

# From Black | Indigenous to Black Indigenous: North American Imaginaries of Past, Present, and Future

## Antrittsvorlesung/Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Dr. Sabine N. Meyer  
University of Bonn



Monica Rickert-Bolter (Prairie Band Potawatomi, Black, and German, b. 1986). *Hair Stories*, 2021. Photo by the artist. Digital painting. Source: [www.americanindian.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item?id=986](http://www.americanindian.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item?id=986)

The prominence of Black and Indigenous movements for protest, decolonization, and reclamation in both the United States and Canada as well as the controversy about freedmen tribal citizenship in the United States have encouraged an increasing number of African Americans to self-identify as Black Indigenous. Through online activism, literature, film, and artwork, they have sought to carve out a space outside the settler colonial racial order that has established Blackness and Indigeneity as mutually exclusive categories of identity and fostered animosities between Blacks and Indigenous people. My lecture will explore alternative imaginaries of past, present, and future in one of the most recent examples of Black Indigenous literary production, Honorée Fanonne Jeffers' debut novel *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* (2021).

Monday  
October 24, 2022  
4:00 c.t. pm

Am Hof 1  
Main Building,  
Lecture Hall IX

Professor Sabine N. Meyer is Co-director of the North American Studies Program at the University of Bonn, Germany. Her research primarily focuses on Native American writing and law/politics from the nineteenth century onward, on representations of Native Americans/Indigenous people in North American popular culture and on the history of social movements, (forced) migration and processes of identity formation (ethnicity, race, gender) in the United States. Professor Meyer is the author of *We Are What We Drink: The Temperance Battle in Minnesota* (University of Illinois Press, 2015) and *Native Removal Writing: Narratives of Peoplehood, Politics, and Law* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2022).

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