

Person Under the Waves

*"To us, Sk'aliCh'eh-tenant is not an "animal." She is a qwe'lhol'mechen.
This is our term for "orca" and it means "person under the waves."*

— Lummi Nation

March 13th - 12:30 - 1:45 PM
Ziff Education Bldg 150



Steven J. Green
**School of International
& Public Affairs**

Global Indigenous Forum Event



Tokitae, the orca known to most of us as Lolita the Killer Whale, occupied a nebulous intersection between person to the Lummi Nation, property in her identity as Lolita, and perhaps, a thing as an object of cultural patrimony according to NAGPRA, the federal law meant to return cultural artifacts and remains taken by settlers and found in collections all over the world. Toki became the center of historic efforts between the Lummi, Miami Seaquarium, and Miami-Dade County to return her to her home waters in the Salish Sea. Unfortunately, Toki suffered kidney failure and died before these efforts were realized.

"United States jurisprudence requires the use of language that does not make sense from a spiritual or cultural point of view... the language of NAGPRA requires that we use such language in describing the physical form that contains both an individual intelligence and soul and that also contains the essence known as "cultural patrimony."— Lummi Nation

Join us for an interactive presentation by cartoonists and ethnographers Cynthia Sousa Machado and Sam Machado, known for their graphic novel *Thing: Inside the Struggle for Animal Personhood*. Their work explores the intersections of law, culture, artificial intelligence, gender, and identity.



ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Cynthia Sousa Machado and Sam Machado are FIU Alumni and Eisner nominated cartoonists for their graphic novel *Thing: Inside the Struggle for Animal Personhood*. They are known for their editorial cartoons "I Got This," "If I Don't Get Pants" and their webcomic "Cyberbunk" on LINE Webtoon. Sam and Cynthia continue the conversation about how humans relate to the nonhuman world at *Person Place or Thing* on Substack.



Meeting ID: 811 8866 5974
Passcode: JbAh3z