



Call for Submission

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On Mental Health and Land-Based Healing

Anishinaabe Discovery Centre

1491 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada

April 24 - 25, 2025

Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) – Shingwauk Teaching Lodge is a teaching and research centre of excellence in Anishinaabe education. As an Anishinaabe post-secondary institute, SKG preserves the integrity of Anishinaabe knowledge and understanding, aiming to educate the present and future generations in a positive, cooperative and respectful environment. Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) – Shingwauk Teaching Lodge is planning to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars, students, practitioners, and community leaders to come together and engage in mental health and the question of land-based healing. This is an important twist to understanding how land could provide healing for those affected by mental health issues. The focus on land-based healing has been there ever since the beginning of time and yet continues to be relegated to the edges of epistemological awareness. It is in the recognition of healing from and with the land that a society faced with mental health issues can start the journey of recognizing and resolving mental health issues.

This International conference is designed to provide students, practitioners, community members with the knowledge, skills, spiritual and cultural competence that are rooted within Indigenous ways of knowing and understanding to address mental health and addiction issues within the perspective of historical processes and practices. This conference is designed for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and calls for remembering ourselves from and with the land. It integrates the holistic approaches of Indigenous healing with evidence-based clinical interventions for mental health and addiction disorders. This engagement between western models of treatment and Indigenous healing on mental health help renew our collective consciousness on critical reconciliation and healing.

We invite scholars, practitioners, students, and community leaders and members to submit papers for an international conference that is focused on the intersection of mental health and land-based healing. This conference aims to open an engagement on how land, identity, nature, spirituality, and cultural practices contribute to individual and community well-being.

Themes may include, but are not limited to:

1. Contemporary challenges: cultural appropriation, the politics of healing, and sovereignty
2. Therapeutic benefits of engaging with nature for mental health recovery
3. Historical and ongoing effects of colonization on Indigenous health
4. Residential schools, forced relocation, and cultural genocide
5. Indigenous health disparities and access to healthcare
6. Ecotherapy as an evidence-based practice for anxiety, depression, and trauma
7. Innovative land-based therapy practices and their application in clinical settings.
8. Environmental Justice and Mental Health
9. Psychological impacts of environmental degradation, displacement, and land loss
10. Community-led environmental initiatives for mental health and healing
11. The role of green spaces and natural environments in urban mental health care
12. Land as a Source of Identity and Resilience
13. Psychological relationship between people and land, and its role in healing
14. Land-based healing for marginalized communities, including refugees, migrants, and indigenous peoples
15. Disconnections from land and its implications for mental health.
16. Intersections of Climate Change and Mental Health
17. Environmental crises, such as climate change and natural disasters, impact mental health
18. Resilience strategies through land-based practices and community healing.
19. Research, Policy, and Practices
20. Land-based healing programs and their efficacy in mental health settings
21. Policies that integrate land-based approaches into mental health care systems
22. Critical Research Methodology in Mental Health and Healing
23. Indigenous Research Methodology and mental health and healing

Submission Guidelines:

Abstracts (250-300 words) due by **February 15, 2025**

Please submit your abstract at rtorres@shingwauku.org

Proceedings will be published in an edited book with Springer Nature and CDS Press and Special Issue that is focused on Critical Research Methodology in Mental Health and Healing under Journal of Critical Research Methodology.

For more information and registration contact Dr. Rose Ann Torres, Ph.D. at rtorres@shingwauku.org

Conference Format: Hybrid

Registration Fee:

Assistant/Associate/Full Professor: Cdn\$200.00

Practitioners: Cdn\$150.00

Community Members and Students: Free

For registration fee, please send to interact e-transfers: finance@shingwauku.org

We Look Forward To Your Submissions!