

The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community

DEBBIE REESE:

Some Truths, but Lots of Lies: Indigenous Peoples in Children's Literature

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016 | 7:00 p.m.

Heard Museum, Steele Auditorium, 2301 N Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona

Debbie Reese (Nambé Pueblo), activist, scholar, and critic, publishes the critically acclaimed blog *American Indians in Children's Literature* (AICL).

Reese started the AICL blog in 2006—with the teachings of her elders and Native scholars in mind—when she was a professor in the American Indian Studies program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. “Those teachings,” she explains, “are ones that tell us that the work we do is not for ourselves but for our communities and their well-being.” For her, that meant making her research and writing easily and readily accessible to those who typically have the least access to the work of academics.

Reese was born at the Indian Hospital in Santa Fe and grew up on the Nambé Pueblo reservation, learning tribal dances and ceremonies from family

members and elders. She earned a teaching degree from the University of New Mexico and taught elementary school in Albuquerque before moving to Oklahoma to work on a Master's degree in school administration.

Later, while completing her doctorate in education at the University of Illinois in the early 1990s, Reese worked alongside Native students and allies to establish a Native American House at the university and soon after that, launched an American Indian Studies program there.

Reese has written for publications such as *Horn Book Magazine*, *School Library Journal*, and *Language Arts*. She is regularly invited to give lectures and workshops around the U.S. and has recently begun using technology to work with libraries and colleagues in Canada.

“**BELIEVE THE BOOKS** Native students read in school play a significant role in how Native students fare. Teachers and librarians have a role to play, too, in the success of Native students. For me—and I hope for you—that means selecting books that accurately portray Native people and our nations.”

—DEBBIE REESE



ASU ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community at Arizona State University brings notable scholars and speakers to Arizona for public lectures twice per year. These speakers address topics and issues across disciplines in the arts, humanities, sciences, and politics. Underscoring Indigenous American experiences and perspectives, this series seeks to create and celebrate knowledge that evolves from an inclusive Indigenous worldview and that is applicable to all walks of life. | Free and open to the public. | More information: Kristen.LaRue@asu.edu, 480-965-7611

Sponsored by Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute; American Indian Studies Program; Department of English; School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation (all units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Indian Legal Program in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law; School of Art in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts; and Labriola National American Indian Data Center; with tremendous support from the Heard Museum.