

Sarah Augustine is the Executive Director of a Dispute Resolution Center in Central Washington. She is also the co-founder of the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition (2014) and the Suriname Indigenous Health Fund (2004).

Sarah received a BA in Sociology and Psychology (1996) and an MA in Whole Systems Design with an emphasis in group conflict transformation (2006). She has represented the interests of Indigenous community partners to their own governments, the Inter-American development bank, the United Nations, the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the World Health Organization, and a host of other international actors including corporate interests. In 2012 she co-drafted the World Council of Churches (WCC) *Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery and its Enduring Impact on Indigenous Peoples*. She co-wrote the WCC 2013 Assembly *Minute on Indigenous Peoples*, and worked with an international coalition of Indigenous faith leaders to create the WCC's Indigenous Peoples Program. She employs shuttle diplomacy and community-based participatory action to de-escalate conflict and establish common ground between communities and external interests. In addition to her work with SIHF, Sarah has worked as an organizational consultant in strategic planning, facilitation, and mediation. Sarah, a senior mediator, has been mediating for nineteen years.

Sarah served as the Chair of the Washington State Redistricting Commission in 2021-22, shepherding the largest group outreach effort in Washington history and establishing a Tribal Consultation Policy. She was appointed by the Washington State Supreme Court to the Office of Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee in 2018, where she served for five years, in the role of chair from 2021-2022. At the invitation of the Supreme Court, she convened a working group to review the Appellate rules for indigent residents in 2022.

Sarah has written for Sojourners, Anabaptist Witness, Geez Magazine, The Mennonite, Response Magazine, Leader Magazine, and is a regular columnist for Anabaptist World. With coalition co-founder Sheri Hostettler, she co-hosts the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Podcast. Sarah is the author of *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* (Herald Press, 2021) and co-author of *So We & Our Children Might Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis* (Herald Press 2023).

Sarah Lives with her husband, Dan Peplow, and their child in Central Washington.

Selected Essays

2021. Augustine, S. Augustine, S. *The Doctrine of Discovery and the Anabaptist Coalition to Dismantle It*. Chapter in: Resistance: Addressing Violence in a Peace Church.

2021. Augustine, S. *Taking the Long View: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. Leader Magazine: Fall 2021.

2021. Augustine, S. A road paved by the Doctrine of Discovery. Geez magazine: (issue 62) Fall 2021.
2021. Augustine, S. *For genocide, lament is not enough*. Anabaptist World: August 1, 2021.
2021. Augustine, S. *I am Indigenous and also a settler*. Anabaptist World: June 28, 2021.
2021. Augustine, S. *Separated from my father's people*. Anabaptist World: May 4 2021.
2021. Augustine, S. *Mayans struggle to survive*. Anabaptist World: April 6 2021.
2021. Augustine, S. *The dispossessed still live among us*. Anabaptist World: Feb 16 2021.
2019. Augustine, S. Book Review: **Walter Sawatsky's "Going Global with God as Mennonites for the 21st Century."** Anabaptist Witness: May 2019.
2019. Augustine, S. **Right Relationship Means Giving up Power**. The Mennonite Magazine: April 2019.
2018. Augustine, S. **The Next Step in Assimilation**. The Mennonite Blog: November 2018.
2017. **Spiritual Resilience for Hard Times**. Mennonite Church USA, June 2017.
2017. **Inauguration Day reflections**. Mennonite Church USA, January 20, 2017.
2017. **On Urgency**. Opinions post, Mennonite Church USA November 10, 2017.
2016. **Laughing Warrior Girl**. Chapter in *All You Need is Love: Honoring the Diversity of Women's Voices in Theology*.
2016. **I am a Canaanite Woman**. Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery: Bible Reflections.
2016. **The Ongoing Harm of the Doctrine of Discovery**. Response Magazine: October 2016.
2015. **Time to End the Papal Bull: After 500 years, the Church should rescind the Doctrine of Discovery**. Sojourners Magazine: September/October 2015.
2015. Five-part series exploring my introduction to Indigenous Peoples in South America, my life on the Yakama reservation, my family history as an Indigenous woman, the legal structures that allow exploitation of Indigenous lands, and the call to ordinary people to get involved, even though we often do not feel qualified.
- <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/doctrine-of-discovery-series-in-spite-of-all-this/>
- <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/doctrine-of-discovery-series-agents-of-change/>
- <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/doctrine-of-discovery-series-a-story-from-my-family/>
- <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/doctrine-of-discovery-series-walking-culture/>
- <http://mennoniteusa.org/featured-blogs/doctrine-of-discovery-series-my-commissioning/>

2013. ***Current and Historical Harms fueled by the Doctrine of Discovery***. Breathing Forgiveness Blog. March 29, 2013.

Selected Presentations:

December 2, 2021. On The Way Podcast, Brisbane, Australia. [On the Way Podcast - The Land is not Empty \(google.com\)](#)

November 12, 2021. Interview with Regent College Podcast, Regent College, BC. [Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery- With Sarah Augustine – Regent College Podcast – Podcast – Podtail](#)

November 17, 2021. Red Letter Christians Faith Forum: Creation Care and Colonization. [Red Letter Christians - RLC Nov Faith Forum on Creation Care & Colonization | Facebook](#)

October 11, 2021. Conquering Columbus: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

October 11, 2021. Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Easter Mennonite University, Convocation speech.

January 2019. Christian Disciples of Christ Winter Talk, Toppenish, WA. Two Keynote lectures: ***The impact of the Doctrine of Discovery now: what is the role of the church in mass incarceration, maternal and child health, and in family separation?***

February 2019. League of Women Voters public conversation, Yakima, WA. ***Defending the Indian Child Welfare Act: family separation and Indigenous Peoples in the United States.***

May 18, 2018. National Convention for United Methodist Women, Columbus, OH.
Panel Presentation: ***A Town Hall Conversation with Leading Voices Working for Climate Justice.***

2017. Mennonite Church USA Convention, Orlando, FL.
Seminar: ***Spiritual Resilience in Hard Times.***

2017. AMBS Rooted and Grounded Conference, Elkhart, IN.
Keynote lecture: ***Peoples of the Land Rise Up: The Struggle for the Land is the Struggle for Life.***

2017. Christian Disciples of Christ Winter Talk, Fort Worth, TX.
3 Keynote lectures: ***Working for global justice: dismantling the doctrine of discovery in the church.***

2016. United Methodist Women Program Advisory Group Board Meeting, Nashville, TN.
Keynote address: ***Elimination of institutional racism: An Indigenous perspective.***

2015. Mennonite Church USA Convention, Kansas City, MO.
Workshop: ***On the way to radical creation discipleship: resource extraction, Indigenous lands, and the sacred integrity of created life.***

2015. Washington State Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference and Retreat, Chelan, WA.
Keynote Address: ***A global response to the doctrine of discovery.***

2014. "Just sustainability: hope for the commons" conference. Seattle University, Seattle, WA.
Plenary Presentation: ***The struggle for Indigenous Peoples is the struggle for the earth.***

2014. Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington, DC.
Presentation of Petition on behalf of the Wayana people of Suriname, South America.

2014. New Community Clergy and Lay Conference, Hendersonville, NC.
Plenary Presentation: ***People of Faith: Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.***

2014. Honoring the Diversity of Women's Voices in Theology Conference, Leesburg, VA.
Paper presentation: ***Laughing Warrior Girl: Indigenous Spirituality and Mennonite Tradition.***

2013. World Council of Churches General Assembly, Busan, South Korea.
Workshop: ***Walking with Indigenous Peoples to End Global Apartheid.***

2013. United Methodist Delegation to the United Nations Training, New York, NY.
Workshop: ***Developing a Common Platform with Indigenous Peoples to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.***

2013. World Council of Churches Indigenous Issues Expert Consultation, New York, NY. Presentation: ***Extractive Industry, Land Grabbing, and the Doctrine of Discovery.*** Served as an expert consultant at the special sessions held during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

2013. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York, NY.
Panel presentation: ***Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery: A call to the Ecumenical Community.*** Panel was part of a public event entitled, "The Doctrine of Discovery: Grounds for Repudiation."

2013. United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, NY. Panel presentation: ***Economic Policy and Extraction: Impacts on Indigenous Peoples.*** Panel was entitled, "EXTRACTIVES: Violence against Women, Communities and the Earth."

2013. Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.
Invited lecture: ***The Doctrine of Discovery: a Legal Framework for Genocide Past and Present.*** This lecture was sponsored by the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding.

2013. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
Invited lecture: ***The Doctrine of Discovery, the Christian Church, and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*** This lecture was sponsored by the Department of Theology.

Internet videos:

Negotiating for peace by negotiating for just international policy (Methodist Women) 2 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyuLn9q4Vi8>

The struggle for the Earth is the struggle for Indigenous Peoples (Seattle University: Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability) 15 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiAXKrUsgnY>

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: Petition on behalf of the Wayana People of Suriname (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 150th Session) 1 hour

https://youtu.be/7_PHAsoK0xQ

<http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/multimedia/sesiones/150/default.asp>

Enduring Effects of the Doctrine of Discovery (New Generations: Methodist Women) 40 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lWzMC8By8g&t=392s>

The Doctrine of Discovery: In the Name of Christ (Trailer) 3 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1VrzoaLahs>

The Doctrine of Discovery: In the Name of Christ (full length) 43 min

<https://dofdmennon.org/movie/>

2015 Visit to French Guyana: Suriname Indigenous Health Fund

<https://youtu.be/RIWHdLNBdcY>

Cost of Gold: Dan Rather Reports (trailer) 2 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVT4loVk4tk>

Cost of Gold: Dan Rather Reports (full report) 18 min

<https://www.facebook.com/SIHFund/videos/530242710334526/>

Academic Publications

Peplow, D. and S. Augustine. (2020) The Submissive relationship of public health to Government, Politics, and Economics: How Global Health Diplomacy and Engaged Followership Compromise Humanitarian Relief. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(4), 1420.

Peplow, D., & S. Augustine. (2017). Intervention mapping to address social and economic factors impacting indigenous people's health in Suriname's interior region. *Globalization and Health*, 13 (1) 11.

Peplow, D. and S. Augustine. (2015). Public health programs as surrogates for social action in Suriname, South America. *Public Understanding of Science*, 24(1), 53-68.

Peplow, D. and S. Augustine. (2014). Neurological abnormalities in a mercury exposed population among Indigenous Wayana in Southeast Suriname. *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts*, 16 (10), 2415-2422.

Jacob, M., Augustine, S., Hodge, C., & James, M. (2014). Indigenous Methodology in Practice: Starting a Community-Based Research Center on the Yakama Reservation. *Societies Without Borders*, 9(2), 143-160.

Peplow, D. and S. Augustine. (2012). Community-led assessment of risk from exposure to mercury by native Amerindian Wayana in southeast Suriname. *Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, vol. 2012, Article ID 674596, 10 pages.

Peplow, D. and S. Augustine. (2009). Gaseous Elemental Mercury (GEM) in the Atmosphere Close to Gold Shops in Paramaribo, Suriname. *Health, Safety and Environment Quarterly*, 4:23-27.

Peplow, D. and S. Augustine. (2007). Community-directed risk assessment of mercury exposure from gold mining in Suriname. *Pan American Journal of Public Health*, 22(3): 202-210.