

Honouring Songs for Professor Michael Marker

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“Public Coast Salish Song” (sung by Alannah Young & Eduardo Jovel)

Transcript of oral citation and introductory remarks by Alannah:

My name is Alannah Young, PhD, from Anishnabe Midekway and Nehiy/naw Cree from Treaty One and Treaty Five territories, and have been living in unceded Salish territories since 1990. I have been working at UBC since 1995 and was a graduate student of Michael Marker in the Faculty of Education, Department of Educational Studies at UBC.

As people honour Michael, this public song comes from the Coast Salish territories. The oral citation is Ed Leon Sr. from Sts'ailes. He kept the songs alive when the knowledges, our Indigenous intellectual traditions, were outlawed.

Michael encouraged us to bring back the “outlawed” knowledge through critical analysis and anticolonial readings and anti-imperial discussions. He created ethical decolonial educational space for Indigenous knowledge regeneration and encouraged the next generations of educational leaders to take up their inter relational respond-abilities, beginning with the Indigenous territories in which they live. Michael encouraged us to move beyond the text knowledge, and helped us to get outside, to the outdoor classroom and to keep learning from Creation.

Michael, a great storyteller, inspired us to move beyond what we learned in western education. Michael inspired curiosity about alternative ways of knowing, being, and doing, as he reminded us of our duty as educators to create space for multiple engagements with knowledge to reflect and respect holographic oralities as vital potential movements towards transformative change.

“Healing Song” (sung by Eduardo Jovel and Alannah Young)

Transcript of introductory oral remarks by Eduardo:

My name is Eduardo Jovel. My traditional name is *Itz Cohuatl*. I come from El Salvador. My ancestors are Mayan Pipil.

Every time we light the fire, we honour the ancestors. Michael has become an ancestor now. He’s an ancestor that we can call, a relative. His teachings and his kindness, but also his

resilience, were transferred to those who came into closer contact with him, especially in an educational context, so his legacy is still with us.

For me, it's a great honour to be able to sing. I love singing. Singing is part of our life, and ceremony is a way of honouring. So, I hope, Michael, that you enjoy the songs. ... Each song has its own medicine.

Meet the Contributors



Alannah Young, PhD, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Indigenous Land-Based Education, Research, and Wellness at xʷcicəsəm Garden, UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems. She teaches Indigenous epistemologies and research methodologies for the Department of Educational Studies. Alannah's doctoral work documented Indigenous Elders' pedagogy in land-based health education programs in rural Manitoba and, together with the Medicine Collective team – a group of Indigenous knowledge holders, scholars and researchers – mobilizes the pedagogy at the xʷcicəsəm Garden projects.

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