



Global Indigenous Media

Screening Room + Film Guide | Madelyn Van Oostenburg +
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Screening Notes

Films Viewed

- The Americas: Indigenous Perspective, Columbus Didn't Discover Us (1992)
- The Americas: Indigenous Perspective, Arctic to Amazonia (1993)
- Brazil- An Inconvenient History (2000)
- Children of the Amazon (2008)
- Eternal Amazon (2012)
- Kinja lakaha, A Day in the Village (2003)
- Margins (2007)
- Secrets of the Tribe (2010)
- The Pearl Button (2014)
- Unknown Amazon: Brazilian Inhabitants in the Brazilian Rainforest (2013)

Film Synopses listed below are sourced from websites about the films. Please consult sources listed to find out more information

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Screening notes- The Americas: Indigenous Perspective (Columbus Didn't Discover Us)

Director: Robbie Leppzer

Producers: Will Echerarria, Erik van Lennep, Pedro Rivera

Year: 1992

Film Website: <http://www.turningtide.com/columbus.htm>

Length: 24 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team: Yes, co-edited by Felix Atencio-Gonzales (Quechua-Peru), music by Taki Unkui (Quichua-Ecuador)

Film Keywords:

North and South America, Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Rights, Continental Conference, Ecuador, Columbus Quincentennial, Colonialism, Repression, Inequality, Indigenous Struggle, Extermination of Societies, Stealing of Land, Environmental Exploitation, Invasion, Oppression, Legacy of Columbus, Unity of Natives, Spirituality, Protection of Land

Film Synopsis:

The film *Columbus Didn't Discover Us* showcases the First Continental Conference of Indigenous Peoples located in Ecuador in July of 1990. The conference was called in response to the 500th anniversary of Columbus's arrival to the Americas and brought together hundreds of indigenous people who still feel the effects of colonialism in their everyday lives. The film gives perspective to the oppression that indigenous peoples have faced in response to European invasion and explains the injustices that are a result. The forceful nature of colonization is highlighted as are the dehumanizing attributes that forced native peoples out of their original territories. The film demonstrates indigenous peoples of the Americas sharing their experiences of devastation and repression at the hands of Europeans and coming together to bring a voice to their traumas. The film expressed the concerns of the indigenous peoples in the treatment of the earth by those with much power, and how the exploitation of the environment creates a further divide in humanity. The conference aimed to share experiences, and also propose visions for the future. A theme of

unity among all, and genuine care for the earth and its people explain the manners in which equality will be reached for the natives suppressed by colonialism.

“Columbus Didn’t Discover Us - Indigenous Perspectives on the Columbus Legacy Past and Present.” *Turning Tide Productions*,

<http://www.turningtide.com/columbus.htm>.

This film would be beneficial for undergraduates as it highlights the marginalization of indigenous groups in the Americas and demonstrates the effects of colonization on these groups. The film sheds light on the manner in which Europeans in the Americas used oppression and dehumanization as a means of domination. It would allow undergraduates to understand the implications of the conquest on indigenous peoples and how it altered their way of life for hundreds of years after its initial commencement. It forces a different viewpoint of Christopher Columbus’s “discovery”, a viewpoint that has been silenced for far too long.

Screening Notes- The Americas: Indigenous Perspective (Arctic to Amazonia)

Director: Robbie Leppzer

Producer: Erik van Lennep

Year: 1993

Film Website: <http://www.turningtide.com/arctic.htm>

Length: 23 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team: Yes, music by R. Carlos Nakai (Navajo)

Film Keywords:

Invasion of Militaristic, Wealth, Commercialized Militarism, Development, Struggle Against Development, Progress, Extermination of Indigenous, Industrial Expansion, Technological Advancement, Encroachment on Indigenous, Conflict of Worldview, Consumption of Resources, Corporate Mentality, Environmental Exploitation, Pollution, Indigenous Rights, Respect, Indigenous Unity

Film Synopsis:

This film exhibits a series of discussions presented at the Arctic to Amazonia Tribal Lands Conference by indigenous rights activists. In their discussions, the activists speak upon the topics of imperialism, industrialism, consumerism, the corporate mentality and their implications for the environment and the life ways of indigenous peoples. The conflict of world view between that of indigenous peoples and the industrialized world is described as seeing the earth as alive and sacred versus seeing it as dead and an entity to conquer. The value of wealth in the western world has brought about a corporate mentality in the minds of those in power, aiming to increase wealth at whatever means possible regardless of the negative implications to the environment and to native peoples. The desire for wealth has led to resource depletion, removal of indigenous peoples from their land, inhumane forms of waste disposal, a disconnection from the earth, and a number of other negative impacts. The film urges the reconsideration of the corporate mentality and promotes an indigenous perspective through showing more respect to the land and its resources.

“Arctic to Amazonia - Indigenous Perspectives on Development and Survival of the Planet.”
Turning Tide Productions, <http://www.turningtide.com/arctic.htm>

The film would be beneficial for undergraduates as it includes shocking realities of the ways in which people are altering the environment and placing wealth and industrialization above the lives of indigenous peoples. It puts into the perspective the ideals of western culture and how they are harmful for the well being of the earth and everyone living on it. This is a valuable message for undergraduates as they are the ones who are capable of implementing change into the future.

Screening Notes- Brazil- An Inconvenient History

Director: Phil Grabsky

Producer: Phil Grabsky

Year: 2000

Film Website: <http://www.seventh-art.com/shop/brazil-an-inconvenient-history/>

Length: 47 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

No

Film Keywords:

South America, Brazil, Suppression of Past, Portuguese Colonization, Slavery, Enslavement of Natives, Sugar Plantations, Over Production, Mistreatment, Disease, Importation of Slaves, Africa, Dehumanization, Punishment, Masculine Nature of Settlement, Economy, Constant Importation, Domination, Sexual Relations, Mixed Race, Catholicism, African Traditions, Music, Dance, Revolt of Slaves, Abolition, Slaves to the System, Legacy of Slavery

Film Synopsis:

The film consults Brazil's history of enslavement as in the past it was the country holding the most slaves in the world. The colonization of the Portuguese is explained, as is their desire for wealth which was available in the form of sugar. The Portuguese began by enslaving native indigenous peoples, and eventually moved to the constant importation of slaves from Africa as the conditions of work and introduction of disease from Europe killed an immense amount of natives. The masters treated their slaves as a renewable resource, paying no regard to their wellbeing as there was a belief new slaves could always be imported. Men were the primary settlers in Brazil, which created a harsher environment for slaves as there was little emphasis on family life and instead a focus on extracting as much wealth from the land as possible. The lack of European women in Brazil at the time lead Portuguese settling in Brazil to have sexual relations with African slaves and indigenous women, this lead to an increased amount of mixed race individuals in Brazil. The introduction of African customs also are a major influencer of Brazilian customs through practices such as music and dance.

Visible in contemporary Brazilian social structure are the inequalities of race, showing a concentrated amount of wealth for white individuals and a lack of wealth for black individuals. Although the topic of slavery in Brazil is something many Brazilians try and forget, its impact on the culture of Brazil is undeniable today. "Brazil- An Inconvenient History" *Seventh Art Productions*, <http://www.seventh-art.com/shop/brazil-an-inconvenient-history/>

This film would be beneficial for undergraduates as it exposes yet another manner in which European colonialism negatively impacted indigenous groups. It explains the impact of slavery on Brazilian culture and highlights the numerous causes behind several factors pertaining to contemporary Brazilian culture. The film demonstrates the mindset that made Brazil the largest slave owning country in the world at one point in time.

Screening Notes- Children of the Amazon

Director: Denise Zmekhol

Producer: Denise Zmekhol

Year: 2008

Film Website: <http://www.childrenoftheamazon.com/>

Length: 73 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

None

Film Keywords:

Amazon Rainforest, Brazil, Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Rights, Children, Surui Tribe, Negarote Tribe, Rubber Tappers, Development of the Forest, Road Construction, Deforestation, Forest Time, Invasion of Settlers, Ranchers, Persecution of Natives, Conflict, Colonization, Disease, Loss of Cultural Knowledge, Assimilation Practices, Settlement, Cattle Farms, Indigenous Protection, Ritual, Resistance, Alliance, Logging, Carbon Dioxide Emissions, Extinction of Species, Environmental Exploitation, Alterations of Landscape, Economic Disadvantage of Natives, Protection of the Forest

Film Synopsis:

Children of the Amazon is a unique film because of the filmmaker's history with the children featured in the film 15 years prior to its creation. Zmekhol aims to highlight the differences that have resulted in their villages due to the settlement and deforestation of their lands. The construction of a large highway in the middle of their indigenous territory has altered life greatly in a matter of 24 years or so since first contact with loggers was made. As a result of the construction of the road, cattle ranchers aiming to establish farms and settlers bringing Western ideals have flooded into Surui and Negarote territories. The consequences of the road have included a life altering influx of changes that have diminished cultural knowledge and traditions and influenced assimilation. The film notes upon the struggle of resistance, and the unity formed between the indigenous groups of the Amazon and the rubber tappers living in the forest. Together they aimed to influence governing powers to protect the forest

from settlement and development. Chico Mendes, a rubber tapper, is at the heart of this struggle for protection and described in the film is his narrative expressing a fight for protection. The film explains the resistance of the rubber tappers and indigenous peoples, along with the successes of implementing a large forest reserve after Chico's death at the hands of a cattle rancher. Although the reserved land served as a victory, the influences of deforestation and settlement are still prominent in the lives of those living in the Amazon today. The Surui and Negarote villages have faced permanent damage at the hands of development, the protection of their lands is dire in the continuation of their cultures. Zmekhol, Denise. *Children of the Amazon*, 2018, <http://www.childrenoftheamazon.com/>.

This film would be beneficial for undergrads because it showcases the speed at which life altering changes among indigenous peoples can occur due to deforestation and development. It also demonstrates how cultural knowledge among indigenous groups can be lost with change, and expresses the importance of protecting indigenous groups and their land to prevent against the loss of their culture and traditions.

Screening Notes- Eternal Amazon

Director: Belisario Franca

Producer: Belisario Franca

Year: 2012

Film Website: <https://pragda.com/film/eternal-amazon/>

Length: 88 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

No indigenous representation in film team

Film Keywords:

Brazil, Amazon Rainforest, Amazon River, Yepâmasa, Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Knowledge, Biodiversity, Environmental Conservation, Reliance on Nature, Harmonious Living, Harmonious Use of Resources, Scientific Knowledge, Management of Resources, Ethical Behavior, Economic Value, The Green Economy, Sustainability Projects, Effects of Development, Forest Management, Increasing Population, Cattle Raising, Sustainable Agriculture, Agroforestry, Coexistence, Colonial Model, Exploitation, Amazonian Culture, Riverside Trade, Access to Resources, Education, Technology, Consumption, Production, Economic and Environmental Union, Climate Regulation, Global Warming, Carbon Emissions, Environmental Consequence

Film Synopsis:

The film *Amazon Eternal* explores the projects of individuals and groups living in and working in the Amazon Rainforest that promote its sustainability. Some of these sustainability projects include non-destructive fishing practices, sustainable logging practices and agroforestry practices that consider the state of the forest and aim to utilize its resources in a constructive manner. Also discussed is the traditional knowledge of the forest of indigenous peoples. Most indigenous groups of the Amazon view the forest as something sacred that needs to be protected, scientific knowledge considering the current state of the forest in conjunction with traditional knowledge considering how its resources can be sustainably utilized demonstrate a new lens to view the forest and its resources. The

concept of the Green Economy is mentioned in the film which emphasizes the economic loss associated with environmental loss and the dire need to assign economic value to the promotion of environmental conservation. The sustainability projects presented in the film offer a concrete example of how attitudes toward resource extraction in the Amazon can change to promote its sustainability. The importance of the Amazon Rainforest to humanity is stressed in this film as its processes influence life globally. "Eternal Amazon." *Pragda*, <https://pragda.com/film/eternal-amazon/>

This film is beneficial for undergrads because it demonstrates both the dire need for change to occur in the resource extraction of the Amazon and the manner in which sustainability can be reached. It provides a positive approach to sustainability and introduces the importance of the Green Economy, which undergrads would greatly benefit from understanding and implementing into future innovations.

Screening Notes- Kinja Iakaha, A Day in the Village

Director: Araduã Waimiri, Iawusu Waimiri, Kabaha Waimiri, Sanapyty Atroari, Sawã Waimiri, Wamé Atroari

Producer: Araduã Waimiri, Iawusu Waimiri, Kabaha Waimiri, Sanapyty Atroari, Sawã Waimiri, Wamé Atroari

Year: 2003

Film Website: <https://store.der.org/kinja-iakaha-a-day-in-the-village-p717.aspx>

Length: 42 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

Yes, all members of the film team are Waimiri/Atroari filmmakers.

Film Keywords:

Amazon, Cacau Village, Atroari, Waimiri, Hunting, Gathering, Community, Ritual, Sharing of Food, Communal Living, Socialization of Children, Conservation of Resources, Craft Making, Preparation of Food, Passing of Knowledge, Production of Tools, Cooking, Cleaning, Childcare, Cleaning, Building, Everyday Life

Film Synopsis:

The film follows the everyday life-ways of the Waimiri/ Atroari indigenous peoples living in Cacau Village in the Amazon Rainforest. The film demonstrates the doings of numerous members of the society including women, men, children, and young adults and sheds light onto the ways in which their society functions. Women are seen caring for children, making useful goods such as rugs, cooking, and also foraging for food. Children also play an important role in food supply through collecting fruit and also spending time fishing to supply for the village. Children engage in playful activities with their peers, young boys are seen playing with bows and arrows, something that will prove useful when they are required to provide meat. Men are shown in the film gathering bark, which will be used for the production of goods, and also spending time fishing for large fish, hunting for birds, turtles, and alligators. There is an emphasis on community and food is gathered for all members of the group as food sharing appears to be an important element of the society. The film allows

for a snapshot into the everyday happenings in the Cacau Village and demonstrates the range of activities that are performed to sustain their lifestyle. "Kinja Iakaha, A Day in the Village" *Documentary Educational Resources*, <https://store.der.org/kinja-iakaha-a-day-in-the-village-p717.aspx>

This film would be beneficial for undergraduates as it gives a broad look into the lifestyle of an indigenous group living in the Amazon. Because the filmmakers are all Waimiri/ Atoari, this film allows for the groups' self representation and limits bias that could be involved when non-indigenous filmmakers set out to make an indigenous film. The film gives insight into how the group supplies itself with food and what processes are important in acquiring food.

Screening Notes- Margins

Director: Maya Da-Rin

Producer: Maya Da-Rin

Year: 2007

Film Website: Unable to find corresponding website

Length: 56 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

Unable to find information on film team

Film Keywords:

South America, Amazon River, Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Trade, Transport of Goods, River Boats, Iquitos, Fish, Clothing, Animals, Horticultural Goods, Yavari River, San Pablo, Indigenous Peoples, Logging, Cultivation of Land, Life-ways of River Transporters

Film Synopsis:

Margins is a film that follows a several day journey by way of the Amazon river to Iquitos, Brazil. The film is concerned with the life-ways of those trading and transporting goods along the Amazon river and information collected is done so via interview form, allowing those who work as traders and transporters to give their own points of view on topics relating to life on the Amazon. Numerous stops are made along the voyage in several towns giving great detail into the system of trade along the Amazon river. People from several South American countries come into contact through this line of work often living among one another in boats and in ports. A great variation of goods are sold by way of the Amazon river, such as clothing items, animals including as pigs and chickens, and other horticultural goods. Environmental issues are touched upon in the film such as the impacts of deforestation and logging result and the impacts related to the livelihood of indigenous peoples. The film gave a great snapshot into how trade along the Amazon works and implored upon the viewpoints of those interacting with this way of life.

This would be a beneficial film for undergraduates as it showcases the importance of trade along the Amazon River and also demonstrates the ways in which people maneuver through

ports and selling and trading goods. The great necessity of the river is highlighted upon through its central importance to millions of individuals.

Screening Notes- Secrets of the Tribe

Director: José Padilha

Producer: José Padilha

Year: 2010

Film Website: <https://store.der.org/secrets-of-the-tribe-p397.aspx>

Length: 98 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

The video delves into the anthropological studies of the Yanamamo indigenous group in the Amazon rainforest. The film represents Yanamamo from past documentary productions along with more recent depictions.

Film Keywords:

Yanamamo, Venezuela, Brazil, Anthropological Studies, Chagnon Different Interpretations, Little Contact, Ancestral Traditions, Impact of Media, Misinterpretation, Harmonious Living, Warfare, Fight Over Access to Women, Protein Deficiency, Disagreements Between Anthropologists, Improper Data Representation, Inaccuracies, Misinterpretations, Biological Understanding of Behavior, Competition for Reproductive Success, Inherit Warfare, Disruption of Anthropological Study, Alteration of Indigenous Culture, Introduction of Goods, Pedophilia, Secret Research, Measles, Improper Vaccination, Accusations, Different Understandings

Film Synopsis:

This film consults the anthropological studies of the Yanamamo and how scholars have argued over their representation and the ethics behind how they've been studied. The film consists of several interviews conducted by anthropologists who have produced work about the Yanamamo, most of which had spent time in the field. The interviews demonstrate the different sides that exist considering Yanamamo research. The anthropologist, Napoleon Chagnon is interviewed and his work is considered by several other researchers as well. There was great controversy in his representation of the Yanamamo people as fierce and warlike due to their representation in the media as harmonious beings. This led to academic discussion about warlike behavior contributing to the Yanamamo's reproductive success. Also discussed in the film were the disruptive behaviors of anthropologists that

lead to an alteration of the Yanamamo way of life. This includes Chagnon's introduction of certain goods such as steel machete's, use of a measles vaccine killing hundreds of Yanamamo and Lizot's sexual behavior towards young Yanamamo boys. The film explains how anthropological interference has impacts on the cultures they aim to study.

"Secrets of the Tribe." *Documentary Educational Resources*, 2010,
<https://store.der.org/secrets-of-the-tribe-p397.aspx>

This film would be beneficial for undergraduates because it highlights the manner in which anthropological research is consulted by numerous academics and how research is verified and denied by certain members of the discipline. It demonstrates how those performing research are human themselves, and errors and disagreements are bound to come about. It demonstrates how when considering academic work, one must understand that the background and possible goals of the researcher presenting the work.

Screening Notes- The Pearl Button

Director: Patricio Guzmán

Producer: Renate Sachse

Year: 2014

Film Website: <https://www.kinolorber.com/film/view/id/2103>

Length: 83 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

None

Film Keywords:

Chile, Western Patagonia, Patagonian Indigenous Peoples, Water, Connection Between Water and Cosmos, Water as Force of Nature, Reliance Upon Water, Water Nomads, Only Maritime Tradition of Southern Chile, Naval Restriction, Lost Intimacy With Sea, Denial of Maritime Tradition by Greater Chilean Society, Astronomy and Water, Characteristics of Water, Adaptability, Cosmology, Bodily Paintings, Impact of Settlement Upon Patagonian Indigenous Peoples, Military, Police, Missionaries, Forced Assimilation, Declared Barbaric by Government, Disease, Indian Hunters, Extermination of Indigenous Peoples, Loss of Indigenous Language and Culture, Jemmy Button, English Mapmakers, Creation of Routes for Settlers, Cruelty of Chile's Dictatorship, Prisons, Concentration Camps, Stories of Extermination, Cosmic Conversation, Voice and Memory of Water

Film Synopsis:

This film is centered around water and the manner in which it creates an interconnectedness with every aspect of existence, from humanity to the cosmos. Specifically, the film is concerned with the relation that the Patagonian Indigenous peoples had with water before their culture was infiltrated by settlers and government officials. Before the arrival of outsiders to southern Chile, where the Patagonian people resided, they relied on the water and were the only people of the region to practice a maritime tradition. The film recalls upon Chile's improper use of the sea and its lost intimacy with the water that stretches along the Chilean border. Before the Patagonian indigenous group was invaded by outside contact, they were "water nomads" traveling via canoe by and through the thousands of islands throughout Chile's southern region. Their way of life was destroyed after sailing routes were

created and settlers arrived bringing disease, forced assimilation, and the extermination of their people, language, and culture. The brutality brought to these people is paralleled in the film with the brutality of Chile's 16 year dictatorship and the government sponsored killing of prisoners. The stories are united by the water and its inability to forget the actions that take place around it due to its reflective nature. The film explains the conversation about existence and the powerful nature of water in this exchange, a power fully realized by the Patagonian indigenous peoples. "The Pearl Button." *Kino Lorber | Experience Cinema*, Kino Lorber, www.kinolorber.com/film/view/id/2103.

This film would be beneficial for undergraduates because it clearly demonstrates the colonial model and the loss of cultural tradition that occurred due to an ideology of superiority held by settlers and the Chilean government. It artistically united the importance of water for the Patagonian indigenous peoples with cosmology, and demonstrated the philosophical importance in understanding the implications of humanity's doings with all of existence using the ebb and flow of water as a model.

Screening Notes- Unknown Amazon: Brazilian Inhabitants in the Brazilian Rainforest

Director: Eduardo Rajabally & Daniel Augusto

Producers: Mauricio Dias, Fabiano Gullane, Caio Gullane, Debora Ivanov, Fernando Dias, Gabriel Lacerda

Year: 2013

Film Website: <http://rajadocs.com/en/2018/02/16/unknown-amazon/>

Length: 71 minutes

Indigenous Representation in film team:

Unable to find ample evidence to support indigeneity of any members of the film team.

Film Keywords:

Brazil, Amazon Rainforest, Deforestation, World Crisis, Greenhouse Effect, Global Warming, Extinction, Biodiversity, Governmental Influence, Demographic Void, Need For Occupation, Military Regime, Development, Cattle Farming, Exploitation, Arch of Deforestation, Highway Construction, Settlement Projects, Sustainable Settlements, INCRA, Social Movements, Land Grabbing, Poverty, Gold Mining, Urbanization, Amazonian Cities, Technology, Ore Mines, Oil Digging, Sustainability, Economic Value, Environmental Services, Human Ancestors, Fertile Soil, Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Culture, Yanomami, Relationship of Man and Environment

Film Synopsis:

The film delves into the numerous issues feeding the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest and several viewpoints on its current environmental state. The issues of global warming are mentioned in conjunction with deforestation resulting in an increase of carbon emissions. The history of deforestation in the region is discussed as a militaristic regime to bring development and occupation to the rainforest, thus encouraging cattle farmers to deforest an immense amount of land to provide farmland and cattle for Brazil. The desire to occupy the forest has brought about several forms of development in the forest and harming its biodiversity. Actions such as ore mining and oil digging are common in the rainforest and greatly influence the health of the forest. Several social movements have been put into place to limit the amount of deforestation and exploitation of resources found in the Amazon and

the role of the Brazilian government has proved to be beneficial in some instances and harmful in others. The influence of deforestation on indigenous peoples in the Amazon is also mentioned, as is the manner in which they view the environment and its contrast with the Western view of environmental exploitation. "Unknown Amazon" *RajaDocs*, <http://rajadocs.com/en/2018/02/16/unknown-amazon/>

This film would be incredibly beneficial for undergrads to watch due to the several viewpoints presented on the nature of deforestation in Brazil. It highlights the importance of altering the current rate of exploitation of resources and necessity of altering the Western view of nature in relation to sustainability.