

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Faculty • Students • Community • Artists



"Swim Up the River" Original painting by Lyn Risling, Karuk, Yurok, and Hupa

MEET US AT THE RIVER

"Confluences: Stewarding Intersections of Sovereignty, Land, Water, and Culture"

February 4-6, 2027

Wileety Native American College, Sacramento State Campus
6000 J St., Sacramento, CA 95819

Community Celebration - February 6, 2027

Come join the conference hosts and local Indigenous communities for a celebration of music, food, and sharing as we gather at the river

5th Annual Graduate Student Pre-Conference
February 3, 2027

For nearly three decades, the American Indian Studies Association (AISA) has provided a space for scholars, educators, students, artists, and community leaders to gather, strengthen relationships, and advance the field of American Indian Studies. Traditionally, Arizona State University and the University of New Mexico have hosted AISA conferences, institutions that have helped shape the organization's rich history and enduring legacy.

The 28th AISA Annual Conference in 2027 marks an exciting, inclusive, and intentional chapter of relationships, community, and scholarship. AISA is honored to be welcomed to the land of the Nisem Péwinan, Nisenan, and Miwok peoples, and by the [Wileety Native American College](#), a tribal leadership-based college and first of its kind in the state of California, located on the Sacramento State campus. This milestone reflects AISA's continued growth and our commitment to expanding partnerships, welcoming new voices, and strengthening Indigenous scholarship across regions and communities.

The 2027 theme, ***Confluences: Stewarding Intersections of Sovereignty, Land, Water, and Culture***, asks participants to reflect on the places where stories, knowledge, communities, and responsibilities meet. Like the joining of rivers, *Confluences* recognizes the relationships that connect Indigenous peoples, lands, waters, cultures, languages, and sovereignty. **AISA welcomes proposals that explore these intersections through Indigenous languages, research methods, teaching pedagogy, community engagement, environmental stewardship, governance, activism, music, media, and the arts.**

As AISA gathers in Sacramento for the first time, celebrating the Association's history and future—honoring the foundations laid by those who came before us while embracing new partnerships and pathways forward. Let us gather to share, learn, build relationships—across our diverse positionalities and nations—as we explore ***Confluences: Stewarding Intersections of Sovereignty, Land, Water, and Culture***.

Session Types:

Individual paper – A single paper submission. In paper sessions, authors present abbreviated versions of their papers. Four to five authors are grouped together to each present their papers, followed by audience discussion.

Panel – Submitted by organizer. A complete panel (3-5 panelists) should include a panel description or abstract, panel title, names of panelists, and a chair

Roundtable – An organized discussion with a moderator (or audience) posing questions to the 3-5 discussants.

Thinking Out Loud – Work or ideas in progress. This is an informal table presentation to share your ideas for future or ongoing research, or to talk them through with interested colleagues. Each table will have three to five researchers clustered around related topics, along with interested audience members who participate in the discussion.

Workshop – A workshop provides hands-on learning opportunities. Workshops should be interactive and allow time for audience members to practice and/or discuss concepts/ideas presented.

Film or Creative Performance – Presentation of a film or demonstration of a creative artistic performance.

[Abstract Submission Link \(250 words max\)](#)



Deadline: October 16, 2026

Questions? Email:
Rachael Nez, Diné, AISA President
E: rachael.nez@gmail.com

“Swim Up the River” Original painting by Lyn Risling will be used as the official artwork for the 28th AISA Annual Conference in 2027 and was generously provided by the artist.

Lyn Risling has been interested in art from an early age with influences from artists on both sides of her family including her mother and grandmother who were both illustrators and painters. Her art is strongly connected to the cultures of her paternal grandfather and grandmother, of the Karuk, Yurok, and Hupa peoples of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers in Northern California. She received a BA in art from UC Davis and a teaching credential and Masters Degree from Humboldt State University, Arcata, California. For more information about Lyn and her work visit: <https://lynrisling.com/about-lyn-risling.html>