



# NATALI EUALE MONTILLA MA

Community Organizer & Decolonial Policy Consultant

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am a Latinx-Indigenous immigrant to these lands with mixed ancestry from Cuicas Territory (Andes of Venezuela) and from the Mediterranean. I am professionally trained (MA) in Public Issues Anthropology and my previous research focuses on land-based well-being practices from the perspectives of Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers. My organizing and work is centered on decolonization and liberation by exposing and dismantling all levels of oppression and violence towards Black and Indigenous communities and People of Color (BIPOC).

## Professional Specialization

Anti-racism and Anti-oppression education & policy creation. Decolonizing methodologies, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Place-Based Knowledge(s) of Well-being, Participatory Action Research, Community-Engaged Anthropological Studies, Critical Race Theory, Intersectional Feminism, Privilege & Oppression, Consent Culture, Decolonial, non-hierarchical & consensus-based approaches for organizational development and strategic planning for non-for-profits.

## Skills

- Anti-colonial policy analysis, creation & implementation for grassroots organizations and non-for-profits.
- Content creation and facilitation of educational workshops centering equity, inclusion, decolonization & anti-oppression for collectives, non-for-profits and institutions.
- Implementing decolonizing and Indigenous methodologies within community-engaged work with Indigenous communities.
- Community outreach skills with a variety of different stakeholders including Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Band council, University Research Ethics Boards, and Boards of Directors.
- Strong knowledge of qualitative research methods, specifically community-engaged & participatory action research.

## Languages

English, French, Spanish - Fluent Spoken & Written

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## PREVIOUS WORK

### **OPIRG - Organizational and Policy Development Coordinator | 2018 - Present** [www.opirgguelph.org](http://www.opirgguelph.org)

The Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) is a non-for-profit dedicated to activism, research and education on issues of social and environmental justice.

- Creating and implementing anti-racism, anti-oppression, equity, inclusion & consensus decision making workshops for Board of Directors and public.
- Organizing and assisting in the facilitation of trainings, events and education for community members, volunteers, staff and Board of Directors regarding issues related to environmental and social justices.
- Coordination of strategic planning process: annual review and evaluation of Board and Human Resource Policy Manuals; guiding OPIRG program areas' annual work plans and related budgets.
- Establishing, implementing and maintaining systems that support organizational learning and memory including archives, operating manuals, and computer systems.

### **Guelph Anti-Pipeline (GAP) - Community Organizer | 2016 - 2020**

Guelph Anti-Pipeline (GAP) is a grassroots collective focused on direct-action that centers Indigenous solidarity, anti-extractivism & anti-colonial struggles. GAP challenges the fossil fuel economy while continuing to learn how to support and center the voices and experiences of Indigenous communities most affected by this economy.

**My roles within the collective:** Organizing and facilitating events such as fundraisers, public awareness events, demonstrations, and educational workshops. Graphic design & content creation for website, pamphlets, posters & social media.

### **Research Assistant - Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Guelph | 2016- 2018**

**Project:** "Resources That Flow: Engaging with Indigenous Perspectives on Water and Wind in Natural Resource Management" led by Dr. Thomas McIlwraith in direct consultation with the Splantsin community (Secwepemc Nation).

### **Shut Down Berks Coalition - Legal Document and Social Media Translation & Interpretation | January 2016 - May 2016.**

The Shut Down Berks Coalition is a collective fighting to close the Berks family prison in Pennsylvania and end the practice of imprisoning immigrant families in the U.S.

**My roles within the coalition:** Mobilizing knowledge about migrant justice, immigrant detention centers and the separation of immigrant children from their families. Volunteer translator of legal documents (English to Spanish) for attorneys providing free legal services to immigrant families. Translating social media content (English to Spanish).

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## EDUCATION

### **Master of Arts in Public Issues Anthropology - University of Guelph** September 2016-December 2018

Completed a Master's degree in Public Issues Anthropology in collaboration with Splotsin Elders and community Knowledge Keepers from the Secwepemc Nation (British Columbia). Guided by decolonizing methodologies and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, my thesis work focuses on decolonizing mainstream perspectives on health and well-being by centering the voices and experiences of Indigenous folks in these conversations. A large portion of this work includes documenting the impacts of capitalism and colonial processes of land dispossession on the well-being of Indigenous communities, particularly the Secwepemc Nation, in what we now know as 'Canada'.

**Thesis: "The Mountains are Healing": Engaging with Splotsin Knowledge(s) of Wellbeing, Dispossession and Land-based Resiliency**

**Published work: "Doctors and Professors Aren't the Professors of the Land": Reflections on the Interconnected Environment with Splotsin Elder Nuxnuxskaca Cts'e7i7elt"**

### **Bachelor of Arts: Honours in Anthropology - University of Guelph | September 2011 - April 2015**

**Knowledge acquired:** International policy, intersectional feminism, anti-oppression, decolonizing methodologies, imperialism/colonialism, neoliberalism, ethics, human rights, social and environmental justice, participatory action research, qualitative & quantitative research methods and ethnographic study.

## INTERESTS

I am committed to advancing and protecting the rights of Indigenous communities internationally, but my work has particularly focused on the struggles faced by Indigenous folks on Turtle Island. I support the projects of Indigenous land defenders and water protectors in many ways including through direct action, knowledge mobilization and creating platforms for Indigenous voices.

My academic work also centers the voices and experiences of Indigenous communities by engaging respectfully and ethically with Indigenous Knowledge(s) and cosmologies in order to make sense of the challenges each community faces on their own terms, based on their own theories and reflections.

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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**1-519-731-5803**