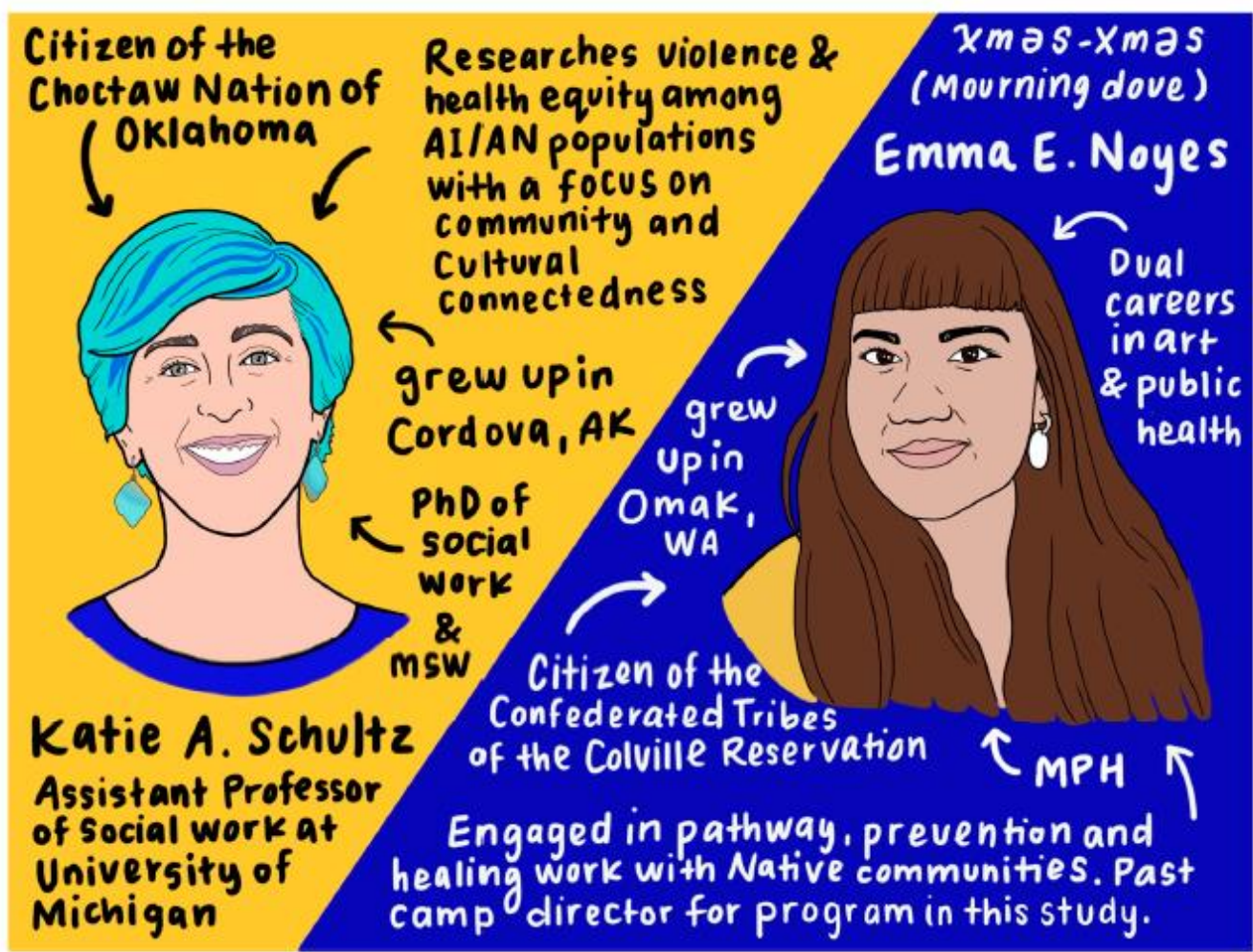


Figure 4. The authors' portraits are surrounded by information about who they are and where they are from. See I.D. 4 in Appendix A.

Findings

- Choosing romantic/reproductive partners
- increasing or upholding individual connections to culture and tribal identities
- responsibility and respect for maintaining and passing cultural teachings and traditions to the next generation
- children recognized as a tribal member or descendant (tribal enrollment)





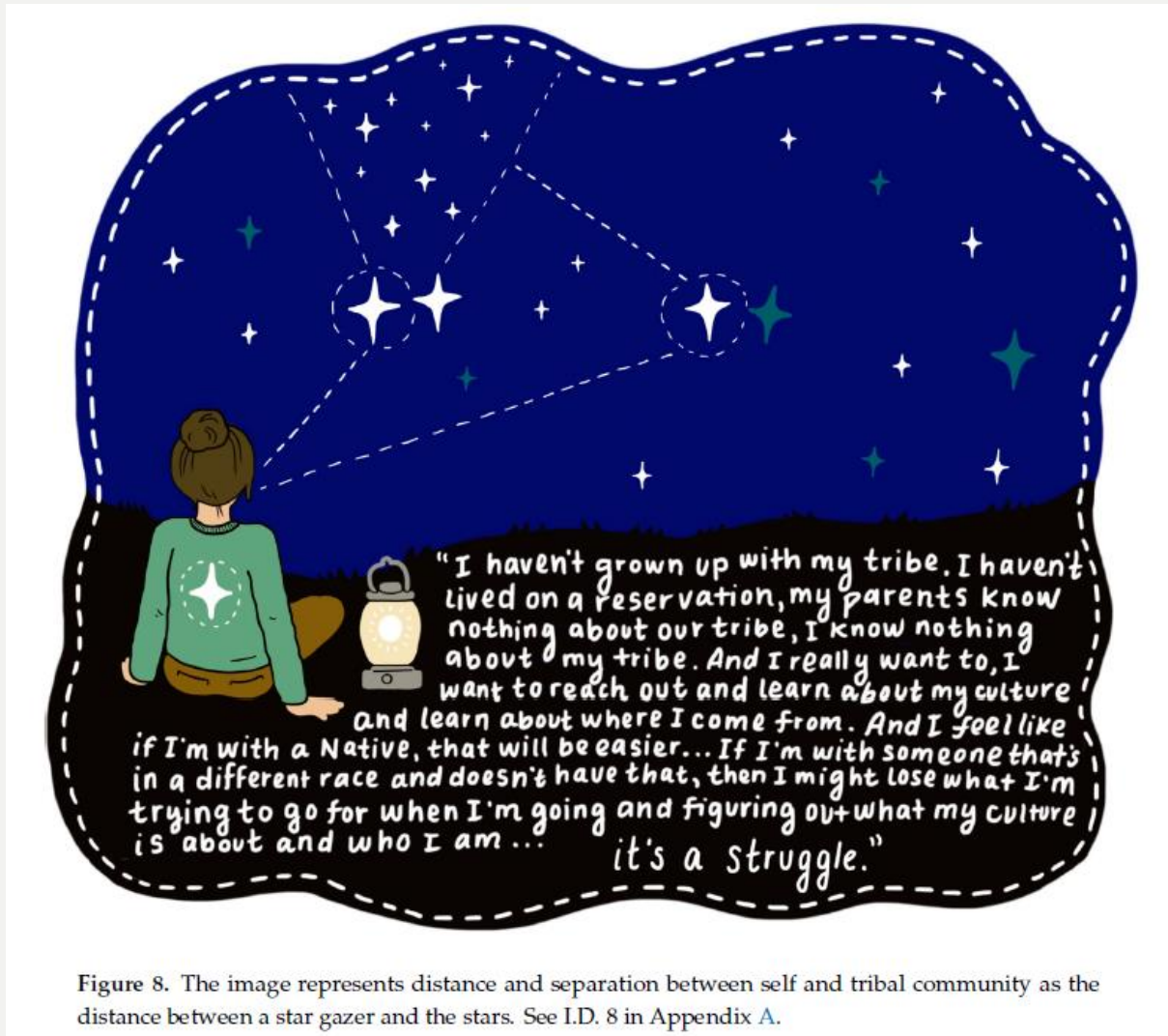


Figure 8. The image represents distance and separation between self and tribal community as the distance between a star gazer and the stars. See I.D. 8 in Appendix A.



"It's up to us now,
our generation,



to keep our culture alive"

My kids will be enrolled, but what about my grandkids?

$$\begin{aligned} &7/16 + 0 \quad ? \\ &\swarrow \quad \searrow \\ &7/32 + 1/2 \\ &\swarrow \quad \searrow \\ &23/64 \end{aligned}$$

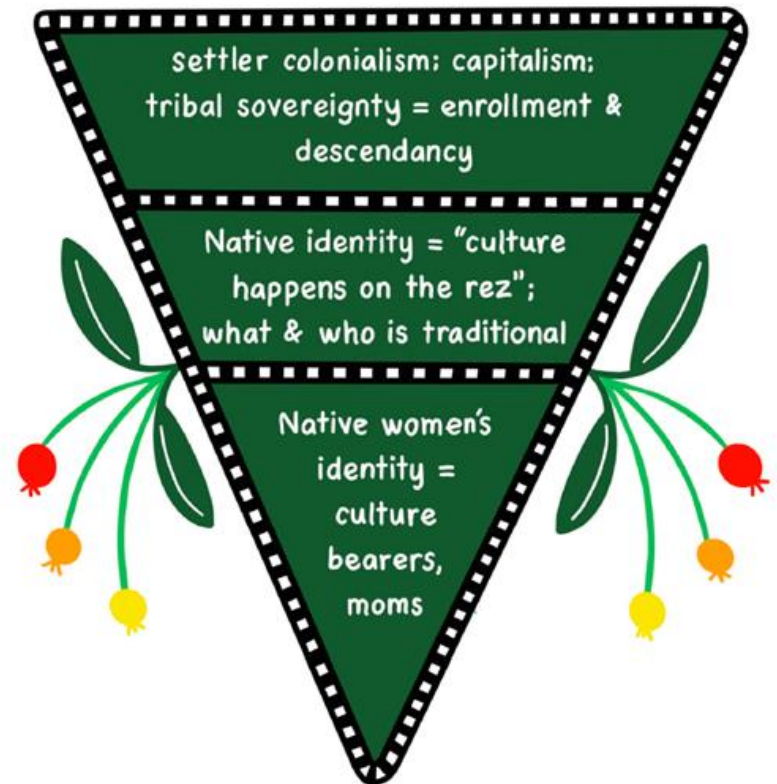
"My kids will be Native no matter what."

$$\begin{aligned} &7/16 + 1/8 \\ &\swarrow \\ &9/32 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &7/16 + N/A \\ &\swarrow \\ &N/A \end{aligned}$$



Situating our Work

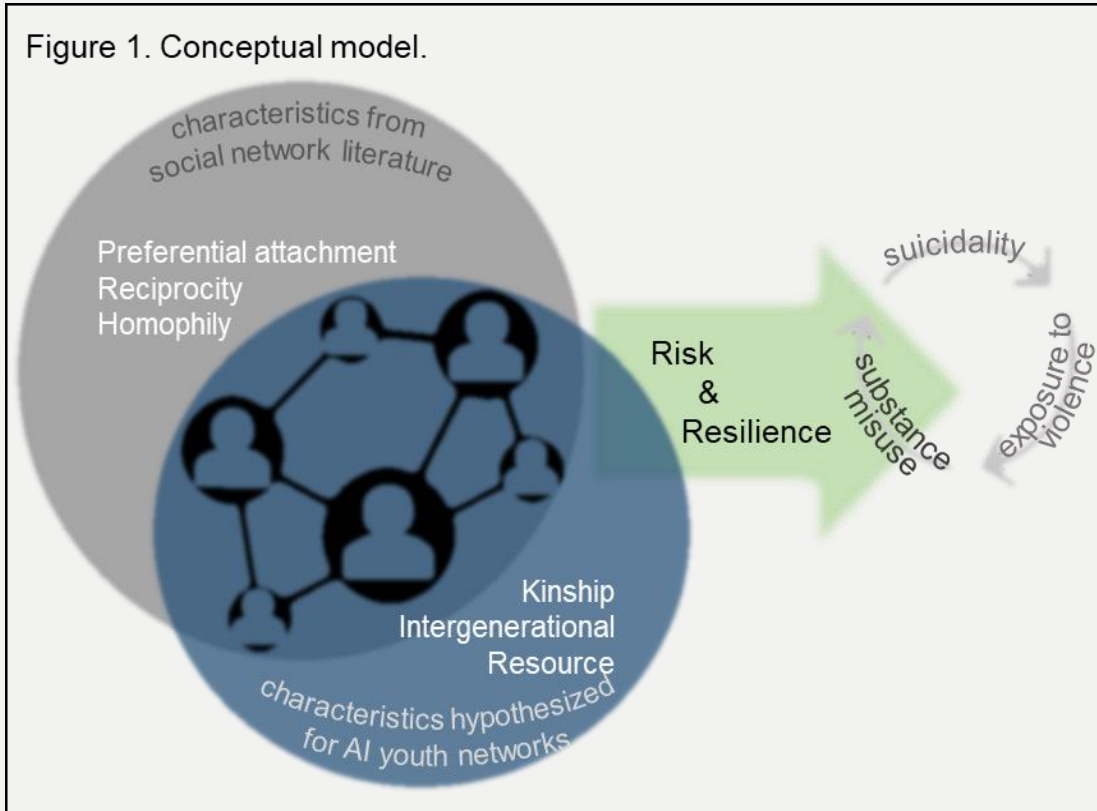


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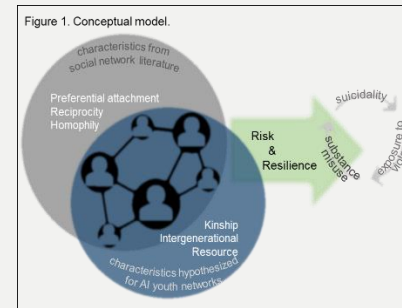


- Tribal Reservation Adolescent Connections Study
 - *Describe peer, kin and community social networks & predict risk and protective factors for substance use, violence, and suicide*
- Lack of prevention strategies that leverage community and cultural strengths to optimize effectiveness and sustainability.
- Cultural and traditional practices, including kinship networks, make interpersonal relationships particularly vital for AI youth.

Figure 1. Conceptual model.



Prevention Efforts



- Geographic isolation and lack of some resources make social relations and collateral networks (i.e., peer, family, kinship, and community) a salient fixture of AN/AI culture and survival.
- Physical, spiritual, and economic well-being of AI communities are intertwined with family and community relationships.
 - *Relationships define duties and obligations to one another to ensure that communities thrive - ensures key kinship ties to one another (making of relationships)*
- Social networks that include strong intergenerational connections may be particularly pronounced in rural AI communities
 - *families tend to be more isolated*
 - *intergenerational mobility is often low*
 - *extended family members often play a major role in caretaking children.*

Mixed Findings & Challenges



- Are we measuring connectedness or something else?
- WIDE variability among AI/AN populations
 - *citizenship, reservation and urban populations, state and regional, cultural practices, language, etc.*
- Quantitative
 - *degrees of ethnic identity*
 - *individual attitudes about cultural groups*
 - *Participation in cultural practices and activities*

(Galliher et al. 2011; Jones and Galliher 2007; Markstrom 2011; Whitbeck et al. 2002)

Questions & Opportunities



TIME CHECK

Psychology of Violence
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COMMENTARY

Key Roles of Community Connectedness in Healing From Trauma

Katie Schultz
University of Washington

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Penn State Harrisburg

Sabeth Jackson
Sewanee: The University of the South

Lauren B. Cattaneo
George Mason University

Lisa Brunner
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Lame
Montana

Josephine V. Serrata
Georgia State University

Original Research

Intimate Partner
Violence and Health:
The Roles of Social
Support and Communal
Mastery in Five American
Indian Communities

Katie Schultz,¹  Melissa Walls,²
and Sheryl J. Grana³

Journal of Interpersonal Violence

1–22

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An Integrated Historical Trauma and
Posttraumatic Growth Framework: a Cross-
Cultural Exploration

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Henderson , Lisa Colón & Ciwang Teyra

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[10.1080/15299732.2020.1869106](https://doi.org/10.1080/15299732.2020.1869106)

YAKOKE!

Thank you!

