

NOTE: Distinguished Professor Kimmerer presented "The honorable harvest: indigenous knowledge for biodiversity conservation," a more scientific lecture than the one originally advertised.

Twenty-first lecture in the series

James P. Holland Memorial Lecture

Monday, October 5, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Join the seminar on Zoom at
<http://go.iu.edu/holland-lecture>

Braiding sweetgrass: Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants

Robin Wall Kimmerer, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology and Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, State University of New York

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants*, which has earned Kimmerer wide acclaim. As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, Robin Wall Kimmerer has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to this land, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowing together to reveal what it means to see humans as "the younger brothers of creation." As she explores these themes she circles toward a central argument: the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the world. Once we begin to listen for the languages of other beings, we can begin to understand the innumerable life-giving gifts the world provides us and learn to offer our thanks, our care, and our own gifts in return.

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About Robin Wall Kimmerer

Robin Wall Kimmerer integrates traditional and scientific knowledge in her research on ecological restoration, forest resilience to climate change, and the ecology of mosses. In addition to her scientific publications, she has written two award-winning books and numerous essays on nature's gifts, human relationships with land, and the value of integrating indigenous wisdom with scientific perspective.

Education

Ph.D. and M.S. in Botany, University of Wisconsin
B.S. in Botany, State University of New York ESF

Honors

Kimmerer received the John Burroughs Medal Award for her book, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*. Her first book, it incorporated her experience as a plant ecologist and her understanding of traditional knowledge about nature.

Her second book, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, received the 2014 Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award. *Braiding Sweetgrass* is about the interdependence of people and the natural world, primarily the plant world.

She won a second Burroughs award for an essay, "Council of the Pecans," that appeared in *Orion* magazine in 2013.

Kimmerer received an honorary M.Phil. degree in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic on June 6, 2020.