



# Forschungsarbeit des Monats März 2014

**Christiane Rehn**

## **Thema der Dissertation:**

„Behind the Art of Artistry: Organizational Assistance of Indigenous Artists on the Pacific Northwest Coast (Arbeitstitel)“

Institution: Universität Passau

Betreuer: Prof. Dr. Karsten Fitz, Professur für Amerikanistik

**Stand der Arbeit:** Datenauswertung

My doctoral research combines Native American Studies and Third Sector Research in asking how third sector organizations support indigenous artists along the Pacific Northwest Coast. The study is intended to reveal the existing forms of assistance, to look at how the institutions are working with and for the artists, as well as to learn about the decision-making processes in these institutions.

The theoretical framework is set in the concept of third sector organizations taking on responsibilities and tasks for society that the government does not or cannot handle. In that context, the afore-mentioned Canadian and US-American organizations serve the society by making those kinds of services available that often allow these artists to not only enhance their artistic skills, but also to learn about marketing themselves or writing grants – skills that may contribute to establishing an artistic career and with that, an increasing financial stability which again could lead to a life independent of governmental support.

A qualitative approach guides the project that has – in its analytical framework – a deductive and an inductive component. The deductive component arose inevitably out of the theoretical framework and its established assumptions and hypotheses. Since I decided to use thematic coding to analyze the interviews the mentioned established assumptions and hypotheses informed my code development in an otherwise inductive analysis process. The field research was conducted along the Pacific Northwest Coast where I conducted 18 qualitative interviews with representatives of foundations, nonprofit and tribal organizations as well as 17 qualitative interviews with established as well as aspiring indigenous artists.

The conclusions drawn from this study are intended to help the targeted Pacific Northwest region, and are likely to prove valuable to assessing similar working relationships between indigenous people and third sector organizations beyond this region.

## **Christiane Rehn über das Forschungskollegium:**

„Ich schätze am Forschungskollegium besonders die interdisziplinären, vielschichtigen Blickwinkel der KollegiatInnen und betreuenden Wissenschaftler sowie das kritische Hinterfragen der einzelnen Projekte und konstruktive, qualifizierte Feedback. Als externe Doktorandin einer kleineren Hochschule gibt mir das Forschungskollegium die Möglichkeit mein Projekt in einer Atmosphäre des kollegialen, wissenschaftlichen Miteinanders auf den Prüfstand zu stellen, wofür ich sehr dankbar bin.“

## **Kontakt:**

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