



CREOR
McGILL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON RELIGION
CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR LA RELIGION

“History of Religion’s Role in Decolonizing Sacred Space: The Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center”

Philip P. Arnold, Associate Professor and Chair of Religion, Syracuse University;
Director of the Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center

Thursday February 23, 2017

5:00pm

Birks Heritage Chapel
3520 University, 2nd Floor



The History of Religions methodology enables a wide range of interpretive tools that includes collaboration between scholars and Indigenous communities. Dr. Arnold will share the story of the development and implementation of the Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center, which is a jointly organized project between local governments, private and public educational institutions and the Onondaga Nation—the “Central Fire” of the Haudenosaunee (mistakenly referred to in the literature as the “Iroquois” or Six Nations). Located in Syracuse, New York on Onondaga Lake, this site was formerly called “St. Marie Among the Iroquois” and told the Jesuit colonial story of their coming into Onondaga Nation Territory from 1656-58. Onondaga Lake, however, is among many sacred sites for the Haudenosaunee because it was there that they founded what in English is called “The Great Law of Peace” over 1000 years ago. This process inspired

the founding fathers and founding mothers of the United States to develop Western Democracy in the 18th century and the Women’s movement in the 19th century.

Philip P. Arnold is Associate Professor and Chair of Religion and Native American Studies at Syracuse University. He is the Director of the Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center (www.skanooncenter.org/). His books are *Eating Landscape* (1999); *Sacred Landscapes and Cultural Politics: Planting a Tree* (2001); *The Gift of Sports: Indigenous Ceremonial Dimensions of the Games We Love* (2012) and *Urgency of Indigenous Religions* (University of New Mexico Press, forthcoming). He is a member of **Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON)**, (www.peacecouncil.net/NOON/index.html). He established the **Doctrine of Discovery Study Group** (www.doctrineofdiscovery.org) and the **Indigenous Values Initiative** (www.indigenousvalues.org), a non-profit organization to support the work of the Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center.