**Abaki Rebecca Faith Beck, MPH**

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**EDUCATION**

**School of Public Health, University of Minnesota**, Minneapolis, MN

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

Area of Emphasis: Sociology of Health and Illness

**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 Program Evaluation

**Macalester College,** Saint Paul, MN

**Bachelor of Arts (with honors),** American Studies, May 2015

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

**HONORS and AWARDS**

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

MPH Outstanding Practicum Student Award, Washington Univ. in St Louis 2020

Young Alumni Award, Macalester College 2020

Local Impact Award, National Indian Health Board 2017

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

Nominated Changemaker, White House United State of Women 2016

Youth Delegate, White House Tribal Leaders Conference 2015

Presidential Leadership Award, Macalester College 2015

**Research Experience**

**Center for Indigenous Health, Great Lakes Hub, Johns Hopkins University** Remote

***Graduate Research Assistant*** May 2023 to Present

• Draft and edit 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).

• Attend and assist with meetings with Community Research Councils overseeing longitudinal study on Indigenous youth health.

• With staff from Native American Community Clinic, plan and facilitate a community advisory board to determine health priorities for the urban American Indian community.

**Enhanced Perinatal Programs for People in Prison, University of Minnesota** Minneapolis, MN

***Qualitative Research Analyst*** March 2023 to Present

• Code and analyze of transcripts from interviews with incarcerated pregnant people, healthcare providers, and Department of Corrections staff on the impact of Covid-19 on perinatal programs in prisons in 6 states. Funded through NIH funded R01.

**Social Policy Institute, Washington University in St Louis** St Louis, MO

***Research Manager*** August 2021 – July 2022

***Project Coordinator*** August 2020 – August 2021

• Conduct project management for six research projects. Edit surveys, draft, prepare, and submit manuscripts for publication, and manage IRB applications.

• Schedule, organize, and facilitate project team meetings and external meetings with Medicaid and Marketplace health plan partners.

**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 phone 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.

**Saokio Heritage** Blackfeet Reservation, Montana

***Project Coordinator***  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.

• Coordinated dissemination through final report, advocacy guide, youth-oriented pamphlet with research, and articles in tribal newspaper.

• Managed $22,000 First Nations Development Institute grant. Wrote and submitted progress reports to funders.

**Professional experience**

**Prison Education Project** September 2018 – July 2020

***Reentry Committee Co-chair***

• Facilitated weekly committee meetings to develop reentry program.

• 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.

• Independently designed and implemented program evaluation utilizing surveys and focus groups with incarcerated students and on-campus stakeholders.

• Tutored undergraduate students at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center on a weekly basis.

**Metropolitan Planning Council** Chicago, IL

***Executive Assistant*** 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** Washington, DC

***Legislative Correspondent/Staff Assistant*** July 2015 – April 2016

***Udall Foundation Native American Congressional Intern*** 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**

**Member,** Macalester College Alumni Board**,** June 2021 – present

**Co-founder,** STL Reentry Collective, providing mutual aid for formerly incarcerated people, July 2020 – November, 2021

**Reading Committee,** *Bitch Magazine* Writer’s Fellowship, 2018, 2019

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

**Founder,** POC Online Classroom, a social justice resource website visited by average of 67,000 people annually, November 2015 – present

**Volunteer,** National Coalition of Native American Language Schools & Programs, August 2015 – present

**Publications**

***Peer-Reviewed***

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***

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

***Book Chapters***

Beck A. “For Indigenous Artists, Health Land is Essential for Healthy People.” *Artists Remaking Medicine.* Ed. Emily F. Peters. Procedure Press. Forthcoming 2023.

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

***Select Popular Press***

“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.*

“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.*

“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* online.

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

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

**Conference Presentations and Guest Lectures**

• 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.

• 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.

**Media Interviews and Mentions**

• Cavallaro, M. “Abortion is Sacred: Native perspectives on the overturning of Roe vs. Wade,” *El Telecote*. September 22, 2022.

• Fourkiller A. “Voices of Rebirth: A Reading List on Being Indigenous in America,” *Long Reads.* August 23, 2022.

• “Decolonizing Public Health,” *Decolonize Yourself* podcast. March 16, 2022.

• “Mutual Aid,” *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.

• Associated Press. “Victoria’s Secret apologizes for use of headdress.” November 13, 2012.