

# GEOGRAPHISCHES KOLLOQUIUM / LECTURE SERIES

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Donnerstag, 18.01.2018, 16 Uhr c.t., Senatssaal - 7. Stock Geogr. Institut

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**PROF. DR. GUNTRAM H. HERB**

(Middlebury College, Vermont)

**"Border Rites and Border Rights: Indigenous Nations  
astride the US-Canada Border."**

The lands of more than 50 indigenous peoples lie astride the US international border with Canada. Where Indians could once simply walk, drive or paddle across the border to see relatives, hunt, fish, gather wild rice or berries, visit burial grounds, collect holy medicine, or conduct spiritual ceremonies, there are now border patrols, fences and other obstacles. Most Americans or Canadians are blissfully unaware of the divisive effect of the border on Indian rights and rites or of the existence of traditional native homelands outside official reservations and reserves. Surprisingly, even scholars have neglected indigenous borderlands until a few years ago. I will present preliminary results from my research project, which seeks to break the silence that surrounds native nations living in the borderlands. I am in the process of creating a multi-media website that is based on over 40,000 km of fieldwork that I conducted with my wife, who is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians along the entire length of the US-Canada border from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts and into Alaska. The guiding principle for our work is *minaadendamowin*, which means 'respect' in the Anishinabe language.

**Einführung und Diskussionsleitung: Prof. Dr. Anton Escher**