Does “Indian Blood” Still Matter?

Unlike other ethnic minorities in the United States, American Indians are defined not solely by self-designation but by federal, state, and tribal laws. Blood quantum—originating from archaic notions of biological race and still codified in contemporary policy—remains one of the most significant factors in determining tribal membership, access to services, and community recognition. This concept, however, is not without debate and contestation. This symposium will feature native scholars who approach this important and complex topic from various perspectives. Sociologists Eva Marie Garroutte (Boston College) and C. Matthew Snipp (Stanford) will join historian Malinda Lowery (UNC Chapel Hill) and anthropologist Kimberly TallBear (UC Berkeley) as the panelists at the program moderated by National Museum of the American Indian historian Gabrielle Tayac.

DATE AND TIME
Friday, September 16, 2011
2:00 – 4:30 PM

LOCATION
National Museum of the American Indian
Rasmuson Theater
4th Street and Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC

Live webcast at
www.americanindian.si.edu/webcasts

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Metro: L’Enfant Plaza, Maryland Avenue/Smithsonian Museums exit

To RSVP or for further information, please contact NMAI-SSP@si.edu

This program is part of the Smithsonian-wide conversation about race. The exhibition RACE: Are We So Different? will be at the National Museum of Natural History June 18, 2011 – January 8, 2012.

LET’S TALK ABOUT RACE AT THE SMITHSONIAN

PHOTO CAPTION: Installation shot of “The Faces of Native America,” a wall featuring photo portraits of contemporary Native Americans in Our Lives: Contemporary Life and Identity, one of the inaugural exhibitions at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. Photo by Katherine Fogden, NMAI.