

Still here, now

Danielle Lussier | LL.L., LL.B., LL.M., PhD (Law/Droit) Royal Military College of Canada | Queen's University

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I think of the bead tourists Those visitors from the seats of colonial power

Who came And saw And purchased

In quiet moments

As I stitch

Our Ancestors The handwork of our Grandmothers Driving the "cultural economic enterprise" Read: keeping babies fed and Elders alive Before, during, since the genocide of obstinacies¹ of our more-than-human relations



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¹ Obstinacy—a group of buffalo. This line refers to the genocide of the buffalo on the plains.

Travelling in pockets And steamer trunks To find homes across seas In glass cases of women who wore the evidence of their Power Superiority

Now kept (Safe?) In climate-controlled drawers and glass cases In museums across seas

I think about the bead tourists Those who claimed our material culture The handwork of our Grandmothers As trophies of their time amongst the ***ages As I obstinately bead obstinacies, and law







To be held In the hands of my babies, fed In memory of my Elders, alive



still here.



Now.

Biography

Danielle Lussier, Red River Métis, is mum to three young people growing up as members of the Métis diaspora. An award-winning administrator, professor, researcher, and change leader, she is a passionate advocate and community builder who believes there is room for love and humanity in ethical education.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Civil Law of Quebec, a Master of Laws, and a PhD in Law. Dr. Lussier served as Indigenous Learner Advocate and Director of Community and Indigenous Relations at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law from 2018–2022. She now serves as the inaugural Associate Vice-Principal, Indigenous Knowledges and Learning, at the Royal Military College of Canada, as a Fellow of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University, and as a professor cross-appointed to Queen's Faculty of Law.