

CURRICULUM VITAE  
**LAURA WELCHER**

The Long Now Foundation · Fort Mason Center Bldg A · San Francisco CA 94127 [laura@longnow.org](mailto:laura@longnow.org)

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- **Director of Operations and The Rosetta Project**

The Long Now Foundation (2005 – present)

Director of The Rosetta Project – lead an in-house project that is working to collaboratively build an open public archive of the world’s nearly 7,000 human languages. Activities include building and maintaining a distributed digital collection using the foundation of a stable and scalable infrastructure, creating a physical back-up of the collection built to last for thousands of years, acting as liaison for the project with a global community of minority language activists and organizations, cultivating and guiding a skilled team of in-house volunteers and interns that collaboratively get the substantial hands-on work of the project done.

Director of the organization’s operations including accounting, financial reporting to board and donors, tax preparation, human resources including payroll, benefits, hiring, evaluation and separation, development and fundraising, donor and board relationships and communication, grant writing, grant management and reporting.

- **Post-Doctoral Researcher**

Wayne State and Eastern Michigan University (2004 – 2005)

Research team member on the National Science Foundation funded project Electronic Metastructure for Endangered Languages Data. Responsible for the development of FIELD, an on-line collaborative tool for creating dictionaries linked to a linguistic ontology. Also responsible for teaching linguistics courses at Wayne State and Eastern Michigan University.

- **Instructor of American Cultures and Linguistics**

University of California, Berkeley (2004 – 2007)

Composed and taught lectures for 100-300 students including Introduction to Linguistic Science, The American Languages and Native America Meets the Europeans. Conducted all examinations, managed teams of graduate student assistants.

- **Researcher and Consulting Linguist**

Potawatomi Language Institute (1995 – 1999)

Consulting resident linguist for the Hannahville Indian Community. Developed the Potawatomi Language Institute and conducted it for four years under a series of Association for Native Americans planning and implementation grants. The goal of the institute was to provide a central language revitalization program for Potawatomi people across the United States and Canada. This program created a lifelong relationship - I continue to work with the Potawatomi community and people who participated in the program on language documentation and revitalization efforts (see related volunteer activities, below).

## EDUCATION

### **Ph.D. in Linguistics**

University of California, Berkeley (2004)

Dissertation title: *Constructional Polysemy and Mental Spaces in Potawatomi Discourse*. Committee: Richard Rhodes (chair), Eve Sweetser, Leanne Hinton, William Hanks (outside member, Anthropology)

### **M.A. in Linguistics**

University of California, Berkeley. High Pass Distinction. (1994)

### **B.A. with High Honors in Linguistics**

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1992)

Honors Thesis: *Event Structure of the Central Ojibwa Verb*

### **Academic Awards**

Academic Progress Award II Fellowship Recipient (2003)

University of Michigan Merit Scholarship (1992)

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- **The Global Lives Project**

Vice-president and secretary of the board, and chair of the development committee. A project to build a video library of human life experience. The Global Lives Collective creates grass-roots films that document 24 hours in the lives of people all over the planet., and the project promotes installations with simultaneous viewings of them in public spaces and art venues around the world.

- **Grant Review Panelist**

Reviewer and panelist for grant programs including The National Science Foundation, The National Endowment for the Humanities, The National Historic Publications and Records Commission, and The Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project.

- **Advisory Panels / Steering Committees**

GOLD Ontology: an NSF-funded project to build a structured ontology of concepts that can be used to mark up linguistic data and corpora – if successful, an effort that would promote the sharing, discoverability and interoperability of datasets for the world's languages.

The Language Commons: an international consortium working to promote the creation and dissemination of open public data sets for all human languages, and enabling their representation and use online and on mobile devices

- **Breath of Life - Silent No More Workshop**

A biennial event sponsored by the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival and the Linguistics Department at the University of California Berkeley. The goal is to bring together learners of endangered languages with linguists to create new living language out of materials housed in language archives. The program began in California and is now a model being replicated with archives and indigenous groups around the country. June 2010 was my fourth opportunity to participate in this week-long event as a mentor to California Language teams.

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING – LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 2011 The Rosetta Project – A Distributed Archive Model. Poster presented in session on Metadata in Language Documentation and Description at the Linguistic Society of America. Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. January.
- 2010 Enormous Microscopic Evening. Presentation of the Rosetta Disk at organized exhibition at the UCLA Hammer Museum. November.
- 2010 The Rosetta Project and the Language Commons. Presentation at the Unicode Conference. October.
- 2010 The Language Commons (co-presented with Steven Bird and Kurt Bollaker). Wikimania. Gdansk, Poland. July.
- 2010 Building a Multilingual Web: Using New Media to Remove Linguistic Barriers to Online Participation. Panel organized for the MacArthur Digital Media and Learning Conference. La Jolla, California. February, 2010.
- 2009 The Corpus as Precious but Imperfect Record. Paper presented to the Algonquian Conference in the Special Session on Problems and Strategies in the Analysis, Redaction and Presentation of Native Texts. Montréal, Quebec. October.
- 2006 “Building Endangered Language Websites in Plone, an Open Source Content Management System.” Presented with Chas Warner to the Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of Native America, Salt Lake City, April.
- 2005 “The Rosetta Project: All Language Archive and the Impact of the NSDL through Daughter Repository Networks.” Panel organized and presented to the National Science Digital Library (a National Science Foundation program), Denver, November.
- 2005 “The Rosetta Project and Digital Rights Management.” Presented to DELAMAN: The Digital Endangered Languages and Musics Archive Network, Austin, Texas; November.
- 2005 “From Virtual Convention to Virtual Speech Community: Metaphors of Interaction and Community Building on the Web.” Presented to the Linguistic Association of the Southwest; Lubbock, Texas; October.
- 2005 “Necessary and Sufficient Data Collection: Lessons from Potawatomi Legacy Documentation” Presented to the Endangered Language Documentation Workshop, Boston, July.
- 2005 “The Rosetta Project.” Presentation to the Swiss National Library, Bern and CERN, Geneva; May.
- 2005 “Building Virtual Speech Communities for Endangered Languages: The E-MELD Query Room” Presented with Lameen Souag to the Conference on Endangered Languages and Cultures of Native America, Salt Lake City, April.
- 2005 “FIELD (Field Input Environment for Linguistic Data) and Long Distance Collaborative Lexicography.” Poster presented to the Linguistic Society of America, Session on Endangered Languages; Oakland, California; January.
- 2004 “Current Research on the Digital Archiving of Linguistic Data.” Presented to the Group in American Indian Linguistics, Berkeley, December.
- 2004 “The Grammaticalization of Obviation in Central Algonquian.” Presented to the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Boston, January.
- 2003 “Voegelin Potawatomi Notebooks in the APS: A Look at the Convergence of Potawatomi and Ottawa on Walpole Island.” Presented to the 35<sup>th</sup> Algonquian Conference; London, Ontario; October.
- 2002 “Web Sites as a Resource for Language Revitalization”. University of Arizona Conference on Distance Learning, Working group on Distance Learning and Native American Languages, organized by Ofelia Zepeda. Tucson, January 2002.
- 2002 “The Semantics of Yana Classificatory Verb Stems.” Presented to the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the America, San Francisco, January.
- 2001 “Potawatomi Adversatives.” Presented to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Algonquian Conference, Berkeley, October.

- 2000a “The Value of Constructional Inheritance in Second Language Pedagogy.” Presented to LAUD, Landau, Germany, March.
- 2000b “The Distribution of the Preverb é- in Potawatomi.” Presented to the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Chicago, January.
- 1998 “Creating a Language Community: The Potawatomi Language Institute.” Presented to the Native American Studies Conference at Lake Superior State College, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.
- 1996 “Language Use and Language Loss in the Potawatomi Community: A Report on the Potawatomi Language Institute.” Presented to the Twenty-eighth Algonquian Conference, Toronto, October.
- 1996 “Grammatical Attrition in Potawatomi.” Presented to the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, January.
- 1995 “The Distribution of Fortis and Lenis Consonants in Potawatomi.” Presented to the 26<sup>th</sup> Algonquian Conference, Montreal, October.
- 1994a “Evaluating the Potawatomi Language Materials of St. Mary's Mission.” Presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Algonquian Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- 1994b “The Value of Humor in Teaching Native Languages.” Presented to the Native American Languages Institute Conference, New Mexico, April.
- 1992 “The Status of Potawatomi in Southwest Michigan.” Presented to the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, January.

#### INVITED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PANEL SESSIONS

- **Recovering Voices.** Workshop and brainstorming session at the National Museum of Natural History, to plan for a 5 year – permanent exhibit focusing on revitalizing languages and celebrating global linguistic diversity. Washington, D.C. February, 2011.
- **Internet Archives Leaders Forum.** Planning workshop for the Digital Lending Library. San Francisco. October, 2010.
- **Human Document Project.** A workshop to develop a technology for archiving one constructed document about humanity for a million years. Presentation on the Rosetta Project and Disk. Saarbrücken, Germany. July, 2010.
- **A Collection Without Borders.** Presentation about the Rosetta Project at panel session at the American Association of Museums. Los Angeles. May, 2010
- **Open Linguistic Data Working Group.** Workshop organized at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, founded the Language Commons. Harvard. March, 2010.
- **Summit for Workshop in Endangered Languages.** Workshop to refine a proposal to the National Science Foundation for a catalog of endangered languages. Salt Lake City. November 2009.
- **Long Now Foundation Chicago Meetup.** Presentation on the Rosetta Project. Chicago. August, 2009.
- **Cyberlinguistics Conference.** Co-organizer with Emily Bender and Jeff Good. Conference to develop strategic plan for technology implementations in the field of linguistics. Berkeley, California. July, 2009.
- **Bamboo Project.** Participant in Planning Workshop I: The Planning Process: Understanding Arts and Humanities Scholarship. University of California, Berkeley. April, 2008.
- **Summit on Digital Tools in the Humanities.** Accepted position paper “Evaluating the wiki model for building online humanities content.” Summit held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. September, 2005.
- **E-MELD Workshop on Linguistic Ontologies and Data Categories.** Held at the Linguistic Institute, Boston; July 2005.

- **Conversation on Endangered Languages Archiving.** Held at the Linguistic Institute, Boston; July 2005.
- **GOLD Ontology Workshop.** Meeting to prepare for the EMELD summer workshop and develop the GOLD community model, Fresno, California; November 2004.
- **Indigenous Communities Mapping Initiative.** Berkeley, California; October 2003. Conducted a workshop for Chupik speakers on language transcription and database design.
- **EMELD Workshop on Digitizing & Annotating Texts and Field Recordings.** Lansing, Michigan; July 2003.
- **University of Arizona Conference on Distance Learning.** Working group on Distance Learning and Native American Languages, organized by Ofelia Zepeda. Tucson, January 2002.
- **OLAC / IRCS Workshop on Open Language Archives.** Philadelphia; December, 2002.
- **EMELD Workshop on Digitizing Lexical Information.** Ypsilanti, Michigan; August 2002.
- **Breath of Life, Silent No More Workshop.** Berkeley, California; June, 2000. Worked with Yuki/Wappo team, gathered resource materials, participated in daily sessions, presented work on Potawatomi Language revitalization.
- **Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival.** Berkeley, California, 1994. Graduate student volunteer and participant at organizational sessions that resulted in the development of the California Master-Apprentice Language Program.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### *Articles and chapters*

- In press “Challenges of Editing and Presenting the Corpus of Potawatomi Stories Told by Jim and Alice Spear to Charles Hockett.” In David Costa, ed. *Editing Algonquian Texts*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.
- 2010 “Necessary and Sufficient Data Collection: Lessons from Potawatomi Legacy Documentation.” In Louanna Furbee and Lenore Grenoble, eds. *Language Documentation: Practice and Values*. John Benjamins.
- 2005 “Lost and Found in Translation: Negotiating Identity in Potawatomi Traditional Narratives” In Brian Swann, ed. *Algonquian Spirit: contemporary translations of Algonquian literatures*. University of Nebraska Press.
- 2001 “Can the Web Help Save My Language?” *The Green Book of Language Revitalization in Practice*, ed. by Leanne Hinton and Ken Hale, 331-48. San Diego, Academic Press.
- 1996 (with Richard Rhodes) “An Intruder at a Sugar Camp is Beaten Off.” *nikotwásik iskwáhtém, páskíhtépayih!* *Studies in Honor of H.C. Wolfart*. John Nichols and Arden Ogg (eds.). *Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics, Memoir 13*.
- 1997 “Language Use and Language Loss in the Potawatomi Community: A Report on the Potawatomi Language Institute.” *Papers of the Twenty-eighth Algonquian Conference*, ed. by David Pentland, 34-43. Manitoba: University of Manitoba.

### *Edited volumes and journals*

- 2002 Editor, *Survey of California and Other Indian Languages Report 11: Proceedings of the Hokan-Pennutian Workshop*. Berkeley, SCOIL.
- 1996 Editorial Assistant: *Festschrift for Margaret Langdon*. Leanne Hinton, ed. University of California Press.

- 1993 Editor, *Proceedings of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society*. Lionel Wee and William Weigel, co-editors. Berkeley, Berkeley Linguistic Society.
- 1992 Editorial Assistant. *Flutes of Fire*. Leanne Hinton, author. Heyday Books. San Francisco.
- 1992 Editorial Assistant. *Journal of the International Phonetic Alphabet*. Ian Maddieson, ed. 1992.
- 1990-2 Editorial Assistant. *English for Specific Purposes Journal*. Ann Johns and John Swales, eds.

### **Reviews**

- 2006-7 LINGUIST List Reviews Editor.
- 2005 Review of Essays in Algonquian, Catawban and Siouan Linguistics in Memory of Frank T. Siebert, Jr. *Diachronica* 22:1.
- 2005 Review of Papers of the Thirty-fourth Algonquian Conference. *Diachronica* 22:1.

## **RESEARCH**

### ***Community-based research on the endangered Potawatomi Language***

- **Potawatomi Language Documentation Project.** Development of resources that document and describe the Potawatomi language, including a lexicon, grammar, corpus of glossed texts, and pedagogical materials.
- **<http://bzhckigigyagos.objectis.net>.** Web site dedicated to the maintenance and revitalization of the Potawatomi language. Includes some chapters of a pedagogically oriented grammar.
- **Potawatomi Language Scholars' College, Coordinator and Consulting Linguist, 1997-1999.**  
Co-wrote successful three-year Association for Native Americans implementation grant. Consulting linguist, co-grant writer, coordinator, and instructor for the Potawatomi Language College. Developed and coordinated educational curriculum. Developed instructional materials. Instructor of a three-part seminar "Potawatomi Grammar and Orthography."
- **Potawatomi Language Institute, Coordinator and Consulting Linguist, 1996.**  
Co-wrote successful Association for Native Americans planning grant. Organized and facilitated three three-day planning sessions. Designed and implemented community language use surveys. Submitted regular reports to funding agency

### ***Other research experience***

- **Yahi Language Project, Research assistant.** Collaborative project to translate Ishi's texts in the Yahi language, told to Edward Sapir. Principal Investigators: Leanne Hinton and Herb Luthin.
- **Michigan English Language Assessment Battery, Research Assistant, 1990-2.** Developed test questions, proctored and graded exams, conducted oral examinations of ESL students for English speaking skills, and evaluated English skills of international students for teaching assistantships.

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

- 2010-13 Potawatomi Lexical Database. A project to build a modern lexical database for the critically endangered Potawatomi Language. Funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities under the Documenting Endangered Languages Program.
- 2006 Rosetta Project Community Tools. Private grant to develop discussion and commenting tools on the Rosetta Project Digital Language Archive web site.
- 2002 Philips Fund Grant, American Philosophical Society for researching the Voegelin Potawatomi materials deposited in the American Philosophical Society Archives. Primary investigator.

- 1997-9 Association for Native Americans Planning Grant awarded for the Potawatomi Language Institute. Co-wrote proposal, consulting linguist.
- 1996 Association for Native Americans Implementation Grant awarded for the Potawatomi Language Scholar's College. Co-wrote proposal, consulting linguist.
- 1994 Philips Fund Grant, American Philosophical Society. For field research on the Potawatomi Language spoken in Southwestern Michigan. Primary investigator.
- 1994-9 Ontario Ministry of Education / Hannahville Indian Community. Grant for the Potawatomi Language Project. Primary investigator.

## **MENTORING**

### *Mentor*

- Long Now / Rosetta Project Internships. Mentor and supervisor of over 25 linguistic student internships at The Rosetta Project since 2004.
- Theil Foundation 20 Under 20 Program. Selected as a mentor/interviewer for candidate interns. 2011

### *Instructor*

- Introduction to Linguistic Science (Linguistics 5). U.C. Berkeley, Fall 2006. Spring 2007.
- Native America Meets the Europeans (Linguistics 155AC). U.C. Berkeley, Fall 2006.
- The American Languages (Linguistics 55AC). U.C. Berkeley, Summer Session and Fall Semesters 2002. Spring and Fall 2005, Spring 2006.
- Advanced Phonology (Linguistics 534). Eastern Michigan University. Winter Semester, 2004.
- Introduction to Linguistic Science (Linguistics 401). Eastern Michigan University. Spring Semester, 2004.
- Field Methods (English/Linguistics 5720). Wayne State University, Winter Semester 2004.
- Languages of the World (English/Linguistics 2730). Wayne State University, Fall Semester 2003
- Linguistics Writing Workshop (Linguistics 5W). U.C. Berkeley, Spring Semester and Summer Session, 2000.
- Potawatomi Grammar and Orthography. The Potawatomi Language Scholars' College, 1996-8.
- Improving Pronunciation. Oakton Community College, 1997.
- The American Languages (Linguistics 55). U.C. Berkeley. Graduate student instructor under Robin Lakoff (1993, 1999) and Leanne Hinton (1994).

### *Invited class lectures*

- 2001 "Potawatomi Narrative Discourse," presented to Discourse (Linguistics 124), Robin Lakoff, professor. University of California, Berkeley.
- 2000 "Potawatomi Adversative Particles," presented to Lexical Semantics (Linguistics 181), Charles Fillmore, professor. University of California, Berkeley.
- 1999 "Native American Language Loss and Revitalization," presented to American Languages (Linguistics 55), Robin Lakoff, professor. University of California, Berkeley.
- 1994 "Native American Language Loss and Revitalization," presented to American Languages (Linguistics 55), Leanne Hinton, professor. University of California, Berkeley.

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

### *Archiving*

- Archivist for the Survey for California and Other American Indian Languages, 2000-2001.

- Assistant Librarian, English Language Institute Library, The University of Michigan, 1989-1991.

### ***Professional organizations***

- Linguistic Society of America
- DELAMAN: Digital Endangered Language and Musics Archives Network
- Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas
- President of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, 1993.

### ***Conference organization***

- 2001 32<sup>nd</sup> Algonquian Conference, Berkeley.
- 1997-9 The Potawatomi Language Scholars' College (ANA implementation grant).
- 1996 Meetings for the Potawatomi ANA planning grant.
- 1992 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, Berkeley.

### ***Technical consultations***

- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. Consultation on ANA implementation grant, 2005.
- Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community. Consultation on ANA planning grant, 2003-4
- Cecil Adams, The Straight Dope, "In the old 'Lone Ranger' series, what did 'kemosabe' mean?" July 18, 1997.