

Abaki Rebecca Faith Beck, MPH

gender pronouns: she/her/hers

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EDUCATION

School of Public Health, University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN

Second Year PhD Student, Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration

Washington University in St Louis, George Warren Brown School Saint Louis, MO

Master of Public Health May 2020

Capstone: *Washington University in St Louis Prison Education Project 2019-2020 Program Evaluation*

Macalester College Saint Paul, MN

Bachelor of Arts, American Studies May 2015

Honors Thesis: *Decolonizing Healing, Decolonizing Mental Health: The Impacts of Settler-Colonialism on Blackfeet Youth Suicide*

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Advanced Pathways to Research Program, Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute 2024

National Indian Health Board full conference scholarship, Urban Indian Health Institute 2023

Brendon Galbreath Memorial Scholarship, Galbreath Family 2023

Diversity of Voices and Experiences Fellowship, Univ. of Minnesota 2022-2023

SAGE Practicum Scholarship, Washington University in St Louis 2019

Community & Population Health Scholarship, Washington University in St Louis 2018-2020

A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship, American Indian Science & Engineering Society 2018

Native Agriculture and Food Systems Scholarship, First Nations Development Institute 2018

HONORS

Young Alumni Award, Macalester College 2020

MPH Outstanding Practicum Student Award, Washington University in St Louis 2020

Local Impact Award, National Indian Health Board 2017

Montana's 25 Under 25 Award, Forward Montana Foundation 2016

Changemaker, White House United State of Women 2016

Presidential Leadership Award, Macalester College 2015

Outstanding Senior Award, Macalester College 2015

Youth Delegate, White House Tribal Leaders Conference 2015

Lealtad-Suzuki Center Award, Department of Multicultural Life, Macalester College 2013

GRANTS

Pilot Grant, Health Equity Working Group (Not Awarded) 2023

Food Sovereignty Assessment Grant, First Nations Development Institute (Awarded) 2016-2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Enhanced Perinatal Programs for Pregnant People Minneapolis, MN

Graduate Research Assistant March 2023 – Present

- Code and analyze interviews with staff from perinatal programs serving incarcerated pregnant people during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- First author manuscript on perinatal programs in prison during COVID-19 pandemic. Draft literature review, correspond with co-authors, manage journal and conference submission.
- Assist with planning and facilitation for Community Research Council meetings, comprised of formerly incarcerated people who gave birth/had children in prison

Center for Indigenous Health Great Lakes Hub

Duluth, MN (Work Remote)

Graduate Research Assistant

May 2023 – August 2023

- Assist with planning and facilitation of community research council to examine urban Indian health equity in Twin Cities.
- Plan townhalls to collect data on health equity priorities among urban American Indian. Code and analyze data and draft report to funders.
- Assist with applications to tribal and university IRBs, including consent documents and research/analytic plans for Healing Pathways, a community-based, participatory longitudinal study on Indigenous youth health.
- Conduct cognitive testing for survey on tribal youth health and cultural experiences (ages 5-9)

Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St Louis

St Louis, MO

Research Manager

August 2021 – August 2022

- Conduct project management for six research projects. Edit surveys, draft, prepare, and submit manuscripts for publication, and manage IRB applications.
- Assisted with submission of R01 grant to the National Institutes of Mental Health, including drafting of letters of support and biosketches, coordinating with researchers across multiple universities and Medicaid health plans, and re-submitting grant based on score from reviewers.
- Schedule, organize, and facilitate project team meetings and external meetings with Medicaid and Marketplace health plan partners.
- Led two systematic literature review process. Developed search terms, reviewed abstracts, coded and analyzed full texts, and led manuscript writing.
- Supervise team of four graduate-level research assistants.

Project Coordinator

August 2020 – August 2021

- Support the smooth functioning of several research projects by maintaining and monitoring project plans, engaging partners, and navigating research and compliance processes.
- Schedule, organize, and facilitate project team meetings and meetings with external partners.
- Provide research support including survey development, literature reviews, and drafting and preparing manuscripts for publication.
- Supervise team of four graduate-level research assistants.
- Promoted to Research Manager in August 2021.

Prevention Research Center, Washington University in St Louis

St Louis, MO

Research Assistant

August 2019 – May 2020

- Drafted research protocol and cognitive response testing interview guide.
- Developed codebooks for qualitative interviews and quantitative survey.
- Conducted interviews with early childhood practitioners across the U.S.

Urban Indian Health Institute

Seattle, WA

Program Evaluation Intern

May 2019 – August 2019

- Assisted with program evaluation of three projects through participant interviews and focus groups, survey development, and analysis of survey data. Wrote annotated bibliography on existing Indigenous evaluation frameworks.
- Co-developed scientifically and culturally rigorous Indigenous evaluation toolkit to strengthen urban Indian public health infrastructure and build the capacity of Native American organizations.
- Wrote and designed four multi-page handouts on Indigenous evaluation, how to design surveys and collect quantitative data, how to use and solicit storytelling in evaluation, and a guided questionnaire for programs to design their own program evaluation.

Saokio Heritage
Project Coordinator

Blackfeet Reservation, Montana
May 2016 – March 2017

- Independently conducted qualitative interviews and focus groups on food sovereignty and Blackfeet traditional foods with community elders. Developed interview guide, codebook, supervised undergraduate interview assistant.
- Wrote final report, advocacy guide, and youth-oriented pamphlet with research. Disseminated products online and physically across the Blackfeet Reservation.
- Managed \$22,000 First Nations Development Institute grant. Wrote and submitted progress reports to funders.
- Report is used by undergraduate and graduate courses at several universities and is linked on the Native Nations Institute Indigenous Governance Database and the National Park Service Traditional Ecological Knowledge webpage.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prison Education Project
Reentry Committee Co-chair

September 2018 – July 2020

- Facilitated weekly meetings with undergraduate students, Prison Education Project staff, and formerly incarcerated program alumni to develop reentry program.
- Independently designed and implemented program evaluation utilizing surveys and focus groups with incarcerated students and on-campus stakeholders.
- Led writing and dissemination of regional reentry resource guide, including researching community resources, facilitating focus groups with formerly incarcerated people, and building relationships with local social service agencies.
- Tutored undergraduate students at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center on a weekly basis.

Metropolitan Planning Council
Executive Assistant

Chicago, IL
March 2017 – June 2018

- Scheduled and coordinated meeting preparation and follow-up for the President with partners in business, local government, and philanthropy.
- Coordinated agendas and preparation for Board and Executive Committee meetings.
- Researched, drafted and produced memos, correspondence and blog posts for a diverse set of audiences and partners.

Office of Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Legislative Correspondent/Staff Assistant
Udall Foundation Native American Congressional Intern

Washington, DC
July 2015 – April 2016
June 2015 – July 2015

- Assisted with various research, administrative, and legislative tasks related to Native American issues, health/health care, and other topics as needed.

- Reviewed and synthesized information on co-sponsorships and other legislative requests.
- Drafted constituent correspondence for the Congresswoman on current legislative topics.
- Met with constituents and special interest groups on behalf of the Congresswoman.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Bargaining Committee Member (Elected), Graduate Labor Union June 2023 – present
Organizer, Graduate Labor Union September 2022 – present

- As member of elected committee, responsible for drafting and negotiating contract between the Graduate Labor Union (UE-Local 1105) and University of Minnesota. Attend bi-weekly joint sessions with University of Minnesota bargaining staff with goal of negotiating best contract for graduate workers.
- Independent management of public bargaining tracker on union website with union and University proposals.
- As vote captain, organized union support of co-workers, signing of union cards and vote, gathered petition signatures, attended union meetings, and more.
- Facilitate weekly meetings of School of Public Health union organizers. Plan events and outreach to educate co-workers on union activities.

Incoming President, Macalester College Alumni Board June 2023 – Present
Member, Macalester College Alumni Board June 2021 – 2023

- Member of 30-person working board who endeavor to connect alumni to the college through volunteer opportunities with students and attendance at events.
- Serve on institution-wide Land Acknowledgement and Campus Signage Committee to reconsider representation of Native American history and storytelling on campus.
- Partnered with Macalester Admissions to develop materials to recruit Native American students, including a website page specific to Native students.

Job Readiness Volunteer, Prison Education Project Fall 2022

- Compile sample job descriptions and mock interview questions for currently incarcerated women participating in job readiness programming.

Co-founder, STL Reentry Collective July 2020 – July 2022

- Facilitate weekly meetings for STL Reentry Collective, which manages a mutual aid fund and reentry resource guide for justice-involved people in St. Louis community.
- Manage social media and event-based fundraising, review applications for fund redistribution, and distribute no strings attached, direct cash assistance to community members on a weekly basis.

Court Watcher, American Civil Liberties Union Summer 2020

- Virtually attend and observe St. Louis County Circuit Court arraignment sessions and bond hearings. Record charges, bond recommendations, and treatment of defendants to promote transparency and accountability.

Writers Fellowship Reading Committee, Bitch Media 2018, 2019

- Reviewed more than 50 applications for Bitch Media Writers Fellowship in Sexual Politics and Global Feminism categories and provided recommendations to Bitch Media staff.

Tribal Youth Health Advisory Board, National Indian Health Board February 2017 – July 2018

- Chosen as one of two youth chosen to represent the Billings Area (Montana and Wyoming) to initiate, assist with, and advise programming and policy initiatives aimed at improving health disparities and empowering communities throughout Indian Country.

Founder, POC Online Classroom

November 2015 – present

- Add and update resources, develop syllabi and reading lists, design engaging social media posts, and analyze analytics to optimize and adjust website content.
- POC Online Classroom is a social justice resource website curating hundreds of readings and resources organized in nine topical areas including: White Supremacy & Empire, Intersectional Feminism, Environmental Justice, and more.
- Website reaches an average of 67,000 people annually in 2021 and has over 14,000 followers on social media.

Volunteer,

Nat'l Coalition of Native American Language Schools & Programs

August 2015 – present

- Manage social media presence, create graphics to garner public support for legislation relevant to Native American language preservation, manage and update website, provide technical support for webinars.
- The National Coalition of Native American Language Schools and Programs advocates for the use of Indigenous languages as the medium of instruction in our community-led schools and programs.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

Beck A, Osman I, Watson A, Branham C, Seaver B, Smith A, Marsh N, Sufrin C, Shlafer RJ. (2024) “It’s gotta be really hard to be a mom inside right now:” A Qualitative Analysis on the Impacts of COVID-19 on Perinatal Support Programs for People in Prison. [Submitted]

Acri, M., Buchanan, G., Manhart, M., **Beck, A.**, Knitter, A., Sandler, B., Roney, L. (2023). Triangulating HPV Vaccine Hesitancy from Multiple Perspectives: A Scoping Review. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/m42vs>

Acri, M., **Beck, A.**, Chun, Y., Shannon, M., Roll, S., & Grinstein-Weiss, M. (2022). Predictors of and barriers to receipt of advance premium tax credits. *The American journal of managed care*, 28(11), 594–599. <https://doi.org/10.37765/ajmc.2022.89262>

Reports

Moreno V, Firfer N, Harris K, **Beck A**, Rudolph A, Wolff P, & McDonald F. Reentry Housing Issues in Illinois: The Current Situation, Challenges, and Possible Solutions. Metropolitan Planning Council and Illinois Justice Project. Chicago, Illinois. 2019

Beck A. Ahwahsiin: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Food Sovereignty on the Blackfeet Reservation. Saokio Heritage. Blackfeet Reservation, Montana. 2017.

Book Chapters

Beck A. “Restorative: Indigenous knowledge and land-based healing in the time of desertification,” *Artists Remaking Medicine*. Procedure Press, Ed. Emily F. Peters. October 14, 2023.

Beck A & LaPier L. “For Indigenous Peoples, Abortion is a Religious Right,” desertification,” *Aftermath: Life in Post-Roe America*. She Writes Press, Ed. Elizabeth Hines. October 11, 2022.

Select Commentary

“Parole Requirements Stack the Odds Against Indigenous People,” March 3, 2022, *TalkPoverty*.

“Tribal Solar Projects Provide More Than Climate Solutions,” September 16, 2021, *Yes! Magazine*.

“Community Service: Inside the Native Tribe Transforming Justice,” Issue #92, Fall/Winter 2021, *Bitch Magazine*.

“The Yurok Tribe Is Using California’s Carbon Offset Program to Buy Back Its Land,” April 19, 2021. *Yes! Magazine*.

“Righteous Spirit: Indigenous Horror Authors Tap Into Tribal Traditions.” Issue #90, Spring 2021, *Bitch Magazine*.

“Montana can do more for incarcerated.” April 3, 2020, *Missoulian*.

“Misrepresenting traditional knowledge during COVID-19 is dangerous,” March 23, 2020, *High Country News*. With Rosalyn LaPier

“Medicaid enrollment programs offer hope for formerly incarcerated individuals and savings for states,” February 20, 2020, *Health Affairs Blog*.

“An Old New World: When One People’s Sci-fi is Another People’s Past,” Issue #85, *Bitch Magazine*.

“To Help Australia, Look to Aboriginal Fire Management,” January 13, 2020, *Yes! Magazine*.

“How One Tribe Is Fighting for Their Food Culture in the Face of Climate Change,” February 27, 2019, *TalkPoverty*.

“Racism and Apathy along the ‘Highway of Tears,’” November 27, 2019, *Bitch Media* online

“Should fossil fuel companies be held accountable for MMIW?” October 4, 2019, *Yes! Magazine*.

“Truth as healing: How one state is confronting Native American child removal,” Winter 2019 issue, *Yes! Magazine*.

“Indigenous communities have already been harmed by 'America's Harvest Box,’” February 27, 2018, *Bitch Media*.

“Missing, Murdered, But Never Forgotten: How Indigenous activists are creating decolonial systems of justice to heal from violence,” Issue #80, Fall 2018, *Bitch Magazine*.

“Native Language Schools are Taking Back Education,” April 19, 2018, *Yes! Magazine*.

“Unnatural Selection: How Racism Warps Scientific Truth,” Issue #76, Fall 2017, *Bitch Magazine*.

Digital and Other Media

- Interviewed and wrote four profiles of Native Americans with doctorates in math for *Indigenous Mathematicians* website. Fall 2021.
- Wrote six blog posts for *WeRNative*, a multi-media health resource for Native American youth housed at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board that reaches 32,000 weekly users. Spring 2021.
- Wrote a 200-word wall label on Blackfeet gender identity and traditional ecological knowledge for the exhibition *Karl Bodmer: North American Portraits* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Label on display from April 5–July 25, 2021 and permanently on the exhibition website.
- Wrote five profiles of tribal and urban Indian health clinics doing innovative work on harm reduction, gender-affirming healthcare, and diabetes prevention for *Indian Country ECHO* (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) website. Summer 2020.

PRESENTATIONS, ACADEMIC

- Keynote Co-Presenter: “Teaching and Learning as Activism: A Conversation Across Generations,” Spring Conference on Teaching & Learning, University of Wisconsin, April 12, 2019, Madison, WI.
- Co-Presenter: “Indigenous Evaluation Training,” Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, July 31 and August 1, 2019, Billings, MT.
- Co-organizer and presenter, Blackfeet Traditional Foods Summit, July 26 and 27, 2018, Blackfeet Reservation, MT.

- Moderator: "Returning to Our Roots to Promote Our Health – Food Sovereignty and the 2018 Farm Bill" plenary session panel, National Tribal Public Health Summit, May 23, 2018, Prior Lake, MN.
- Presenter: "Learning from our Elders" panel, National Food Sovereignty Conference, October, 5 2017, Green Bay, WI.
- Presenter: "Environmental Health/Traditional Ecological Knowledge" panel, National Native Health Research Training Conference, September 19, 2017, Denver, CO.

PRESENTATIONS, COMMUNITY & GUEST LECTURES

- Guest Lecture: "Indigenizing Research," Shlafer Lab presentation. March 14, 2024, virtual.
- Guest Lecture: "Indigenizing Research," Critical Indigenous Studies undergraduate course, St Olaf College. October 3, 2023, in person.
- Guest Lecture: "Indigenizing Research," Race, Indigeneity, and Gender undergraduate course, St Olaf College. September 27, 2022, in person.
- Guest Lecture: "Getting the Story Right: Researching and Writing Communities and Knowledge," Introduction to Cultural Anthropology undergraduate course, Duke University. March 24, 2022, virtual.
- Guest Lecture: "Getting the Story Right: Writing About Indigenous Communities and Knowledge," Traditional Ecological of Indigenous Peoples undergraduate course, University of Montana. November 30, 2021, virtual.
- Presenter: "Building a Better Community: Reentry Support and Mutual Aid for Formerly Incarcerated People," Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Community Builders Club, Washington University, May 21, 2021, virtual.
- Panelist: "Building Power and Solidarity During Loss," Montana Voices Navigating Our New Political Reality series, February 9, 2021, virtual.
- Panelist: "Interrogating Incarceration and Reentry Collective Panel," Interrogating Incarceration, Washington University in St Louis, November 19, 2020, virtual.
- Panelist: "Indigenous Community at Mac: A Panel on Identities, Cultures, and Activism within the Twin Cities," Macalester College Admissions Office, August 20, 2020, virtual.
- Panelist: "Curious About Careers in Social Justice and Community Impact," Macalester College Career Exploration, July 23, 2020, virtual.
- Panelist: "Levers of Change: Spotlight on Activism," professional development event for Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows, Congressional Hunger Center, June 26, 2020, virtual.
- Presenter: "Current Conversations: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women," St Charles City-County Library, Middendorf-Kredell Branch, March 25, 2019.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- Read K. "Artists offer ideas for improving the healthcare system." *Star Tribune*. March 22, 2024.
- Cavallaro, M. "Abortion is sacred: Native perspectives on the overturning of Roe v. Wade." *El Tecolote*. September 22, 2022.
- "Decolonizing Public Health," Season 1, Episode 4. *Decolonize Yourself* podcast. March 16, 2022.
- "Mutual Aid," Season 2, Episode 2. *The Narrative Podcast*. December 28, 2020.
- Drake K. "Coronavirus Pandemic Complicates How People Adjust To Life After Prison." *St. Louis Public Radio*, November 9, 2020.
- Phelan E. "WU students and staff create mutual aid fund for formerly incarcerated people." *Student Life*, September 18, 2020.
- Taylor R. "The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Expires September 30, Leaving Indigenous Women Especially Valuable." *Teen Vogue*, September 18, 2018.

- Ware JW. “Blackfeet Researcher Leads Her Tribe Back to Traditional Foods.” *Yes! Magazine*, June 6, 2017.

CERTIFICATES AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- “Patient Recruitment for Research: Thinking Inside and Outside the Box.” Center for Clinical Studies, Washington University in St Louis. Completed February 2022.
- “Designing Management Tools and Practices Your Team Will (Actually) Use.” Brown School Office of Professional Development, Washington University in St Louis. Completed November 2021. 3 CPH units, Missouri and Illinois Continuing Education.
- Mental Health First Aid, National Council for Behavioral Health. Completed January 2021.
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Completed June 2020.
- “Rebuilding Native Nations: Strategies for Governance and Development” course, Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona. Completed July 2015.