Special Issue

Indigenous Resistance in the Digital Age
The Politics of Language, Media and Culture

edited by
Bronwyn Carlson (Macquarie University, Australia) and
Anna Mongibello (University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy)

Over the last decades, the advent of digital and social media has deeply affected and radically transformed the interplay between politics, communication and new technologies. This has had a major impact on how engagement and participation take place in the digital age. The new cyber territories that we inhabit daily involve different configurations of digital communication and social practices, which change significantly on the basis of cultural contexts of interaction, interaction spaces, and semiotic resources. This is even more true when it comes to Indigenous communities across the globe, whose widening use of new media has become "a creative and empowering tool to combat language death, raise political awareness, and ingeniously create Indigenous networks across various geographies" (Menjívar and Chacón 2019: 11).

As Ahasiw Maskegon-Iskwew, founder of *Drumbeats to Drumbytes*, highlighted, "the digital realm provides Indigenous communities with an autonomous platform to assert an online presence in the face of colonial catastrophe" (2005). For instance, Indigenous digital activism in response to social and political injustices has reclaimed counter-discursive spaces of resistance in the cybersphere, entering the public arena with digital movements such as #idlenomore (Mongibello 2018), #SOSBLAKAUSTRALIA and #IndigenousDads (Carlson 2019) as well as Facebook posts, Instagram stories, Twitter hashtags, YouTube videos, blogs etc. Indigenous digital media innovators are using Web 2.0 technologies in highly creative digital projects such as *CyberPowWow* and *Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace*.

Such movements, projects and forms of individual digital activism resist power, domination and control by interrogating contemporary colonizing systems and subverting the mainstream narrative of the 'unmodern Indian' along with other stereotypes (LaRocque 2010, 2016). New dynamic forms of Indigenous self-determination and network sovereignty (Duarte 2017) through social media, in particular, allow Indigenous people to "agitate, demand political recognition for Indigenous causes, and proffer contesting and challenging views that dismantle colonial preoccupations with Indigenous political unity" (Carlson and Frazer 2016). Indigenous

communities are therefore carving out a space for themselves as full participants in the shaping of the cybersphere (Lewis 2016).

In this scenario, the special issue of *Anglistica AION* aims at widening the current critical debate on Indigenous resistance in digital environments so as to include a combination of theoretical approaches and methodologies that range from Indigenous Studies, Critical Discourse Analysis, Corpus Linguistics, Multimodal Analysis, Media Studies, Social Media Studies, among others, that may offer new perspectives and insights. We welcome empirical papers that investigate specific forms of Indigenous digital activism as counter-discourse, analyzing the linguistic and semiotic practices of resistance across channels and cyber-environments. The editors are particularly interested in the linguistic and discursive dimensions of this phenomenon. The areas of inquiry include, but are not limited to:

- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social networks as new frontiers for Indigenous activists
- Corpora, annotation schemes and other resources and methods for analyzing Indigenous resistance
- Linguistic, multimodal, critical analysis of dissent and online struggles
- Metaphors, tropes, narratives and other devices used in Indigenous digital activism on social media
- Language, memory and Indigeneity in virtual worlds
- Sovereignty, Indigenous lands and the cyberspace
- Online/offline Indigenous self-representations and their multiple expressions
- Responses to online anti-Indigenous racism
- Indigenous (self- and other) representations in video-games
- Contemporary online Indigeneity and global connectivity
- Indigenous knowledge, artificial intelligence and digital worlds
- Technology and decolonization
- Emancipatory role of digital technology for Indigenous people
- Data, information, connectivity, digital technologies and control
- Educational technology (e.g., virtual labs, e-learning, mobile apps) for Indigenous languages revitalization
- Indigenous online voices and political participation
- Ancestral languages and cultural heritage in online environments
- The inclusion of Indigenous viewpoints in developing new technologies
- Innovative forms of digital oratory and storytelling

Deadline for abstracts: February 11, 2022
Notification of acceptance: February 25, 2022
Deadline for completed articles: May 30, 2022

Send an abstract of about 300 words to:

Bronwyn Carlson
bronwyn.carlson@mq.edu.au

Anna Mongibello
amongibello@unior.it

CC
anglistica@unior.it

Articles undergo peer review based on initial editorial screening and double blind refereeing. Completed articles should be in English and should be between 5.000 and 7.000 words.

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