

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, information structure

Publications

Refereed

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. (In press). 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

Inclusive History Project (IHP) Grant (PI) <i>Enaajimang 'What the Story Is': Honoring the Nishnaabe Legacy through Art and Dialogue</i> (\$7,634) In collaboration with the IHP '1817 Project: Land, Culture, Memory, and Repair,' Alphonse Pitawanakwat, Kayla Gonyon, Kaya Beaudoin, Sage Chupco, and Jonathan Quint	Summer 2025
Social Science Funding (PI) <i>Revitalization and Reclamation: Supporting the Ojibwe Language at the University of Michigan</i> (\$30,000) College of Literature, Science and the Arts, University of Michigan	Spring 2024
Proposal Development Funding Grant (PI) <i>From Revitalization to Reclamation: Reinforcing Nishnaabeg Language Pedagogy and Indigenous Epistemologies at the University and Beyond</i> (\$50,000) Humanities Collaboratory, University of Michigan	Spring 2024
5x5 Incubator Grant (PI) <i>From revitalization to decolonization: Nishnaabeg language pedagogy and Indigenous epistemologies</i> (\$2,000) Humanities Collaboratory, University of Michigan	Winter 2024
LSA Collegiate Fellowship in American Culture Department of American Culture, University of Michigan	2020-2022
Provost's Dissertation Completion Fellowship Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago	2019 - 2020
American Philosophical Society Phillips Fund for Native American Research Grant Recipient	2018
International House Graduate Fellowship University of Chicago	2017 - 2019
CoLang Endangered Language Fund Fellowship University of Florida	Summer 2018

GGI PITCH Summer Internship ChicagoGRAD, University of Chicago Language Department at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Summer 2018
Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship Course: Structure of Ojibwe Humanities Collegiate Division, University of Chicago	2017 - 2018
Rella Cohn/GRAIL Fund Recipient Fieldwork on Classifiers in Ojibwe Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago	Summer 2017
Ronald E. McNair Scholar Wayne State University	2011 - 2012

Presentations

Invited Talks and Panels

Detroit Institute of the Arts Film introduction for <i>First Speakers: Restoring the Ojibwe Language</i> Related to exhibition <i>Contemporary Anishinaabe Art: A Continuation</i>	Dec 2025
American Association for Applied Linguistics Panel: First Americans/Nations and Applied Linguistics: Building better partnerships through relational accountability <i>Doing Language Work in a Good Way: Nishnaabe perspectives on relationality</i> Denver, Colorado	March 2025
Biological Station Summer Lecture Series <i>What the Animacy Distinction (Grammatical Gender) May or May Not Reveal about Nishnaabe Worldview</i> University of Michigan	July 2024
Linguistic and Cultural Explorations of Indigenous America: A celebration of Amy Dahlstrom <i>Semantic Effects of Certain VII Finals on Medials in Ojibwe</i> University of Chicago	May 2024

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

Nov 2023

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

March 2023

Conference Talks

Fifty-Seventh Annual Algonquian Conference
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)

Oct 2025

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

Oct 2023

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

Oct 2022

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

Oct 2020

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

March 2020

- 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 Uncasville, 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 <i>The connection between gender and classifiers in Ojibwe</i> Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan	April 2022
Conversations on Social Justice Workshop <i>Land Acknowledgements</i> Panel discussion with Ben Secunda, NAGPRA project manager Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan	March 2022
Native American Heritage Month Language Preservation Event <i>How and Why We Learn Anishinaabemowin</i> Presentation with Margaret Noodin, Alphonse Pitawanakwat and Kayla Gonyon Native American Student Association, University of Michigan	Nov 2020
Language Variation and Change Workshop <i>Gender and Classifiers in Ojibwe</i> University of Chicago	Jan 2019
Morphology and Syntax Workshop <i>Motivating 'Exceptional' Animates in Ojibwe: The Link Between Gender and Classifiers</i> University of Chicago	Nov 2018
Language Variation and Change Workshop <i>Summary of Fieldwork: Classifiers in Ojibwe</i> University of Chicago	Nov 2017

Professional Service

Organizer: <i>University of Michigan Indigenous Research Symposium</i> University of Michigan	March 2026
Workshop Organizer: <i>Lessons for the Ojibwe Language</i> with Dr. Mary Ann Corbiere Funded by Social Science Research Funding University of Michigan	Aug 2024

- 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* Oct 2019
in Chicago
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

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- 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 Conducted with The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Advisor: Susan Askwith Speakers: Leonard and Elizabeth Kimewon Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan	2017 - 2018
Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program Advisor: Dr. Lara L. Jones Wayne State University	2010 - 2012
Research Assistant to Dr. Lara L. Jones Concepts and Cognition Lab Departments of Psychology and Linguistics Wayne State University	2009 - 2012

Teaching Experience

Instructor - courses taught at the University of Michigan

Language and Animal Communication
Stereotypes and Native American Languages
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 Supervised project: <i>Indigenous Language and Access to Cultural Healing Knowledge</i> by Morgan Casey	June 2025
Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS), University of Michigan Supervised project: <i>Codas and Consonant Changes in Lio Loanwords from Indonesian</i> by Erica Solis	June 2023
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), University of Michigan <i>State-level Legislation Mandating K-12 Education of Local Native Histories, Cultures, and Languages in the United States</i>	2022-2023
Sapir Scholars Program Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago <i>Classifiers in Ojibwe Text Mining Project</i>	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 <i>Gender in Ojibwe Dictionary Mining Project</i>	Summer 2018
Sapir Scholars Program Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago <i>Gender in Ojibwe Dictionary Mining Project</i>	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