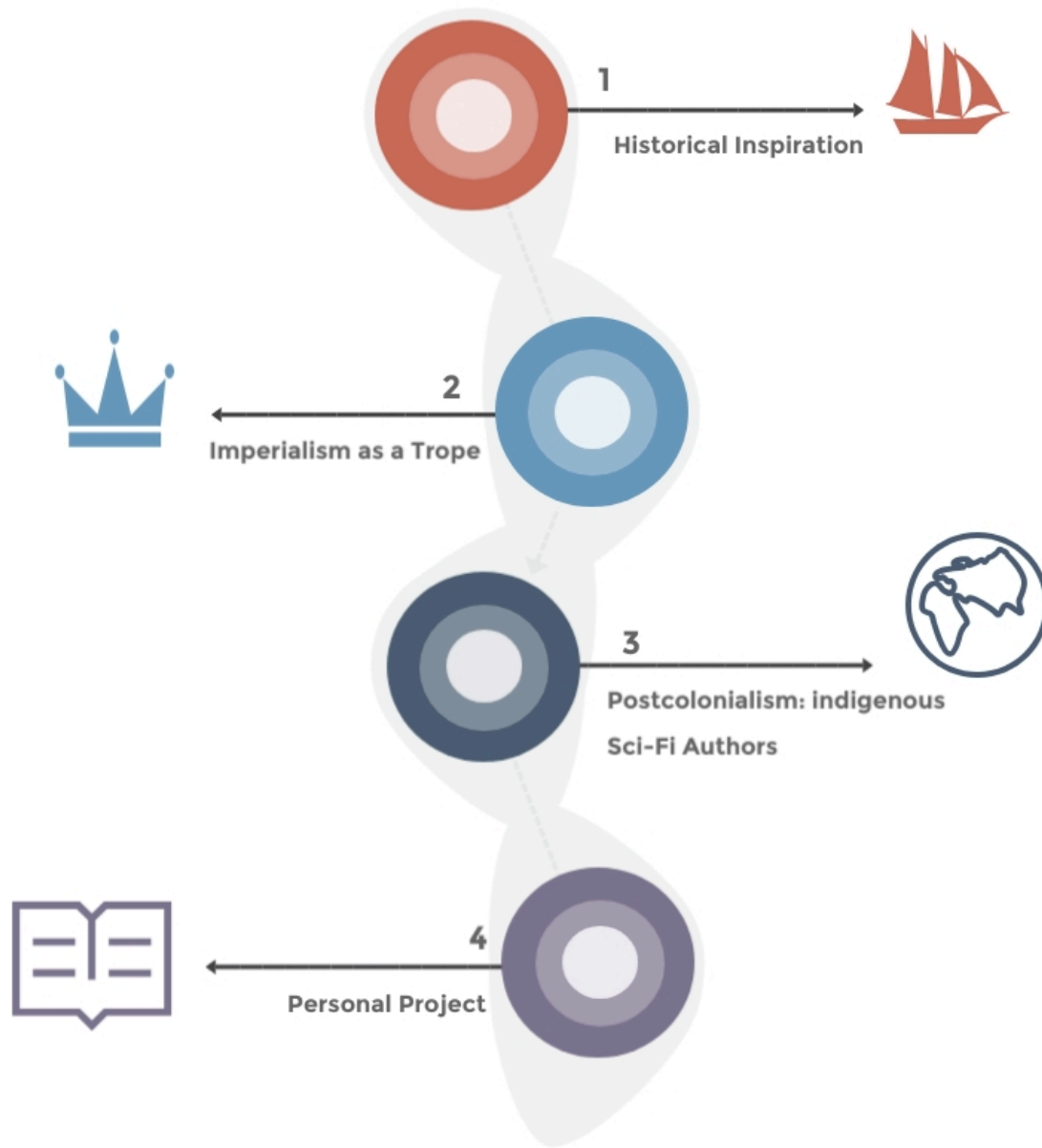




If You're an Alien, and I'm an Alien, then Who's Driving the Spaceship?

An Exploration of the Treatment of Indigenous Peoples in
Science Fiction
By Hannah Roberts



Historical Inspiration

- 🌐 **World Lit class with Dr. Cheryl Duffus**
- 🌐 **Accounts of Columbus, Cabeza de Vaca, and Díaz (about service under Cortés)**
 - 🌐 **Ideological and colonial imperialism**
 - 🌐 **Privileging of “civilization”**
 - 🌐 **Entitlement**



Imperialism as a Trope

As Embodied by *Alien* Franchise

[Most evidently in *Aliens* (1986) and *Alien: Covenant* (2017)]

Aliens (1986)

- 🌐 Colony, Hadley's Hope, on LV-426
- 🌐 Weyland-Yutani company representative, Burke-> wanted to sell aliens as biological weapons
- 🌐 Ripley's goal is to exterminate aliens->burns eggs and queen's ovipositor



Alien: Covenant (2017)

- 🌐 Colonization ship, *Covenant*, headed for Origae-6
 - 🌐 Find a planet even more perfect for human life
 - 🌐 2,000 colonists and 1,140 human embryos
- 🌐 Android, David, experimented and killed off native life in an attempt to play God



Anthropocentrism

- 🌐 Internal rhetoric of series: who can colonize who first
 - 🌐 Appropriation of materials
- 🌐 Western Culture's fear of being colonized back
- 🌐 Prioritization of humanity's interests above all



Indigenous Sci-Fi Authors

- 🌐 Reversal of colonialism
- 🌐 *Flight*- Sherman Alexie
- 🌐 *Killer of Enemies*- Joseph Bruchac
- 🌐 ***Midnight Robber*- Nalo Hopkinson** (written in Patois-> Carribean dialect)
- 🌐 *Walking the Clouds: An Anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction*

