



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 2: Episode 16 ([audio](#)/[video](#)) with **Dr. Alvin HARVEY** “Space Justice & Cosmic Relationality”

We were grateful to speak with **Dr. ALVIN HARVEY** a Navajo/Diné Scientist about Space Justice, the ethics of travelling beyond Earth, what it means to be in relationship with Space, how space is ALIVE, and why humans really shouldn't do donuts on Mars. Alvin is a doing his post-doc on Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT.

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.

Hand to heart to support from [Indigenous Screen Office](#) and [Bespoke Productions Hub](#).

SHOWNOTES:

-Travelling away from home:

- think about what it means to go away from your home? to go to University, college, or away for a job. How does this change you? Can those changes, or scars become armor?
- Think about what happens when you are forced from your home, homeland, community, plant medicines, teachings, and how significant those wounds and scars can be?
- how about travelling beyond Earth?

- Humility and Mistakes:

- how much room do you leave for those? to learn and grow from them?
- part of this is to remember and *acknowledge your helpers*

- these can be people, gifts, medicines, trees, animals, etc. that have helped guide you on your journey. Because this journey is difficult, and we cannot do it alone.

-Space Justice:

- How do humans travel to space in a good way?
- What protocols, respect, responsibility, reciprocity is required for this travel?
- What will happen if we *don't* follow these protocols?

-Alvin's Inspirations & Projects:

- "Blending science & tradition: sharing remote sensing technologies with Indigenous communities and their land" ([article](#))
- "From the Sky to the Ground: Indigenous Peoples in the Age of Space Expansion" ([article](#))
- "The Settler Logics of (outer) Space" ([article](#))
- "Dr John Harrington: Indigenous and Anti-Colonial Views of Human Activity in Space." ([article](#))
- "Indigenous & Anticolonial Views of Human Activity in Space" ([article](#))
- "IRM and the Science of Being Off-Earth." ([article](#))
- Thinking about tribal sovereignty, space justice, and peace-making- disconnecting community from space and the consequences of not connecting.

-What is your Relationship with Space?

- it is not as disconnect as we seem to think it is!
- think about your relationship with air, wind, stars, where is the connection between them all?

-How Alvin got into this work:

- The Navajo Nation and Cremated Remains on Moon: ([article](#))

-ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- "Indigenizing Philosophy through the Land: A Trickster Methodology for Decolonizing Environmental Ethics & Indigenous Futures" ([book](#)) by Brian Burkhart
- "Two-Eyed Seeing" from Mi'kmaw Elder ALBERT MARSHALL ([article](#))
- "An Application of Two-Eyed Seeing: Indigenous Research Methods with Participatory Action Research" ([article](#))
- "[Two Row Wampum Belt](#)" Gaswéñdah
- Like Dr. [Melanie Goodchild](#) said (Ancestral Science Podcast, [Season 1 Episode 6](#)), that space between world is the "spirit space," and Alvin mentioned, this is the space of complementary ideas and relationality. But, unfortunately there is still so much disconnect and a lack of openness to subjective and relational methods in this space.

-[Space for Humanity](#), and Alvin's work [there](#).

-“[Aspiring astronaut bring Indigenous people’s perspective into space science](#),”
Navajo Times.

-“[Introduction to Indigenous Astrophilosophy](#),” Alvin Harvey, PhD, 2024

-**Alvin** would like to **send gratitude** to:

- Mi’kmaw Professor [Hilding Neilson](#).
- Ojibwe, Black, and Swedish descent Professor [Deondre Smiles](#).
- Shoshone Scholar and Director of the Salish Kootenai Indigenous Research Center, Dr. [Ren Freeman](#).
- Kanaka Maoli Scholar and Activist [Dr. Uahihea Maile](#).
- Anishinaabe Knowledge Keeper [Douglas Sinclair](#).
- Sonoran Yaqui Scholar and Educator [Dr. Juan-Carlos Chavez](#).

-Alvin is both cool and talented:

- Recipient of [2024 MLK Leadership Award](#)
- Recipient of the [2024 PKG Service Award](#)
- Co-Leader of the [Indigenous Working Group](#) at MIT
- Supporter of the [MIT Indigenous Languages program](#)
- [MIT Indigenous Community Fellowship](#) Program

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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