Cherry Meyer

Departments of Linguistics and American Culture | Native American Studies Program
University of Michigan
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor 2022 - present

Departments of Linguistics and American Culture,
Native American Studies Program
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Postdoctoral Fellow 2020 - 2022

LSA Collegiate Fellowship
Department of American Culture, Native American Studies Program
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Education

Graduate

Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Chicago 2012 - 2020
Chicago, Illinois, USA
Dissertation: *Noun Categorization in Ojibwe: Gender and Classifiers*
Committee: Amy Dahlstrom (Chair), Salikoko Mufwene and Itamar Francez

Undergraduate

B.A. in Linguistics and Spanish from Wayne State University 2007 - 2012
Detroit, Michigan, USA

Research Interests

Ojibwe (Algonquian), morphology, semantics, noun categorization, gender, classifiers, language documentation and revitalization, word order, sociolinguistics

Publications

Refereed

Meyer, C., Cooper, L., Shindo, T., Ruffing, I., Aquilina, S. (Under Review). Bridging the knowledge gap: All students should learn about local Native tribes. *Papers of the Fifty-Sixth Algonquian Conference.* Edited by Ingee Genee, Monica Macaulay and Natalie Weber. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Meyer, C. and Whitney, A. (2026). Semantic Effects of Two VII Finals and a New Diagnostic for Medials as Verbal Classifiers in Ojibwe. *Papers of the Fifty-Fifth Algonquian Conference*, 87-108. Edited by Ingee Genee, Monica Macaulay and Natalie Weber. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Whitney, A., Johnson, G., and Meyer, C. (2023). A Survey of Medials in Ojibwe: Classifiers versus Incorporation. *Papers of the Fifty-Second Algonquian Conference*, 361-378. Edited by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Meyer, C. (2022). 'Exceptional' Animates in Ojibwe: The Link Between Gender and Classifiers. *Papers of the Fifty-First Algonquian Conference*, 137-155. Edited by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Meyer, C. (2020). Numeral Classifiers in Ojibwe. *Papers of the Forty-Ninth Algonquian Conference*, 115-131. Edited by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Meyer, C. (2019). The Status of Classifying Morphemes in Ojibwe. *Papers of the Forty-Eighth Algonquian Conference*, 159-172. Edited by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Meyer, C. (2018). Noun Categorization in Ojibwe: Animacy is Gender and Gender is Separate from the Count/Mass Distinction. *Papers of the Forty-Seventh Algonquian Conference*, 199-216. Edited by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Meyer, C. (2017). Discontinuous Constituents in Ojibwe: Accounting for Two Preverbal Words. *Papers of the Forty-Sixth Algonquian Conference*, 183-195. Edited by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin. Michigan State University Press. East Lansing, Michigan.

Invited Book Chapters

Meyer, C. (2026). Classifiers in Ojibwe. *Handbook of North American Indigenous Languages and Linguistics.* Edited by Justin T. McBride. Springer Handbooks in Languages and Linguistics. Springer Nature Singapore.

Honors and Awards

Research & Community Impact Faculty Fellowship — Fall 2026
State-level Laws Mandating the Inclusion of Local Native Histories and Cultures in K-12 Education ($12,000)
Phillip J. Bowman Center for Scholarship to Practice

Anti-Racist Digital Research Institute — Spring 2026
State-level Laws Mandating the Inclusion of Local Native Histories and Cultures in K-12 Education ($5,000)
With undergraduate research assistants Lior Cooper, Teddy Shindo, Iris Ruffing, and Shelby Alquilina
University of Michigan Library, LSA Technology Services, and the Phillip J. Bowman Center for Scholarship to Practice

Inclusive History Project Grant — Summer 2025
(PI) *Enaajimang 'What the Story Is': Honoring the Nishnaabe Legacy through Art and Dialogue* ($7,634)
In collaboration with the Inclusive History Project Committee and '1817 Project: Land, Culture, Memory, and Repair'
Collaboration with Alphonse Pitawanakwat, Kayla Gonyon, Kaya Beaudoin, Sage Chupco, Jonathan Quint

Social Science Funding — Spring 2024
(PI) *Revitalization and Reclamation: Supporting the Ojibwe Language at the University of Michigan* ($30,000)
College of Literature, Science and the Arts, University of Michigan

Proposal Development Funding Grant — Spring 2024
(PI) *From Revitalization to Reclamation: Reinforcing Nishnaabeg Language Pedagogy and Indigenous Epistemologies at the University and Beyond* ($50,000)
Humanities Collaboratory, University of Michigan

5x5 Incubator Grant — Winter 2024
(PI) *From revitalization to decolonization: Nishnaabeg language pedagogy and Indigenous epistemologies* ($2,000)
Humanities Collaboratory, University of Michigan

LSA Collegiate Fellowship in American Culture — 2020-2022
Department of American Culture, University of Michigan

Provost's Dissertation Completion Fellowship — 2019 - 2020
Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago

American Philosophical Society — 2018
Phillips Fund for Native American Research Grant Recipient

International House Graduate Fellowship — 2017 - 2019
University of Chicago

CoLang Endangered Language Fund Fellowship — Summer 2018
University of Florida

GGI PITCH Summer Internship — Summer 2018
ChicagoGRAD, University of Chicago
Language Department at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship — 2017 - 2018
Course: Structure of Ojibwe
Humanities Collegiate Division, University of Chicago

Rella Cohn/GRAIL Fund Recipient — Summer 2017
Fieldwork on Classifiers in Ojibwe
Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago

Ronald E. McNair Scholar — 2011 - 2012
Wayne State University

Presentations

Invited Talks and Panels

Wayne State Linguistics Colloquium — March 2026
The Interaction of Gender and Classifiers in Ojibwe
Wayne State University

Detroit Institute of the Arts — Dec 2025
Film introduction for *First Speakers: Restoring the Ojibwe Language*
Related to exhibition *Contemporary Anishinaabe Art: A Continuation*

American Association for Applied Linguistics — March 2025
Panel: First Americans/Nations and Applied Linguistics:
Building better partnerships through relational accountability
Doing Language Work in a Good Way: Nishnaabe perspectives on relationality
Denver, Colorado

Biological Station Summer Lecture Series — July 2024
What the Animacy Distinction (Grammatical Gender) May or May Not Reveal about Nishnaabe Worldview
University of Michigan

Linguistic and Cultural Explorations of Indigenous America: — May 2024
A celebration of Amy Dahlstrom
Semantic Effects of Certain VII Finals on Medials in Ojibwe
University of Chicago

Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology — Nov 2023
What to Know about Native American Languages
in honor of Native American Heritage Month
University of Michigan

Linguistics Department Graduate Recruitment Colloquium — March 2023
'Exceptional' Animates in Ojibwe: The Link Between Gender and Classifiers
University of Michigan

Conference Talks

Indigenous Research Symposium — March 2026
Teaching All Students about Local Native Histories and Cultures
Co-presented with Lior Cooper, Iris Ruffing, Teddy Shindo and Shelby Aquilina
University of Michigan

Fifty-Seventh Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2025
Bridging the Knowledge Gap: All Students Should Learn About Local Native Tribes
Co-presented with Lior Cooper, Iris Ruffing and Teddy Shindo
University of Winnipeg (virtual)

Fifty-Fifth Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2023
Differing Semantics in Ojibwe Verbs with VII Finals /-aa/ vs. /-ad/
Co-presented with Anna Whitney
University of Alberta (virtual)

Fifty-Fourth Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2022
Semantic Effects of Inanimate Intransitive Verb Finals /-aa/ and /-ad/ on Medials and Verbs
Co-presented with Anna Whitney
University of Colorado Boulder (virtual)

Fifty-Second Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2020
A Survey of 'Classificatory Medials' in Ojibwe: Classifiers Versus Incorporation
Co-presented with Ann Whitney and Garrett Johnson
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Twenty-Sixth Annual Anishinaabemowin-Teg Conference — March 2020
Mimikwenimaanaanig Leonard miinawaa James
Presentation with Alphonse Pitawanakwat and Margaret Noodin
Algoma University, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada
*Conference canceled

Fifty-First Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2019
Motivating 'Exceptional' Animates: The Link Between Gender and Classifiers
McGill University, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

The Many Facets of Agreement — Oct 2019
Gender and Classifiers in Ojibwe
University of Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland

The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, held in conjunction with The Linguistic Society of America — Jan 2019
Motivating 'Exceptional' Animates in Ojibwe: The Link Between Gender and Classifiers
New York City, New York, USA

Forty-Ninth Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2017
Numeral and Verbal Classifiers in Ojibwe
University of Quebec in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Forty-Eighth Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2016
The Status of Classifying Morphemes in Ojibwe
University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Forty-Seventh Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2015
Noun Categorization in Ojibwe: Animacy is Gender and Gender is Separate from the Count/Mass Distinction
University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, held in conjunction with The Linguistic Society of America — Jan 2015
Word Order and Information Structure in Ojibwe
Portland, Oregon, USA

Forty-Sixth Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2014
Universal Quantification and Nominal Structure
Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncaseville, Connecticut, USA

Forty-Fifth Annual Algonquian Conference — Oct 2013
Basic Word Order and Information Structure in Ojibwe
University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Workshop Presentations

SynSem Workshop — April 2022
The connection between gender and classifiers in Ojibwe
Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan

Conversations on Social Justice Workshop — March 2022
Land Acknowledgements
Panel discussion with Ben Secunda, NAGPRA project manager
Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan

Native American Heritage Month Language Preservation Event — Nov 2020
How and Why We Learn Anishinaabemowin
Presentation with Margaret Noodin, Alphonse Pitawanakwat and Kayla Gonyon
Native American Student Association, University of Michigan

Language Variation and Change Workshop — Jan 2019
Gender and Classifiers in Ojibwe
University of Chicago

Morphology and Syntax Workshop — Nov 2018
Motivating 'Exceptional' Animates in Ojibwe: The Link Between Gender and Classifiers
University of Chicago

Language Variation and Change Workshop — Nov 2017
Summary of Fieldwork: Classifiers in Ojibwe
University of Chicago

Professional Service

Organizer: *Indigenous Research Symposium* — 2026 - present
University of Michigan

Workshop Organizer: *Lessons for the Ojibwe Language* — Aug 2024
with Dr. Mary Ann Corbiere
Funded by Social Science Research Funding
University of Michigan

Workshop Organizer: *Lessons from Hawai'i Language Revitalization* — Aug 2024
with Dr. William ‘Pila’ Wilson
Funded by Humanities Collaboratory Proposal Development Funding
University of Michigan

Workshop Organizer: *Ojibwe Language Pedagogy* — Aug 2024
with Professor Howard Webkamigad
Funded by Humanities Collaboratory Proposal Development Funding
University of Michigan

Conference Organizer: *Native and Non-Native Indigenous Languages in Chicago* — Oct 2019
In honor of the United Nations declaration of 2019 as the
‘International Year of Indigenous Languages’
University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois

Panel Organizer: *The Role of Linguistics in Language Revitalization* — Oct 2016
Forty-Eighth Annual Algonquian Conference
University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Conference Organizer: *50th Annual Chicago Linguistics Society* — April 2014
University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois

Conference Volunteer: *Forty-Fourth Annual Algonquian Conference* — Oct 2012
University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois

Edited Volumes

Proceedings of the 50th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society — 2016
Co-edited with Ross Burkholder, Carlos Cisneros, Emily R. Coppess,
Julian Grove, Emily A. Hanink, Hilary McMahan, Natalia Pavlou,
Özge Sarıgül, Adam Roth Singerman, and Anqi Zhang

Research Experience

Fieldwork on Gender and Classifiers in Ojibwe — 2017 - 2018
Conducted with The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Advisor: Susan Askwith

Speakers: Leonard and Elizabeth Kimewon
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program 2010 - 2012
Advisor: Dr. Lara L. Jones
Wayne State University

Research Assistant to Dr. Lara L. Jones 2009 - 2012
Concepts and Cognition Lab
Departments of Psychology and Linguistics
Wayne State University

Teaching Experience

Instructor - courses taught at the University of Michigan

Stereotypes and Native American Languages
Language and Animal Communication
Reflecting on Our Identities in Language Research, graduate course co-taught with Savithry Namboodiripad
Language and (Native) Gender
Intermediate Ojibwe II, co-taught with Alphonse Pitawanakwat and Kayla Gonyon
Epic Grammar Fails

Instructor - courses taught at the University of Chicago

Grammatical Gender
Language and the Human
Linguistic Morphology
Introduction to Linguistics
Structure of Ojibwe

Mentor Experience

Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS), University of Michigan June 2025
Supervised project*: Indigenous Language and Access to Cultural Healing Knowledge* by Morgan Casey

Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS), University of Michigan Supervised project*: Codas and Consonant Changes in Lio Loanwords from Indonesian* by Erica Solis	June 2023
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), University of Michigan *State-level Legislation Mandating K-12 Education of Local Native Histories, Cultures, and Languages in the United States*	2022-2023
Sapir Scholars Program Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago *Classifiers in Ojibwe Text Mining Project*	2019 - 2020
Planning Resources and Involvement for Students in the Majors (PRISM) Preceptor in Linguistics Office of Career Advancement, University of Chicago	2017 - 2019
Jeff Metcalf Internship Program Office of Career Advancement, University of Chicago *Gender in Ojibwe Dictionary Mining Project*	Summer 2018
Sapir Scholars Program Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago *Gender in Ojibwe Dictionary Mining Project*	Fall 2017

Organization Memberships

Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas	2018 - 2020 2014 - 2015
Chicago Linguistics Society	Fall 2014
Ronald E. McNair Scholars	2011 - present

Service at the University of Michigan

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of American Culture	2025-2026
Committee on Inclusive Practices (COIP), Department of Linguistics	2025-2026
Bylaws Committee, Department of American Culture	Fall 2025
Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Linguistics	2023-2024
Salary Committee, Department of American Culture	2022-2025
Executive Committee, Department of Linguistics	2022-2023

Languages

English - Fluent
Ojibwe - Primary Research
Spanish - Conversational
French - Beginner