

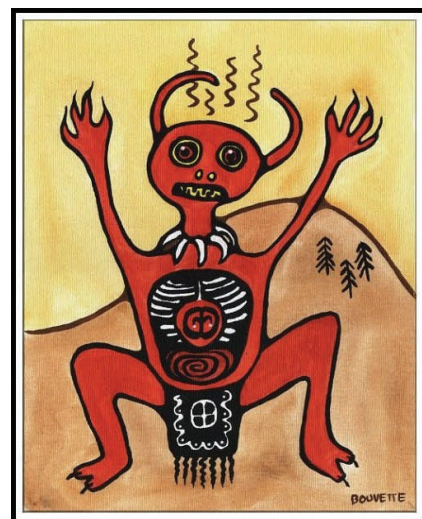


## Madness & The Windigo, 1774-1935

With Shawn Smallman

PSU Canadian Studies welcomes Shawn Smallman ( PSU Vice Provost for Instruction and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Academic Affairs) as he presents his lecture: *Madness and The Windigo, 1774-1935*

As Europeans and Canadians entered central Canada, they came into contact with native people who believed in a cannibal spirit called the windigo. This talk examines how successive groups of Europeans and Canadians interpreted the native peoples' belief in spirit-possession. Early fur traders were frightened by this phenomenon, as worried native peoples either sought refuge from windigos at the trading post, or killed people that they believed to be possessed. In the 1880s the North-West mounted police enforced the new authority of the Canadian state by arresting indigenous peoples for murdering windigos, while in the early twentieth century, "windigos" increasingly came to be seen as a mental health issue. This talk will place spirit possession into a historical context, and use the topic as a means to discuss Canadian colonialism.



**TUESDAY OCTOBER 27TH**

**10:00-11:00**

**On Portland State's campus: SMU 298**

**\*SMU Smith Memorial Student Union 1825 SW Broadway**