

# CHRISTINE M. AMI, PH.D., NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

[www.christineami.com](http://www.christineami.com)

Phone: (928) 349-2995  
cmami@dinecollege.edu

P.O. Box A483  
Tsaile, AZ 86556

## EDUCATION

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- PhD University of California Davis, Native American Studies September 2016**  
Concentrations: Indigenous Research, Animal Studies, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Sensory Studies, Decolonization, Holistic Well-Being  
Dissertation: *Díjji nída'il'ah* (Today, we butcher): A study of Navajo Traditional Sheep Butchering  
Committee: Dr. Zoila Mendoza (chair), Dr. Stefano Varese, Dr. María Elena Garcia, Dr. Inés Hernández Avila  
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- MA University of Maryland College Park, Latin American Literature August 2007**  
Concentration: Colonial Literature, Native American Image in Literature  
M.A. Qualifying Exams: High Pass in Colonial Literature  
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- BA Rowan University, Spanish. December 2005**  
Concentration: Education, International Studies  
Graduated Summa Cum Laude

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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National Endowment for the Humanities – Faculty Award	2022
American Indian College Fund – Indigenous Visionaries Mentor	2021
Indian Country Today – 2020 Best OPED Submission for “Politics of Distrust”	2020
Diné College – Associate Professor Rank	2019
Diné College – School of Social and Behavioral Science Faculty of the Year	2019
Diné College – Social and Behavioral Science Division Faculty of the Year	2014
Social Science Research Council - International Dissertation Research Fellowship	2014
University of California Davis - Native American Studies Department Block Grant	2012
Hemispheric Institute of the Americas - Tinker Foundation Research Fellowship	2012
Social Science Research Council - Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship	2011
Bejel-Gibbs Fellowship	2010
University of California Associate Instructor Award	2010 – 2012
Fulbright Fellowship/Grant	2006

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Ami, Christine. Spring 2023. “**Running in Snow and Indigenous Curriculum Design: Navajo Cultural Arts Program.**” *Walk the Dawn: Navajo Path to Sovereignty* Edited by Dr. Charles Monty Roessel. University of New Mexico Press, Forthcoming.
- Ami, Christine. Fall 2022. “**When Waters Rise and Rocks Speak: An Analysis of Indigenous Research Credential Theft by an Ally.**” *Wicazo Sa Review*. V35, N2.

- Ami, Christine. 2022. “**Creative Book Review Essay: *The Diné Reader: An Anthology of Navajo Literature* edited by Esther G. Belin, Jeff Berglund, Connie A. Jacobs, Anthony Webster, and Sherwin Bitsui, *Transmotion*. 8(1): 209-217.**
- Ami, Christine. 2021. “**Book Review of *Reclaiming the Reservation: Histories of Indian Sovereignty Suppressed and Renewed* by Alexandra Harmon.” *UCLA American Indian Research Journal*, 45(2).**
- Ami, Christine. 2021. “**Book Review of *A Diné History of Navajoland* by K. Kelly and H. Francis”.** *Tribal College Journal*. 32(3).
- Ami, Christine. “**Politics of Distrust: The Navajo Nation’s use of propaganda devices to recruit participants for COVID-19 trial vaccine**” *Indian Country Today*. September 21, 2020. Available online: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/opinion/politics-of-distrust-the-navajo-nation-s-use-of-propaganda-devices-to-recruit-participants-for-covid-19-trial-vaccine-mOdSWibZFkirjqBLHrWuMg?fbclid=IwAR38-oXUSiVaTIH-CnU4LDtT9oy5H0fdv4pjZqCOWNwveOtJgoYzCACs9NO>
- Curley, Andrew, and Ami Christine. 2020. “**Research risks and Diné Vaccine Trials**”, *Diné Situation Soundcloud*. Available online: <https://soundcloud.com/din-situation/research-risks-and-dine-vaccine-trials>
- Ami, Christine. 2019. **Book Review of *Food Sovereignty the Navajo Way: Cooking with Tall Woman* by Charlotte Frisbie.** *Tribal College Journal*. 30(3)
- Ami, Christine Marie Willie. 2016. *Dújj nída’íl’ah (Today, we butcher): A study of Navajo Traditional Sheep Butchering*. Ph.D. dissertation. University of California Davis: Proquest.
- Willie, C. & K. Curtis, L. Krause, R. Rivers. 2012. *Samuel Tom Holiday Navajo Code Talker Living History* documentary film (DVD). Diné College: Tsaile, AZ & Winona State University: Winona, MN.

## **CRITICAL INDIGENOUS BLOG CONTRIBUTIONS**

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- Ami, Christine. 2022. *Dismembering: A Blog on Publishing Adventures*.  
<https://www.christineami.com/dismembering-the-blog>
- Ami, Christine. 2021. “**Vulnerabilities of Storytelling, Memoir Writing and Weaving**”.  
*Navajo Cultural Arts Program Blog*.  
<http://www.navajoculturalartsprogram.org/blog/indigenous-visionaries-storytelling-memoir-writing-and-weaving>
- Ami, Christine. 2020. **Playing Indian: Internal Colonization Seated at the Navajo Loom.**  
*Navajo Cultural Arts Program Blog*.  
<http://www.navajoculturalartsprogram.org/blog/playing-navajo-weaver-cultural-appropriation-from-within>

## **EDITING PROJECTS**

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- Bee ádeil’íni: Navajo Cultural Arts Language Series*, October 2019 – September 2010  
Navajo Cultural Arts Program and Office Miss Navajo Nation Collaboration, Series Producer, Writer, Editor
- Finding the Connective Tissue: Storywork as Data Analysis**, 2019  
*Critical Youth Research in Education – Methodologies and Praxis*, Book Chapter Edit
- Gay Navajo Description of Settler Colonial Leadership: A Descriptive Study**, 2019  
Andy Nez’s Dissertation Proposal, Invited Expert Panel Review Team Editor
- Navajo Cultural Arts Holistic Well-being Blog Series**, January - June 2018.  
Navajo Cultural Arts Program and Office of Miss Navajo Nation Collaboration, Blog Contributor and Editor
- Navajo Cultural Arts Emerging Artisan Blog**, January 2016 - Present.  
Navajo Cultural Arts Program Students, Blog Editor

## INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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**Bee ádeil'ini: Navajo Cultural Arts Language Series**, October 31-November 1, 2019

BIE Native Language Immersion Initiative, Tsaile, AZ.

**Navajo Cultural Arts Program: Dr. Christine Ami**, January 19, 2018

Twenty-First Century Native American Leaders Podcast

**Ethnic Studies at Diné College: Not Just an Elective**” 2017

Ethnic, Gender, and Transborder Studies Summit: Promoting Excellence in Social Justice Education, Tucson, AZ.

**Education is Like a Horse: NAS' Saddle Blanket: Artist Keynote Address**, April 28, 2013

UC Davis Native Americans Studies Graduate Student Symposium, Davis, CA.

**Roundtable Forum with Sherman Alexie: *Written in Blood: Youth Voice, Survival and Censorship***” April 11, 2012

Roundtable Participant: UC Davis Campus Community Book Project: Davis, CA.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Moment of Realization: Internal Colonization within an Indigenous Research Classroom**

3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference Paulo Freire: The Global Legacy: St. Louis, MI: December 6, 2021

**Naabeehó Bich'eeeki (Ms. Navajo Nation): Playing Indian Princess or Archivist of Traditional Sheep Butchering**

Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board Conference, Window Rock, AZ: October 21, 2015.

**Diné Butchering in *Ádahoonílgíí* and *Leading the Way: Who Lives and How?***

UC Davis Native Americans Studies Graduate Student Symposium, Davis, CA: April 13, 2012.

**Meet at the Top-Diné Knowledge and Scientific Knowledge Contemplate *Dibé***”

NAISA 2011 Conference, Sacramento, CA: May 19, 2011.

**Research and Ceremony: My Experience with Indigenous Paradigms of Investigation**

The Postcolonial Research Cluster Graduate Student Symposium: Davis, CA: May 4, 2011.

**Real HistorIES – A Navajo Non-Linear Approach to Marx's Past, Present, and Future**

Marx and the Current Crisis Colloquial. University of California, Davis, CA: March 15, 2011

**From Alcatraz to Point Assinika: *Survivance* of the Native American Image**

NAISA 2010 Conference, Tucson, AZ: May 21, 2010

**Inter-linguistic Contacts: The Spanish and the Native American of the Frontier**

University of Maryland - Graduate Conference: March 7, 2008

## TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

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**Diné College**, Tsaile, Arizona

January 2013 to Present

**Associate Professor**, School of Business and Social Science

**Classes Taught**

**ANT111: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.** Teach a survey Anthropology, class offering students the opportunity to study the cultural development of humans.

**ANT201: Ethnographic Research Methods.** Provide students with methods and methodologies of conducting ethnographic research on the Navajo Reservation.

**ANT225: Native Americans of North America.** Provide students with a Native American Studies approach to the survey of Indigenous peoples of Mexico, the United States and Canada.

**HST201: Colonial Latin American History.** This course is a survey of the history and peoples of Latin America beginning with their origins, including European contacts, conquests, and the colonial era, and ending with the struggles for independence.

**HST234: History of Native Americans.** This course is a historical survey of Native American history from pre-Columbian times to the present.

**HST245: History of the American West.** Provided strategies for active reading, investigation techniques, analysis strategies, and research writing.

**NAS111: Introduction to Native American Studies.** This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary academic field of Native American Studies.

**NAS200: Decolonization and Resilience in Indigenous Communities.** Facilitate a class on the areas of colonization, internal colonization, and decolonization.

**NAS370: Traditional Ecological Knowledge:** This class addresses the Indigenous and traditional knowledge, beliefs and practices of local resource management and stewardship.

**NAS413: Advanced Indigenous Research Methods.** Facilitate a class on the areas of indigenous research methodologies, methods, analysis, and presentations.

**NAS498: Undergraduate Indigenous Research.** Mentor Indigenous researcher through independent research project grounded in and by way of Navajo ways of know.

**NCA136: Navajo Cultural Art Business.** Provide an academic and field trip experience throughout the Navajo Nation about the development of Navajo art markets, starting with the Shoe Game teachings to submission to the Heard Museum Indian Art guild.

**NCA198: Navajo Cultural Arts Practicum I.** This course provides practical (hands-on) learning in the areas of Navajo cultural arts. The first of two practicums, this class entails historical and philosophical applications of Navajo cultural arts through community research.

**NCA298: Navajo Cultural Arts Practicum II.** This course provides practical (hands-on) learning for the Navajo Cultural Arts Certificate students. The second of two practicums, this class includes student dissemination of Navajo Cultural Arts through community outreach activities and projects.

**NIS225: Navajo History to Present.** Present strategies for critical interpretations as well as theoretical analysis and reasoning related to Navajo language, culture, history, and government.

**SSC110: General Social Sciences.** Facilitate students' understandings of the Social Sciences. Classes focused on Indigenous Research Methodologies and critical thinking skills.

### **Doctoral Students Advised**

**Andy Nez**, "Gay Navajo Description of Settler Colonial Leadership: A Descriptive Study", May 2021.

**Mary Gaul**, "Indigenous Research, Ethics, and Public Health", 2022

**Shawna Yazzie**, "Stories of Creative Resurgence through a Story Rug: Red Bottom/Cheek Clan Rug Weaving", 2024

### **Program Curriculum Creation and Implementation**

#### **Minor Level**

Navajo Cultural Arts Minor (2021)

School of Diné Studies and Education

Native American Studies Minor (2020)

School of Business and Social Science

#### **Bachelor's Degree Level**

Navajo Silversmithing Bachelor of Fine Arts (2019)

School of Arts, Humanities, and English

Navajo Weaving Bachelor of Fine Arts (2019)

School of Arts, Humanities, and English

## **Certificate Level**

Navajo Cultural Arts Certificate (2012)

School of Diné Studies and Education

**University of California**, Davis, California

January 2009 to May 2012

**Associate Instructor**, Native American Studies

### **Classes Taught**

**NAS5: Introduction to Native American Literatures.** Presented strategies for reading and analyzing Native American texts as well as skills for composition writing.

**SPA002: Intermediate Spanish Grammar.** Facilitated communicative skills and provided input for students in the Spanish language.

**University of Maryland**, College Park, Maryland

August 2007 to July 2009

**Associate Instructor**, Spanish and Portuguese

**SPA 203: Intermediate Spanish Language.** Emphasized the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural awareness.

**SPA207: Advance Spanish Language.** Facilitated the cultural nuances of Latin American culture through the Spanish language.

**SPA 301: Advance Spanish Grammar.** Presented strategies for reading and analyzing texts in the target language.

**Colegio Público San Eugenio y San Isidro**, Madrid, Spain September 2006 to July 2007

**Fulbright Teaching Assistant**, Spanish and Portuguese

Taught English to second grade students at a bilingual elementary school. Created engaging, positive learning environments. Responsible for the presentation of Science, History, Art, and English subject matters as well as classes on Native American Studies and Navajo Literatures.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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**American Indian College Fund, Curriculum Development Grant Manager**, 2020 –2022

Develop, implement, and assess 2 minor programs at Diné College: Native American Studies (NAS); Navajo Cultural Arts (NCA)

**Navajo Cultural Arts Program Grant Manager**, 2015 – 2021.

Diné College – Tsaile, Arizona, Navajo Nation

Develops and supervises activities related to the Navajo Cultural Arts Program, including academic course offerings and community outreach. [www.navajoculturalartprogram.org](http://www.navajoculturalartprogram.org)

**Miss Navajo Nation Butchering Event Coordinator**, 2017- 2018.

Window Rock, Arizona, Navajo Nation

Designed and Implemented the Butchering Event in Adherence to *Dibé éí Diné bee' Iiná át'é*

**Symposium Co-Chair**, 2011 –2012

Native Americans Studies Graduate Student Symposium

Founded the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Native American Graduate Student Symposium entitled “Engaging the Indigenous Americas”.

**Lead Grant Writer**, 2011

*Uneasy Remains* Film Project

Organized the grant writing team in securing funds from the Planning and Development Grants for Collaborative Research Projects, sponsored by University of California Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California.

#### **LANGUAGES**

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**English:** Native reading, writing, and speaking

**Spanish:** Fluent reading, writing, and speaking

**Navajo:** Intermediate reading and writing, and speaking

**Italian:** Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking

#### **REFERENCES**

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**Please contact for references**