

Wednesday,  
2 July 2025  
10:15 – 11:15h

## Land and Blood: Allotment on White Earth Reservation in the Early 1900s

**Prof. Dr. Jill Doerfler**

University of Minnesota-Duluth

The US began making land allotments on the White Earth Reservation in the early 1900s as a means to undermine the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe government, to assimilate individuals, and gain access to land. The US quickly tied racialized notions of identity to the ability to sell land.



Dr. Doerfler will detail the various ways in which White Earth Anishinaabe/Ojibwe people described their identity and shrewdly resisted US racialization efforts. She will examine the concept of blood quantum including US legal definitions of “mixed-blood” and “full-blood” and the economic motivation behind those definitions.

Rolf-Lessenich fellow  
Jill Doerfler is a professor and department head of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She grew up on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota and is the daughter of an enrollee. Dr. Doerfler has lectured and published widely on the topics of citizenship, blood quantum, and constitutional reform. Her monograph, *Those Who Belong: Identity, Family, Blood, and Citizenship Among the White Earth Anishinaabeg*, examines staunch Anishinaabe resistance to racialization and the complex issues surrounding tribal citizenship and identity.