

Editors' Introduction

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The Vignette in this issue brings to us a voice from the Anishinaabe, a First Nations tribe in Canada. This voice, coming from her native ancestors who speak to her spirit from their spirit, guides her as she wrestles with her research, especially research that is vast and commanding in its own right. As she tells in her story within a story “either you shape the research or the research will shape you.” There is wisdom in this remark of Rasunah’s.

In our western euro-centric manner, we believe we have control over our research: we prove, disprove, change our hypotheses – always controlling, controlling, controlling. In reality, though, we are controlled by our sense of control. A particular piece of research we may well control but the research paradigm itself controls us. We do not enter into an intimate union, indeed a “life and death” struggle with our research.

Rasunah presents two stories to us, one on how the Anishinaabe hunt animals, the other on how she hunts down her research. To understand her way of doing research one needs to understand how the Anishinaabe hunt. In both cases there is a sense of awareness, of silent listening, of waiting for the research “to speak.”

May we as readers listen as Rasunah speaks, and may we as listeners see anew, now “in a Spirit Way.”

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