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*