

*aboriginal policy studies*



*Editor's Introduction*  
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## Editor's Introduction

Dr. Chris Andersen

We would like to welcome our readers to volume 6, issue 1 of *aboriginal policy studies*. This issue contains two articles, three commentaries, a book review and a foundational document. As usual, the various contributions to this issue continue to follow the journal's broad scope, which is to publish "original, scholarly, and policy-relevant research on issues relevant to Métis, non-status Indians and urban Aboriginal peoples in Canada." As we have emphasized in previous introductions—and as we will continue to emphasize until it is resolved—*aps* welcomes relevant submissions from *all* geographical and political regions of Canada. We still do not receive an adequate number of submissions on issues pertaining to Métis policy, nor do we receive an adequate number of submissions on urban Aboriginal issues in central and eastern Canada.

In the first article, Claire Durand, Yves-Emmanuel Massé-François, Michael Smith and Luis Patricio Pena Ibarra document and explore the complexity of the dynamics relating to Aboriginal self-identification in the Canadian census. In particular, the authors reach beyond so-called "ethnic mobility" demography debates—which often compare census responses across censuses (typically in a five-year period)—to explore these issues within a much smaller time period. Comparing the Canadian census, the National Household Survey, and the Aboriginal Peoples Survey in 2006 and 2011, the authors demonstrate a fascinating phenomenon, whereby as many as one-third of all respondents changed their self-identification within a six-month period. Touching on issues relating to survey methodology and question wording, as well as individual and contextual respondent factors such as socioeconomic or geographical factors, Durand *et al.*'s article is a valuable addition to these ongoing discussions.

In the second article, Jordan Koch and Jay Scherer document the moral panic surrounding incidents of gang violence in four adjacent First Nations communities in central Alberta, known collectively as Maskwacis (formerly Hobbema). Undertaking an interview methodology with a number of important stakeholders in this field, Koch and Scherer demonstrate, first, the various racialized discourses through which these incidents were framed as being constitutive of the community itself, and second, the ways in which Indigenous community members resisted, invested in, and, at times, manipulated these discourses.

This issue also contains three commentaries. In the first commentary, Dr. Fiona Nicoll, Alberta Gambling Research Institute Chair in Gambling Policy, undertakes a comparative analysis of "the state of play" of US and Canadian gambling research. Using a critical Indigenous studies approach, Nicoll implores researchers more broadly interested in issues of Indigenous self-determination to consider the central importance of the role of race and racialization in the bio-politics of enjoyment surrounding practices such as gambling. In the second commentary, Dr. Shauneen Pete lays out the way in which her university, the University of Regina, has set out to "Indigenize and Decolonize" its academic programs.

More specifically, Pete lays out one hundred ways defined by the U of R's Indigenous Advisory Circle to assist academics, staff and senior administrators in their attempts to Indigenize and decolonize, and ends with a brief discussion of the transformative potential of these ideas and relationships.

The third and final commentary, by Dr. Zoe Todd, beautifully explores how students and academics can better relate the Indigenous materials we teach in our classes to the Indigenous spaces in which we live and teach—not just to demonstrate that Indigenous peoples and relationships still exist, but, more fundamentally, to identify non-Indigenous people's relationships of reciprocity and responsibility to these peoples (both human and other-than-human). Todd asks how we may honour our relationships and responsibilities, as newcomers, to these locales. In addition to this third commentary, Angela Mashford-Pringle reviews *Social Determinants of Indigenous Peoples' Health in Canada: beyond the social*, which explores the deeper structural contexts within which social determinants exist. Finally, volume 6, issue 1 presents Metro Vancouver's Urban Aboriginal Housing and Wellness Strategy. We hope you enjoy this issue, and we encourage you to submit or encourage others to submit an article, commentary or book review.