

CURRICULUM VITAE: LAURA S. MONTI, PhD

Assistant Research Professor
Applied Indigenous Studies
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, Arizona
laurie.monti @nau.edu
928-523-7874 928-600-0165

Education

- University of Arizona 2002. Ph.D. Arid Land Resource Sciences. Minor: Anthropology. Dissertation: Seri Indian adaptive strategies in a desert and sea environment; three case studies: A navigational song map in the Sea of Cortés; The ironwood tree as habitat for medicinal plants; Sonoran Desert plants adapted to treat diabetes.
- St. Louis University 1990 M.S. Community Health. Minor: International health. Thesis: Women's participation in community development in Nicaragua: Factors that contribute to women's empowerment.
- St. Louis University College of Medicine 1983. Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.
- Maryville University. St Louis MO 1980. B.S. Nursing; Biology

Professional experience and Accomplishments

Ten years experience in project development, management and research in cultural ecology with indigenous communities in Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Southwest U.S. Projects involve Native foodways and medicinal plants, marine turtle conservation, migratory bird monitoring and habitat protection, traditional mapping, cultural arts and community based natural resource planning. Projects have received several awards. Co founded "para-ecology" training program using traditional ecological knowledge and Western science for young Native men and women, the first of its kind in the region. Initiated *Native Foodways and Diabetes Prevention* projects involving 6 Native communities on Navajo lands. Successful fundraising, administration and budget management track record. Fifteen years experience in clinical medicine, public health and community development. Fifteen years experience in graduate and undergraduate education in biodiversity, environmental and human health.

Work History

Northern Arizona University. 8/2000- present. Assistant Research Professor. Applied Indigenous Studies and Health Sciences. Research and teaching in ethno-ecology of arid lands; biodiversity and health, native health, food systems, ethno botany and environmental justice. Principal investigator for participatory research and applied projects with tribes in the Colorado Plateau and Northern Mexico on Native foodways and medicinal plants, marine turtle conservation, migratory bird monitoring and habitat protection, traditional mapping, cultural arts and community based natural resource planning and sacred site protection. Initiated *Native Foodways and Diabetes Prevention* projects involving 6 Native communities on Navajo lands. Successful fundraising track record.

Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) 1997-2002. Mexico program director. Implemented projects in health, culture and the environment in Sonora, Mexico. Initiated para-ecology training program with Seri tribe. Advisory board member and consultant on projects health, culture and biodiversity with tribes in Colombia Amazon, Brazil and Surinam. Successful fundraising track record.

University of Arizona. 1995- 2000. College of Nursing. Lecturer and Clinical Faculty. Taught graduate and undergraduate courses and clinical practice in pediatrics, public health, Native health and rural health. Developed clinical practices in Native foods and community nutrition with Tohono O'odham Head start program. Coordinated Tri-University Rural Health Initiative. Served on curriculum committee for 3 years.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Ill. (SIUE) School of Nursing. 1993-1995. Lecturer and Directed and provided clinical services for university sponsored community health clinic in East St. Louis. Taught courses in pediatrics, community health, and human development. Initiated violence prevention project to address the highest homicide rate in the US.

University of Central Florida. 1991-1993. Lecturer. School of Nursing. Taught community health. Directed and provided clinical services at university clinic for HUD. Successful fund raising track record.

Maryville University St. Louis. 1989-1991. Director of Student Health Services serving national and international student body of 10,000. Successful fundraising track record.

St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America. St. Louis MO 1982-1991. Health consultant for refugee communities in Guatemala, Salvador and Nicaragua. Liaison between sister communities in the U.S. and these communities. Developed lay health worker training programs in nutrition and healthcare of women and children, medicinal plant use and conservation protocols. Successful fundraising track record.

Family Care Center. St. Louis Missouri 1982-1986. Directed public health program for high risk infants with complex medical and social problems serving approximately 1,000 families.

Awards

- World Oceans Day Award to Seri Equipo Tortuguero Comcaac.
- University of North Carolina. 2000. Hollingsworth Scholar Program.
- Arid Lands Research Fellowship Award. 1997. Arid Lands Research Center. University of Arizona.
- Emmons Faculty Research Award. 1997. College of Nursing. University of Arizona.
- Lentz Peace Research Award. 1993. University of Missouri, St. Louis. Lentz Peace Research Institute.

Publications, Documentaries and Papers

Songs of Survival: Seri Indians and Sea Turtle Protection in the Sea of Cortez. 2006. Video Documentary. Echo Productions, Flagstaff AZ.

Sacred Lands and Gathering Grounds: A Toolkit for Access, Protection, Restoration and Co- Management. Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University. 2005.

Participatory Mapping for a Traditional Management Plan for the Sargento Estuary of the Gulf of California. Paper presented at the International Forum on Indigenous Mapping. 3/04 Vancouver, Canada.

Weaving Together Food Systems for Health. 9/03. Paper presented for San Diego State Medical School.

Documenting and incorporating Navajo Traditional Land Management and Ecological Restoration Practices in Pine and Fir Uplands of the Asaayi Watershed of the Chuska Mountains. 2003. Ecological Restoration Institute Southwest Fire Initiative.

The Songs of San Esteban. A Navigational Song Voyage in the Sea of Cortez. 2003. Audio recording. Amazon Conservation Team. Washington D.C.

Seri Indian adaptive strategies in a desert and sea environment; three case studies: A navigational song map in the Sea of Cortés; The ironwood tree as habitat for medicinal plants; Sonoran Desert plants adapted to treat diabetes. 2002. Doctoral dissertation. University of Arizona.

Wisdom Hidden in Conservation; Songs of the Seri Indians. 1998. Audio Recording. Amazon Conservation Team. Washington D.C.

Incidence and distribution of diabetes among Seri Indians of Sonora Mexico. 1998. Conservation Ecology Series. Arizona Sonora Desert Museum.

Primer on Ironwood Conservation in the Sonoran Desert. 2000. Conservation Ecology Series. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Medicinal plants use by war refugees in Nicaragua. 1988. Lentz Peace Research Institute. University of Missouri.

Women's participation in community development in Nicaragua: Factors that contribute to women's empowerment. 1987. Master's Thesis. St. Louis University.

Language and cultural competencies.

Fluent in Spanish. Somewhat proficient in French and Italian. Have lived, studied and worked in South and Central America, Mexico since 1960. Competent in linguistics involved in cultural ecology, ethno-botany projects.

References*

Dr. Mark Plotkin Executive Director. Amazon Conservation Team Washington D.C. 703-967 1250

Dr. Jeff Seminoff Marine Turtle Research. Southwest Fisheries NOAA La Jolla , CA Jeffrey.Seminoff-noaa.gov

Arturo Valdez Instituto de Desarrollo Indigena Bahia de Kino, Sonora Mexico 01152- 6622420825
Ccdibahiade kino@prodigy.net