



## Pacific Northwest Chapter

Please join the Association for Women Geoscientists' Pacific Northwest Chapter for our winter Zoom meeting featuring **Nicole Moore** (Pomona College) presenting:

### ***Geomythology: Geologic Observations Recorded in Traditional Indigenous Narratives***

**Date:** Saturday, January 9

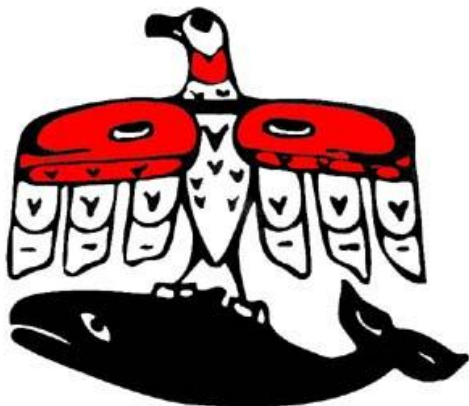
**Sign in / Social:** 1:15 pm

**Presentation:** 2:00 pm

We'll have 45 minutes for people to get signed in and socialize a bit. The presentation will start at **2:00 pm**, and Q&A will end around 3:30. The presentation will last about an hour.

You **MUST** register for this meeting [HERE](#). Within a few days, you should receive an email from Zoom with a link to enter the meeting. **Please register by NOON PST on January 9.**

**Abstract:** Geomythology, a term first coined by Dorothy B. Vitaliano in 1968, is the study of traditional Indigenous narratives that record observations of geologic events or processes, in order to better understand these processes locally and discover unknown historical geohazard events. There are many examples to draw upon. The Quileute and Hoh people of the Pacific Northwest, for instance, describe a tumultuous fight between Thunderbird and Whale during which the ocean rose up and covered the whole land. This tribal mythology is informing our geological understanding about events surrounding the great Cascadia subduction zone earthquake of 1700. Similarly, native Hawaiians describe Tūtū Pele setting the forest on fire while enraged at her sister Hi'iaka for stealing her lover, Lohi'au. This story enhances our understanding of a voluminous and long-lived effusive volcanic eruption on Hawaii from the 1500s. How do narratives such as these improve our interpretation of large scale geohazard events that were not witnessed by the geoscientists currently seeking to understand and explain those events? What range of geologic processes is recounted by these stories? What details can we glean about such geologic events, from the micro to the macro scale? We have much to learn from traditional indigenous narratives, not just sociologically and historically but scientifically as well.



The Makah tribal emblem –  
Thunderbird and Whale

**Biography:** Nicole (Nikki) Moore is an igneous petrologist and geochemist. She earned her B.S. in Environmental Geology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and her graduate degrees in Geology at Western Washington University (M.S.) and Oregon State University (Ph.D.). Nikki's research is focused on the mafic eruptive products of volcanism. She is interested in how the petrology and geochemistry of mantle generated basaltic magmas can provide insight into mantle sources, and the extent to which various crustal processes affect the magmas during ascent to Earth's surface. She has studied such basaltic products in a variety of tectonic settings, including continental flood basalts and volcanic arcs. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pomona College in Claremont, CA, where she taught a freshman seminar course focused on Geomythology during the fall 2020 semester. Nikki was a member of the PNW Chapter of AWG and is now a member of the LA/OC Chapter.