



NAME: Dr. Sandy Harjo Livingston

ISLAND: Oahu

BIO: Dr. Sandy Harjo Livingston loves to learn and collaborate and has spent their life traveling the world, earning degrees, teaching, writing and making films.

Sandy grew up playing music, becoming an award-winning clarinetist and tenor saxophonist. They are a polymath and became an academic scholar early in life. Sandy has spent life diligently working to overcome a childhood traumatic brain injury, PTSD, Attention Deficit Disorder and Dyslexia.

Sandy's undergraduate degrees are in Philosophy and Literary Theory. They also earned master's degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy and Theology.

Dr. Harjo Livingston holds a Ph.D. in Political Studies and International Relations from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, U.K. While a professor, they researched the intersectionality of religion and politics. With their interdisciplinary background (political science, psychology, philosophy, theology and history), they developed a theoretical model to understand the deeply symbiotic relationship between religious and political institutions and leadership.

Dr. Harjo Livingston taught a wide array of courses, from International Political Economy, International Relations and Postcolonialism to Political Theory/Communications, Public Policy and Gender Studies. Most of their academic career was spent in Scotland and Italy with a brief tenure at a university in the U.S.

After retiring from academia in 2015, Sandy and their spouse moved to Hawai'i. They became involved with 'Ōlelo Community Media and became an award-winning filmmaker. They co-founded the production company Sa'Ke Film Group to work with local filmmakers, writers and actors to get their stories made and distributed.

Dr. Harjo Livingston later joined 'Ōlelo's Board of Directors, is a member of the Hawai'i State Commission for LGBTQ+ Affairs and sits on the advisory board for the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation.

Sandy is an enrolled member of the Tsalagiya Nvdagi tribe and is a 2-spirit, which is known as māhū in Hawai'i.