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Indigenous Narratives of Territory and Creation: Hemispheric Perspectives

This special issue is devoted to studying narratives of creation and territorial origin as they are told and transmitted in Indigenous languages and conflictive settings of the Americas. It advocates for the revitalization and revaluation of Indigenous languages, not merely for linguistic purposes but also with an epistemological and political emphasis, in that these languages are vehicles of different worldviews and forms of knowledge that propose alternatives to Western epistemologies. Symbolic territory and land reclamation are the focus of much Indigenous activism in the Americas.

This issue explores Indigenous narratives that provide legitimacy to and a foundation for this political practice. At the same time, it finds the ways in which these narratives are spread continentally, in specific contexts and beyond national histories. This issue comparatively studies narratives of territory and creation of Indigenous communities that were and are constantly displaced and seeks to understand the diasporic meaning of these narratives in the context of the struggle for land.