Barriers to Decolonizing Scholarship

*If the academic structures through which this decolonization of thought is being carried out continue to reproduce the white supremacy of the academy..., can we expect lasting change, or decolonization, to occur? (Todd 2016)*

**Discussion Guide:**

I’ve provided some questions you might discuss with each other, but feel free to diverge. Don’t forget to begin your conversations by introducing yourselves, explaining what department you’re in or what you’re studying and maybe how you came to be here in this room.

- What do you know about the history of your discipline and its relationship to colonialism? Think hard; you may know more than you think you do. If you’re speculating or unsure now, do some research later.

- Imagine trying to convince a colleague that work they are proposing should not be undertaken (either at all or without serious consultation from Indigenous communities). Take a few minutes to role play this discussion with a partner, or to discuss how you think the conversation might proceed, or if it would proceed at all.

- Are you willing to stop research or change course if asked? Take a few moments to imagine a scenario in which an Indigenous community challenges or asks you to stop what you are doing. Imagine this at various stages of the research process (grant writing, data gathering, interviewing, writing, publishing). How do you feel? What should you do, and what are you prepared to do?

- Are the decolonial demands on you-as-a-scholar distinct from the demands on you-as-a-person? If so, how? Does it make sense to you to separate those parts of yourself? Are you ever asked (or otherwise incentivized) to separate those parts of yourself?

**Recommended readings:**

