**Transcript of Thrivival: The Fire Within  
3. Research History  
Project Lead and Speaker: Heather Simpson**

HEATHER SIMPSON:

Research history.

The questions that were raised and the reflections that were motivated through conversations with Elder Lillian led to my taking up a formal literature review to investigate and better understand and explain the sociological phenomenon impacting people identified as both Indigenous and Autistic, and identify key factors that would support the strengthening of Indigenous Autistic cultural identities. This review resulted in a journal article titled "Forming Strong Cultural Identities in an Intersecting Space of Indigeneity and Autism in Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand" published in September 2021 in AlterNative: An InterNational Journal of Indigenous Peoples. This research paper informed the creation of this project to test literature findings, in particular, how Indigenous knowledges in education and arts programming can address prevalent patterns of social injustice, exclusion, and cultural genocide while in the face of this common experience, promote positive identity formation, pride and resilience for Indigenous Autistics, exploring substantiated theory and practice within the context of public post-secondary education.