

Red Flags in Indigenous Research Checklist

From the *Yellowhead Institute Special Report, Pretendians and Publications: The Problem and Solutions to Redface Research*, this checklist serves as a guide to identifying dubious research practices – particularly false self-identification claims and organizations that do not accurately represent Indigenous communities.

Unsubstantiated Self-ID

- ❏ No clear or verifiable ties to actual Indigenous communities or vague or inconsistent community affiliation claims (e.g., "my great-grandmother was Indigenous").
 - ❏ The presentation of multiple or even conflicting narratives of Indigenous background – or changes their self-identification based on convenience, circumstance or benefit.
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Organizational Affiliation

- ❏ Affiliated with an “Indigenous” organization that claims to represent Indigenous peoples but lacks recognition by other Indigenous communities or organizations.
 - ❏ Affiliated organization with weak or limited membership criteria.
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Academic Verification Policies

- ❏ Lack of formal or rigorous process to verify the Indigenous identity of researchers or organizations.
 - ❏ Identity verification is based on self-reporting, without community or cultural confirmation.
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Research Methodologies

- ❏ Research lacks Indigenous perspectives and/or includes only those with questionable organizational affiliation.
 - ❏ Key research roles are held by non-Indigenous people, with little to no involvement from genuine Indigenous scholars or communities.
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Community Collaboration

- ❏ Individuals or organizations take credit for Indigenous-led initiatives without real involvement.
 - ❏ A focus is on personal gain or career advancement, rather than contributing to Indigenous community well-being.
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