

Indiana University
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“Strategic Ignorance and Three Objections Involving Indigenous Epistemology”

Philosophers, like Charles Mills and Alison Bailey, propose challenges to white ignorance, and their solutions are intended for Indigenous populations as well as other racialized groups. Being Indigenous, however, is not simply a matter of race and their accounts of white ignorance assume a western worldview. I suggest that solutions, like Bailey’s strategic ignorance, neglect Indigenous values, making it untenable as a form of large-scale resistance. Current forms of Indigenous resistance to colonialism, such as that by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg), are consistent with Indigenous values and non-Indigenous allies seeking to engage with settler ignorance would benefit from attending to them.