

Chevonne Todicheeney, David R. Wilson,

Navajo Relocation: A Human and Legislative Narrative.

The relocation of some 10,000 Navajos in the late twentieth century represents an extraordinary series of policy failures, accusations and counter-accusations, and most of all a human tragedy. This kind of relocation is associated with places like India and Pakistan, Palestine, and the Balkans. Yet it happened in modern America.

The presentation will be given in two parts. First the historical background of relocation will be discussed, followed by comments on the human cost of relocation. Secondly, we will assess the discourse of relocation as it was reflected in the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, focusing especially on how outside academics, especially anthropologists, chose sides, and what this means for scholarly research on indigenous communities.

The presenters ask for a session of 40 minutes, allowing 20 minutes for each part.