# Thinking About Ethical Research

## Emily Beacock
## PhD Student in Geography, Western University

Western

## Hi, I'm Emily

- Settler scholar
- PhD Student (Year 1)
- Previous Project: Collaborator in community sustainability research with NunatuKavut Community Council and their member communities of Black Tickle, Norman Bay and St. Lewis (Fox Harbour). My masters thesis came out of this collaboration.
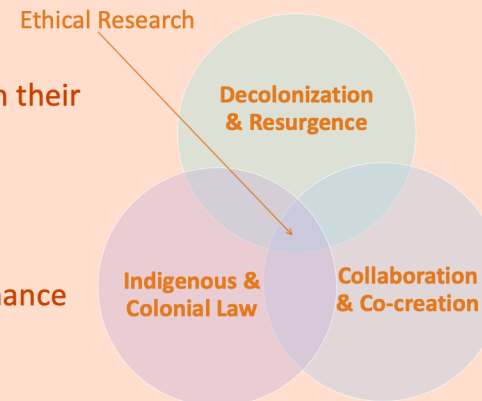
## My Big Questions:

- How do we know research is ethical and how can we better honour diverse conceptions of ethical research?
- Using a lens of legal theory, what are the opportunities and barriers to meaningful and ethical research within the colonial academy?
- How can we do better, setting up future generations to do ethical, decolonizing, lawful and resurgent collaborative research?

## Defining terms & ideas:

- **Legal Order**: law as it is created and defined by the "social, political, economic and spiritual institutions" in a community (Napoleon, 2007, p. 2). Legal orders are continuously lived and recreated (Napoleon, 2007).
- **Indigenous Law:** the law that flows from Indigenous legal orders; there are many unique Indigenous legal orders within the borders of what we now know as Canada.
- **Colonial Law:** the law that flows from colonial legal orders, including but not limited to the law created and lived by the Canadian state, the British crown, and within academic institutions.
- **Treaty**: a result of a nation-to-nation relationship, commonly used to refer to the negotiation and maintenance of agreements at the confluence of Indigenous and colonial legal orders (Borrows, 2005; Leanne Simpson, 2008).

## The Research Proposal

1. Conceptualizing ethical research
   - Review academic literature on ethical research
   - Seek guidance from Indigenous and allied scholars on their understandings of ethical research
   - Explore research governance through the lens of Indigenous and colonial legal orders
2. Understanding ethical research within the academy
   - Perform policy analysis of research ethics and governance structures at academic institutions across Canada
3. Looking to the future of ethical research
   - Recommend pathways towards better research governance and more ethical research within the academy

Ethical Research

Decolonization & Resurgence

Indigenous & Colonial Law

Collaboration & Co-creation

## References

Beacock, E. C. (2019). "You know the saying, the future's so bright you have to wear shades?" Describing community perspectives on wellbeing, environments and sustainable futures with three remote, off-grid NunatuKavut communities (Masters Thesis). Dalhousie University.

Borrows, J. (2005). Indigenous Legal Traditions in Canada. Journal of Law and Policy, 19.

Leanne Simpson. (2008). Looking after Gdoo-naaganinaa: Precolonial Nishnaabeg Diplomatic and Treaty Relationships. Wicazo Sa Review, 23(2), 29–42. https://doi.org/10.1353/wic.0.0001

Napoleon, V. (2007). Thinking About Indigenous Legal Orders.

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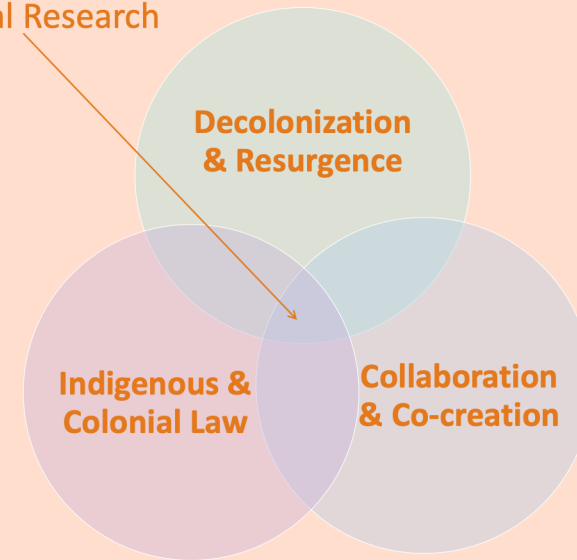2. Understanding ethical research within the academy
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