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Ancestral.science.podcast



Ancestral Science Podcast

The Ancestral Science Podcast explores scientific topics through conversations between Knowledge Keepers and Scientists, while *experiencing* the origins and depth of science on and with “the Land”. Join us as science COMES ALIVE when knowledges are shared alongside ancestor plants, rocks, animals, and rivers, creating connections between personal, Indigenous, and global science. The Ancestral Science podcast is a place for *everyone* to see themselves in science, to be inspired by the SCIENCE that is all around them and expand the definitions of both *ancestor* and *science*.

SEASON 3: Episode 2 with **Drew Hayden Taylor** “Hopping Dimensions through Humour & Metaphor”

We were grateful to speak with contemporary storyteller [Drew Hayden Taylor](#), Ojibwe from Curve Lake First Nation about learning to write through osmosis, dimensional hopping & portaging, how Indigenous stories make great Science Fiction, 1492 and Alien contact, anthropomorphizing animals and plants through relationality, humour as WD40, and science fiction as a metaphor for many of life’s issues.

Remember, you can support the pod and rock some unique Indigenous Science merch at www.relationalsciencecircle.com/shop, all proceeds go towards Knowledge Keeper honoraria, following protocols, and keeping the pod going.

Please like, share, follow, and rate the pod, it goes a long way to share this knowledge.

Thanks to Emil Starlight (@emilstarlight) of Limelight Multimedia for editing, videography, and editing as well as support from [Bespoke Productions Hub](#).
Intro composed and performed by [Walter White Bear](#), Sharon Ann Foster, and Emil Starlight.

Questions for the Pod? Email us at relational.science@gmail.com

Want to ask an Elder a question for the new segment “**Things my Ancestors said...**” email us at relational.science@gmail.com or send message on any of our socials.

See related episodes of ASP:

-Season 2 Episode 23 “[Indigenous Science Fiction](#)”

-Season 1 Episode 9 “[Space Justice & Cosmic Relationality](#)”

SHOWNOTES:

An Anthropomorphic Horse:

-Drew didn't grow up reading Indigenous writers or with traditional storytelling but remembers a time when he went to a local county fair. There he kept thinking about a miniature house that road around in circles to entertain the children. He continued to reflect on this horse, if it had hopes and dreams, but was trapped at this fair going around in circles. This experience began a theme of "anthropomorphic stories" that reflect the Indigenous Epistemology of *All My Relations* in which all in connected, related, and equal within the Circle of Life.

- "[Girl Who Loved her Horses](#)" (play)

- "[Chasing Painted Horses](#)" (novel)

Land as Collaborator

-Land is part of our existence as Indigenous people, it cannot be disconnected.

-what is human's role in/with the land?

-how the Land transforms you through humility and respect.

- "[Toronto at Dreamer's Rock](#)" (play/book)

A teenage youth is torn between the traditions of his people and the lure of urban life.

During a vision quest, Rusty meets two people from his Nation - one from 400 years in the past and one from the future. This magical encounter makes him aware of how little he has considered what it means to be "Native."

- "[Cold](#)" (novel)

A tragic plane crash that leaves two women stranded and fighting for their lives kicks off this sweeping and hilarious novel. Elmore Trent is a professor of Indigenous studies who finds himself entangled in an affair that's ruining his marriage; Paul North plays in the IHL (Indigenous Hockey League), struggling to keep up with the game that's passing him by; Detective Ruby Birch is chasing a string of gruesome murders, with clues that conspicuously lead her to both Elmore and Paul. And then there's Fabiola Halan, former journalist-turned-author and famed survivor of a plane crash that sparked a nationwide tour promoting her book.

-Land as main character

-texture, cold, nature of land set the scene to better understand when people were thrust into it after a plane crash.

-Now think about, with Land as a main character, how does Land "react" to the humans? While also, how do humans react to the Land?

- "[Drew Hayden Taylor on Cold](#)" (youtube- with [Pam Palmater](#))

- "[Cottagers and Indians](#)" (play)

Cottagers and Indians explores the politics and issues surrounding a real-life event still occurring in the Kawartha Lakes region of Central Ontario. An Indigenous man, Arthur Copper, has taken it upon himself to repopulate the nearby lakes with wild rice, known amongst the Anishnawbe as Manoomin, much to the disapproval of the local non-Indigenous cottagers, Maureen Poole in particular.

- "[Cottagers and Indians: Fight over wild rice and water rights](#)" (youtube)

-Sounds of Cold

-the sounds of walking on the snow in the cold in Canada. [Youtube](#) Clip (this video/audio wasn't shot in a place that was that cold!)

Indigenous Science Fiction

"Like Science Fiction, you should try Indigenous Stories" w Drew ([YouTube](#))

"Indigenous Spin on Sci-Fi" w Drew ([YouTube](#))

"The Next Wave of Indigenous Science Fiction. Take me to your Chief" with Drew ([YouTube](#))

-the connections between Indigenous legends and Science fiction through COLONIZATION, IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION, TERRAFORMING, VISUAL REPRESENTATION

-eg. Story of Skywoman falling from the Sky onto the back of a Turtle (Terraforming)

-eg. multi-parallel, space travel, petroglyphs, pictographs (see Ancestral Science Podcast- Season 2 Episode 23 "[Indigenous Science Fiction](#)") (Visual representation)

-eg. Haudenosaunee story of Pleiades Star System and the kids that danced so much they went into the stars (Emigration)

-eg. Dimension hopping/Portaging and how easy it is to step between different streams of reality. (Drew's current project)

-eg. Settlers in 1492 (a form of alien contact), has a history of not being beneficial to those at the lower end of the technology scale (colonization)

-eg. going to moon or Mars (emigration and colonization)

-See ASP episode with Dr. ALVIN HARVEY "Space Justice & Cosmic Relationality" [here](#)

-"Lost in Space" by Drew Hayden Taylor, thinking about how to understand the four directions or not having a Grandmother Moon or Grandfather Sun out in space. How do protocols then change? [here](#)

-Trying to understand whatever is beyond Earth through Earth-Centric perspectives and methodologies.

-Indigenous Science Fiction is about understanding there is a world beyond what we experience or even understand, such as space or time travel, through different frequencies and scales.

Relationship with the More-than-Human

-in "Motorcycles & Sweetgrass" [here](#), Drew created anthropomorphic raccoons and characters like rice and horses played significant roles. It's easy to do this when you are already in relationship with these animals and plants.

-these characters and storylines are often more interesting than those of humans.

-raccoons, gophers, mosquitos, they aren't pests, they are relatives, they have a role, a purpose, a gift...

Giving back Indigenous people their stories and voices

-pre-2000's, Indigenous novels/plays/poetry was usually dark, bleak, sad, angry, with depressed, oppressed, suppressed characters...with good reason, but Drew wanted to give back their voice and stories.

-Drew wanted to tell positive stories

-Blood Elder Rufus First Rider said "Humour is the WD-40 of Healing"

-"[Sticks and Stones, and no its not Funny](#)" Windspeaker Article

Drew's Future Projects to watch out for:

-sequel to "Cold" like an Indigenous X-Files!

-[YouTube video](#) about "Cold"

Indigenous Futurism

-looking forward instead of back

-"[Me, Tomorrow](#)" (book) by Drew, is about people from all walks of life talking about the future of Indigenous people. Digital Science Fiction.

- YouTube “[Me, Tomorrow](#)” with Drew about Indigenous Future
- YouTube “[Me, Tomorrow](#)” with Drew by National Arts Commons

-Additional Links:

- www.drewhaydentaylor.com
- “Ending Winter, not stories” [Windspeaker Article](#)
- “Moon of the Crusted Snow” by Waubgeshig Rice ([Book](#)) ([YouTube w author](#))
- “The Marrow Thieves” by Cherie Dimaline ([book](#)) ([CBC article](#)) ([YouTube](#))

Want more Indigenous Science Resources? Check out [Relational Science Circle](#).

Want to learn more about Indigenous Science, Indigenous Science/Mathematics Teacher PD sessions, or have an idea for a guest or topic for the Ancestral Science Podcast, email relational.science@gmail.com

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