

OHS Joseph Brant Award Winner: *Doodem and Council Fire: Anishinaabe Governance Through Alliance*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The OHS Honours and Awards Committee is pleased to present the 2020-21 Joseph Brant Award to Heidi Bohaker, for her book *Doodem and Council Fire: Anishinaabe Governance Through Alliance*, published by University of Toronto Press (2020). The Brant Award honours the best book on multicultural history in Ontario.

Doodem and Council Fire deals with the world of the Anishinaabe people and the importance of doodem to Anishinaabe identity. Published for the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History by the University of Toronto, this volume comprises an interdisciplinary socio-legal and ethnohistorical approach that historicizes doodem as a living tradition central to Anishinaabe governance, and to Anishinaabe law. Bohaker develops each of her five chapters—Doodem Tradition, Family in All Four Directions, Anishinaabe Constitutionalism, Governance in Action, and Doodem in the Era of Settler Colonialism, with great care, excellent writing, and in an authentic voice. Her insights are contextualized and supported by detailed maps and illustrations. Her background as a settler and descendant of settlers growing up on Anishinaabe land in the Great Lakes region uniquely positions Bohaker to present a comprehensive and careful treatment of her subject. She not only contributes to contemporary conversations about Indigenous-settler treaty relations, but to the untold stories in Canada's treaty history. Among the many compelling features of

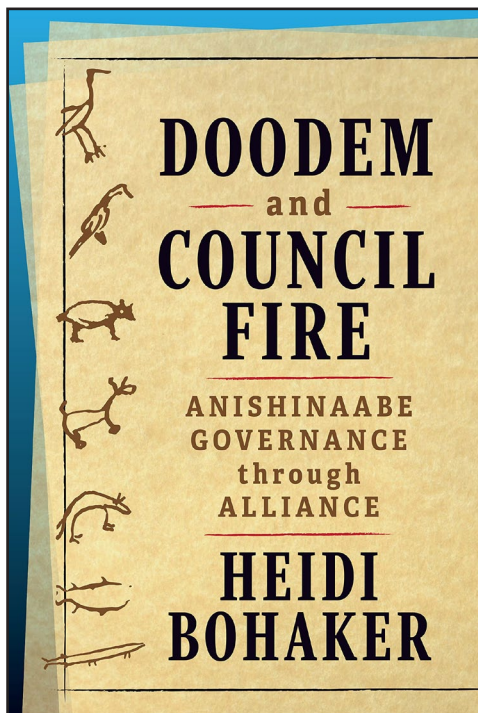
this work, Bohaker stresses the use of Anishinaabe political categories and terms in the Anishinaabemowin language rather than reaching for analogies from other political and cultural traditions, especially since imported concepts such as band, tribe, village, and nation do not adequately describe Anishinaabe political law.

The OHS Honours and Awards Committee congratulates Heidi Bohaker.

IN ACCEPTING THE AWARD, HEIDI BOHAKER RESPONDED:

I'm deeply honoured to receive the Joseph Brant Award from the Ontario Historical Society for *Doodem and Council Fire*, especially given the long Anishinaabe-settler treaty history in what is now the Province of Ontario. I'm also grateful to be living and working on Anishinaabe traditional lands. My author proceeds from this book are going directly to the [Ojibwe Cultural Foundation \(https://ojibweculture.ca\)](https://ojibweculture.ca);

I encourage others to learn from organizations like the OCF about Ontario's rich Indigenous histories and to support their work.



Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index.php/categories> or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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