Through looking at the legislation of historical conflicts over property rights and access to water between Native American groups and white settlers, this talk will discuss how racialized nation-state processes that began in the 18th and early 19th centuries continue to shape access to, and management of, Columbia Basin waterways. This body of work shows that the dispossession of Columbia Basin Native American tribes from their lands and access to rivers is directly tied to explicit federal strategies to facilitate white settlement of the inland Pacific Northwest, in spite of mid-19th century treaties signed to guarantee that Native American groups would have continued access to traditional fishing and hunting grounds and to other sites of cultural importance.

Dr. Carrie Mott is an Instructor with the Department of Geography at Rutgers. Carrie completed her PhD in 2016 from the University of Kentucky Department of Geography. Her dissertation work focused on the racialized dynamics of social justice activism in the Arizona/Sonora borderlands. Her current research explores similar questions surrounding racialized dynamics of everyday interpersonal interaction in the context of the Columbia River Basin in the US Pacific Northwest.