



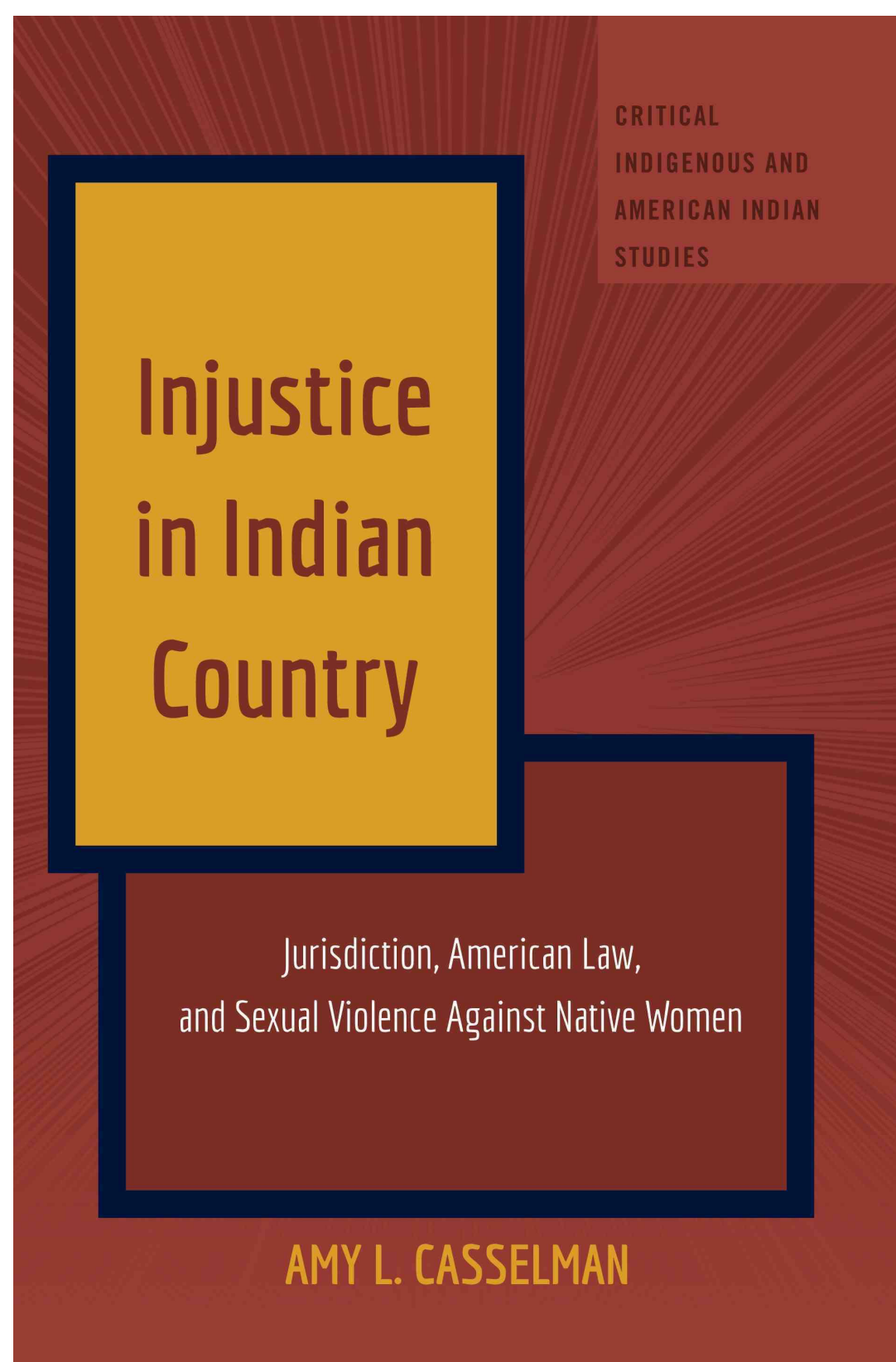
AMY L. CASSELMAN HONTALAS, M.A.

Professor | Author | Activist

Amy Casselman Hontalas is a lecturer in Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, Race & Resistance Studies, and American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University, California State University Stanislaus, and Laney College. She regularly speaks on contemporary issues of social justice as they relate to race, gender, and public policy. Amy holds a Master of Arts degree in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is currently a doctoral student in sociology at Stanford University.



AUTHOR OF INJUSTICE IN INDIAN COUNTRY



Today, due to a complicated system of criminal jurisdiction, non-Native Americans can commit crimes against American Indians with virtual impunity in much of Indian country (the legal term for American Indian reservations and land held in trust for Native people). This climate of impunity disproportionately affects Native women who are routinely targeted by non-Native men for sexual violence.

A problem over 500 years in the making, this research highlights race and gender in federal law to challenge the argument that violence against Native women in Indian country is simply collateral damage from a complex but necessary legal structure. Instead, it demonstrates that what's happening in Indian country is part of a violent colonial legacy – one that has always relied on legal and sexual violence to disempower Native communities as a whole.



AMY L. CASSELMAN HONTALAS, M.A.

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Amy Casselman Hontalas is an expert in American law and policy, particularly as it relates to gender, race and settler-colonialism.

As a public intellectual, Amy regularly contributes to academic and popular institutions. She has been invited to speak at many tier one and ivy league universities including Stanford, Columbia, the University of Oregon, and the University of Wisconsin. Amy has also been featured in several articles in Vice Magazine, served as a content consultant for film and television, and is regularly interviewed by local, national and international media networks.

PAST SPEAKING EVENTS





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SPEAKING TOPICS INCLUDE

1 VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN

She is the author of *Injustice in Indian Country: Jurisdiction, American Law, and Sexual Violence Against Native Women*, a book that highlights criminal jurisdiction as a cause of epidemic levels of violence against Native women. Demonstrating how this issue is rooted in a history of colonization, Amy gives her audience information that gives them the power to address injustice in the world.

2 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

Amy is an expert on American government, with a special focus on the U.S. Supreme Court. She regularly speaks on the significance of landmark cases including *Marbury v. Madison*, *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, *Korematsu v. the United States*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *U.S. v. Thind*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*, *Oliphant v. Suquamish*, and *Cobell v. Salazar*. Her discussions impart a sense of context and perspective to her audience as they learn how this important institution both extends and denies personal freedom.

3 PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Amy examines issues of social justice in the context of historic and contemporary federal law and policy. She is an expert on the Violence Against Women Act, the Immigration and Naturalization Act, the PRWORA (welfare reform), the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”), and other laws governing race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration and the environment. Her speeches and interviews compel the audience to understand their lives as shaped by people and institutions in power, ultimately giving them the tools to become active agents in their own lives.

CONNECT WITH AMY CASSELMAN HONTALAS

