

| Week 6 (SKYPE Chat & Video Call) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| Class Exercise:                  | <p><b>Modern American Indian Communities:</b><br/><i>Killing the White Man's Indian</i> – Current Myths &amp; Contradictory Realities / Eco-Apartheid? Ecocide? The Ecological Indian? / Cradle-to-Cradle Design / Nanotechnology / Challenging Technology Neutrality / “Participatory GIS?”</p> <p><b>Killing the White Man's Indian - Current Myths &amp; Contradictory Realities</b></p> <p>The book <i>Killing the White Man's Indian (KTWMI)</i> introduces many of the myths that, to some degree, define American Indian and American Indian communities. The articles below expand on some of the ideas presented in the book. Read and be prepared to discuss the following articles:</p> <p><i>The American Savage</i> (requires UTEID, just skim this – focusing to the first two pages)<br/>This article provides a good introduction to the concept of the “noble savage” – and how this literary invention impacts perceptions of American Indians to present:<br/><a href="http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/view/0095182x/ap040033/04a00030/0?currentResult=0095182x%2bap040033%2b04a00030%2b0%2cFF07&amp;searchUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jstor.org%2Fsearch%2FAdvancedResults%3Fhp%3D25%26si%3D1%26q%3DAmerican%2Bsavage%26f0%3D%26c0%3DAND%26wc%3Don%26sd%3D%26ed%3D%26la%3D%26ic%3D0095182x%26node.American+Indian+Studies%3D1">www.jstor.org.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/view/0095182x/ap040033/04a00030/0?currentResult=0095182x%2bap040033%2b04a00030%2b0%2cFF07&amp;searchUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jstor.org%2Fsearch%2FAdvancedResults%3Fhp%3D25%26si%3D1%26q%3DAmerican%2Bsavage%26f0%3D%26c0%3DAND%26wc%3Don%26sd%3D%26ed%3D%26la%3D%26ic%3D0095182x%26node.American+Indian+Studies%3D1</a></p> <p><i>The Language of 'Civilization'</i><br/>This article also explores the legacy of the idea of the ‘noble savage’ – and the author suggests that American Indians will always be described in “other” terms by mainstream culture, as a result of resistance to assimilation.<br/><a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17598304/">www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17598304/</a></p> <p><i>U. S. History Textbook Description Analysis</i> – note that this research was conducted during the 1970's. In your view has much changed since then, in terms of how American Indians are portrayed in educational texts or elsewhere?<br/><a href="http://jaie.asu.edu/v17/V17S2fro.html">http://jaie.asu.edu/v17/V17S2fro.html</a></p> <p><i>American Indian Stereotype of the Month Contest</i><br/>Pick 3 from the past few years to discuss in greater detail.<br/><a href="http://www.bluecorncomics.com/stertype.htm">www.bluecorncomics.com/stertype.htm</a></p> <p><i>Dennis Banks on American Indians &amp; the American Dream</i><br/><a href="http://www.forbes.com/2007/03/20/dennis-banks-dream-oped-cx_mlm_dream0307_0322banks.html">www.forbes.com/2007/03/20/dennis-banks-dream-oped-cx_mlm_dream0307_0322banks.html</a></p> <p>For more about Dennis Banks, visit: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Banks">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Banks</a><br/>It is valuable to learn more about Banks, in order to gain more information about the <i>American Indian Movement</i> – AIM and key events of the 1970s (the Occupation of Alcatraz Island, Pine Ridge, etc.). Note Banks' transition from a more radical form of politics to mainstream acceptance – including press coverage by Forbes!</p> |

*American Indian Genocide*

The following two articles provide a strong introduction to the issue of genocide – and how it impacts perspectives of American Indians today. Do you have a strong opinion on this issue? Is this an important discussion?)

Thoughts from Ward Churchill

[www.marshallindependent.com/News/articles.asp?articleID=11307](http://www.marshallindependent.com/News/articles.asp?articleID=11307)

Thoughts from Guenter Lewy

<http://hnn.us/articles/7302.html>

(note: in a previous module, students had the chance to read more about Ward Churchill and the controversy that he has recently been involved with. For more background about Lewy – including the suggestion of controversy surrounding his past academic work and/or his particular academic bias, visit: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guenter\\_Lewy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guenter_Lewy))

*Native Americans and the Environment: A Case study of Makah Whaling*

This case study supports one of the main themes of KTWMI – that mainstream / dominant culture tends to frame the discussion of what is and isn't "American Indian." Note how the particular case study portrays American Indians in an "anti-environmental" stance. How does this conflict with some mainstream perceptions of American Indians?

[www.ncseonline.org/NAE/cases/makah/m6.html](http://www.ncseonline.org/NAE/cases/makah/m6.html)

**Eco-Apartheid? Ecocide? The Ecological Indian?**

*Eco-Apartheid*

This article traces the history of environmentalism in the U. S. – and although it paints an obviously romantic portrait of American Indian relationships with the environment, it draws attention to the historic issue of *environmental justice* in the U. S. Think about the Robert Bullard speech we listened to in the first module!

<http://commongroundmag.com/2007/04/eco-apartheid0704.html>

*Ecocide*

Numerous authors in recent years (including Wynona LaDuke, via her book *All Our Relations*) have portrayed American Indians as historic and present-day victims of "ecocide" – or the intentional targeted destruction of specific ecosystems that American Indians are a part of by mainstream culture (Ward Churchill is another proponent of this view). This relates closely with the idea of environmental justice (or racism) expressed in the article above. Yet, as the Makah Whaling case study (and examples from KTWMI and elsewhere) suggests, such a simplification (framing American Indians purely as environmental victims) does not necessarily capture the entire current or past reality.

*The Ecological Indian*

Recently, anthropologists and academics have attempted to address the myth of the purely "Ecological Indian" – a being in total harmony with the natural world and its other inhabitants, a caricature which draws from the noble savage myth (and is a perspective that gained considerable ground in the 1970' via the iconography of the environmental movement of that era). These more recent works have generated some controversy, but they offer, in their own words, a more "human" view of American Indians and their relationship to the natural environment.

*Review of Krech's The Ecological Indian*  
[www.americansc.org.uk/Reviews/Ecolind.htm](http://www.americansc.org.uk/Reviews/Ecolind.htm)

*Second Review of Krech's The Ecological Indian*  
[www.lewrockwell.com/orig/gunter1.html](http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig/gunter1.html)

*Debunking the Ecological Indian Myth – with focus on Chief Seattle Speech*  
(also explored in KTWMI)  
[www.asle.umn.edu/archive/readings/lutts.html](http://www.asle.umn.edu/archive/readings/lutts.html)

*Enduring myth of 'noble savage' vs. a species at continuous war?*  
<http://washingtontimes.com/books/20030816-105047-3673r.htm>

In sum, consider this excerpt from the National Park Service online *History of American Indians in California* ([www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/5views/5views1.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/5views/5views1.htm)):

*“While people often write about how Indians developed a means of living in harmony with their environment, this cultural lifestyle was more a reflection of numbers, the carrying capacity of the land, and personal needs. What might have happened if Europeans had not arrived cannot be determined. However, just as in the case of many other societies, we can assume that, as their numbers and needs increased, greater pressure would have been put on the environment. Indians would have adapted or ceased to exist.*

*California Indians, like American Indians in general, have been the subject of many books and studies. The written record shows that in California alone there were hundreds of small groups, speaking more than 100 languages. Unlike the present population of California, the Indians lived well within the capacity of their environment. They developed religious systems and social norms, and they traded with their neighbors for goods or services not available in their own communities. They did what was necessary to survive. . . .*

*But this report is not about the prehistory of California Indians, nor is it the story of any one Indian group. Rather, it is a commentary on those events, procedures, laws, and situations that confronted and greatly affected California Indians and their ability to survive once Europeans arrived. The reason it is important to tell this aspect of Indian history, rather than the more romantic story of how Indians lived in harmony with nature, is the same reason it is important to tell the history of any people – so we can learn from the mistakes of the past and try not to make those same mistakes in the future. Finally, we tell this history so that Indian people and non-Indian people might better understand why Indians have evolved as they have – why they are people attempting to retain their cultural identity while surviving in the modern world.”*

### **Cradle-to-Cradle Design: Eliminating the Concept of “Waste”**

The following resources provide an introduction to “cradle-to-cradle” design - or the idea of designing with entire lifecycle of a product in mind (talk about learning from the mistakes of the past!). Architect Bill McDonough envisions and creates buildings and other products that do much more than cause “less harm” to the environment, challenging conventional views of environmentalism and “green design.” Through his work, McDonough suggests human design that performs more like nature – items and processes that provide multiple benefits and leave behind only “nutrients.” Such long-term design can help fuel new thinking about – and planning for – sustainable development.

*Designing the Future*

[www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7773650/site/newsweek/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7773650/site/newsweek/)

*Eco-Design in Future Cities*

(when reading this, remember Andrew Light's thoughts on urban eco-citizenship, and the explosive growth of cities in recent years

[www.labiennale.org/en/news/architecture/en/74626.html](http://www.labiennale.org/en/news/architecture/en/74626.html) )

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4682011.stm>

*Green Architect McDonough Finds Mainstream Acceptance*

[http://metromix.chicagotribune.com/news/celebrity/mmx-](http://metromix.chicagotribune.com/news/celebrity/mmx-0703160524mar18,0,870199.story?coll=mmx-celebrity_heds)

[0703160524mar18,0,870199.story?coll=mmx-celebrity\\_heds](http://metromix.chicagotribune.com/news/celebrity/mmx-0703160524mar18,0,870199.story?coll=mmx-celebrity_heds)

*Revising the Industrial Revolution (podcast)*

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7774777/site/newsweek/>

Related to McDonough's work is the idea of "living machines" technology, as demonstrated by Ocean Arks International's work in China:

*A Sewer Becomes a Water Park*

[www.yesmagazine.com/article.asp?ID=673](http://www.yesmagazine.com/article.asp?ID=673)

How do these ideas relate to your definition of sustainability? Your thoughts about the built (human made) environment? American Indian communities – past and current?

## **Nanotechnology**

Increasingly, nanotechnology ("the new plastic," as it has been called – or the next big technological breakthrough) has promised to address many of our current environmental concerns:

*A concrete step towards cleaner air* (read the comments, too)

[www.businessweek.com/innovate/content/nov2006/id20061108\\_116412.htm?chan=innovation\\_innovation+%2B+design\\_euroscan](http://www.businessweek.com/innovate/content/nov2006/id20061108_116412.htm?chan=innovation_innovation+%2B+design_euroscan)

*Cheap nano solar cells*

[www.technologyreview.com/Nanotech/18259/](http://www.technologyreview.com/Nanotech/18259/)

*More technical information about nanotechnology at work* (if interested)

[www.nsti.org/Nanotech2005/showabstract.html?absno=733](http://www.nsti.org/Nanotech2005/showabstract.html?absno=733)

*Nanotechnology Video* (National Geographic)

<http://www7.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0606/feature4/multimedia.html>

Nanotechnology also has been questioned by some – including in terms of the environmental and human health dangers nanotech applications might pose (as recent findings related to current nanotechnology use in some sunscreen suggest)

*Nanotech group's invitation declined*

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3694-2004Oct27.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3694-2004Oct27.html)

*Nanoparticles and sunscreen safety* (nanowerk is a good source for nanotech info)

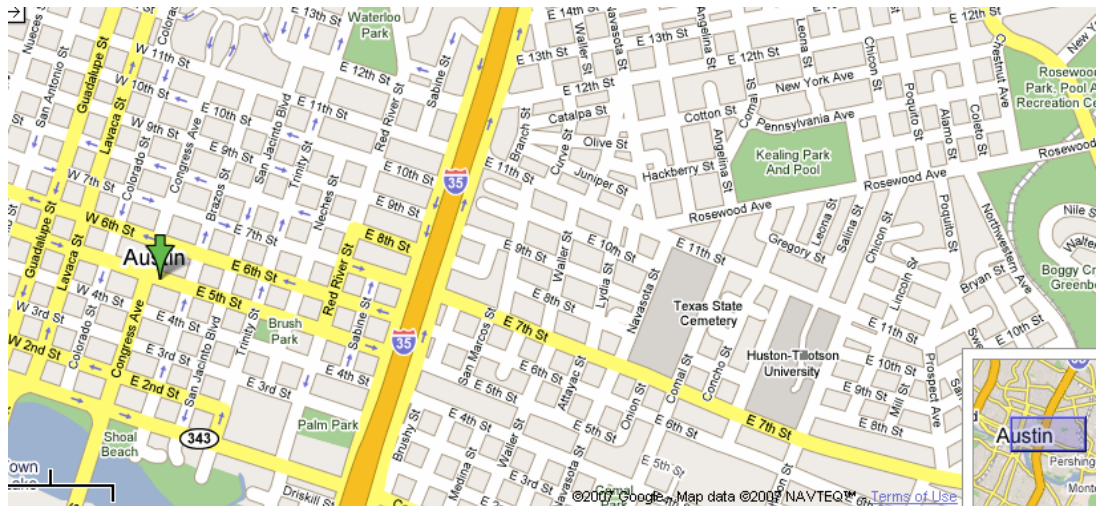
[www.nanowerk.com/spotlight/spotid=714.php](http://www.nanowerk.com/spotlight/spotid=714.php)

In general, new nanotechnology applications (and concerns about them) – and how this development is reported suggest the overall subjectivity of technology and technological development.

### Challenging Technology Neutrality

In previous chats, we have discussed the concept of **path dependence** ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Path\\_dependence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Path_dependence)) – including in terms of how it relates to technology development, town / community planning, and societal development

(think about the example of current limited road connectivity in East Austin – note the number of cul-de-sacs, as compared with West Austin - and how these past design decisions reflect past biases, including racial biases, and impact design choices today / how people currently experience Austin).



This concept of **path dependence** relates closely to the idea of the *non-neutrality of technology*. Read:

*Technology as Neutral or Non-Neutral*

[www.aber.ac.uk/media/Documents/tecdet/tcet08.html](http://www.aber.ac.uk/media/Documents/tecdet/tcet08.html)

As our readings from past modules about the complicity of American tech industry and technological developments in assisting (and, in some cases, increasing) censorship in China suggests, the relationships between human development and technological development are complex. I advocate that technology is non-neutral, but hold a more “soft” opinion than some.

### Participatory GIS?

An example of the non-neutrality of technology is GIS development – or Geographic Information Systems technology. Recently Google, Yahoo, and others have increased the public’s access to satellite imagery and or digital representations of the Earth – it is difficult for me to remember what life was like prior to Google Maps, and the development of this technology has definitely shaped my travel behavior. As suggested by their work in China, these companies and their technologies also have the power to skew world views. Read:

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|                  | <p><i>Why did Google 'airbrush history'?</i><br/><a href="http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/03/31/katrina.google.maps.ap/index.html">www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/03/31/katrina.google.maps.ap/index.html</a></p> <p>In general, GIS poses a lot of questions – including in terms of how it impacts local development, especially in marginal or “at risk” communities</p> <p>The following PowerPoint presentation outlines some of the issues that GIS raises, and suggests how GIS can be used as a tool or vehicle for more participatory development</p> <p><i>Participatory GIS: The Social Dimensions of Geographic Information Systems</i><br/><a href="http://www.sdwaic.org/PPGIS.ppt">www.sdwaic.org/PPGIS.ppt</a></p> <p>The following case study offers an example of GIS use in participatory development in Peru. Note how the case study description relates to some of the questions posed in the PowerPoint presentation above.</p> <p><i>Participatory Use of Satellite Imagery in Ifugao</i><br/>(be sure to follow the link to definitions of levels of participation)<br/><a href="http://www.iapad.org/ifugao_and_gis.htm">www.iapad.org/ifugao_and_gis.htm</a></p> <p>NOTE: the PowerPoint presentation (similar to the online guide to <i>youth participation in planning</i> presented in an earlier module - <a href="http://www.crpsshare.org/youthinplanning/methods.htm">www.crpsshare.org/youthinplanning/methods.htm</a>) suggests some of the <u>Participatory Research and Development Methods</u> that are available. These methods can help assist and shape your individual service work with American Indian communities.</p> |
| Work to Complete | Journaling about your independent service work. Develop a <b>detailed timeline</b> (similar to what is presented on the public website) detailing what you have accomplished with your independent service-learning project so far. What questions has this work raised for you? How you attempted so far to address these questions?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Humanities 001D: Sustainable Development with American Indian Communities

Week 6 Online Module: [www.sdwaic.org](http://www.sdwaic.org)

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