

Native people are at grossly elevated risks of facing violence when compared to the general U.S. population, with many communities at twice the risk of experiencing violence in the population. There is very little research on programs and services for Native communities, as well as their needs and cultural resources. It is necessary to create resources derived from evidence-based research grounded in community-based research and based on the needs and voices of the community. My research is strongly informed by my time working as a direct service provider in the urban Indian community of Chicago. As an Anishinaabe scholar, researcher, and practitioner, my research practice and agenda is informed and influenced by the community surrounding me, the ethics and traditional teachings of elders who have mentored me, and the energy of youth rising to do important and meaningful work.

Ultimately, I am in academia to significantly contribute to the research of missing and murdered Indigenous women, to facilitate their visibility, to attract more resources to Indigenous communities for programming, and to be a future mentor and campus presence to other emerging Indigenous scholars. I have served as a PhD representative in the Student Advisory Committee for our doctoral program at UW-Seattle, focusing on improving and facilitating communication between program leadership, faculty, and students. Previously I was a board member for Anishinaabe Pacific Northwest, which brought Ojibwe-based cultural teachings and resources to tribal community members who did not have access to ancestral knowledge back out East. Currently, I am doing extensive community work with the 501(c)3 organization I am the founder of, called The Humble Horse, which is a Wisconsin nonprofit dedicated to the preservation, education, and reconnection of the critically endangered Ojibwe pony to Ojibwe people. I am also collaborating with researchers at University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Madison to explore funding opportunities that would allow the ponies to be more accessible to tribal communities.

With many Indigenous women going missing or being murdered, I intend to create a career and framework of scholarship centered around Anishinaabe teachings in my work. The most important of these teachings is humility and the emphasis placed on what you can do for your community, not what your community can do for you. By creating Indigenous-centered and focused community research around health, wellness, and how Indigenous people interact with violence, I intend to facilitate and disseminate research to the community led by the community.