

VALERIE LAMBERT, PH.D.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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JUNE 2022

PERSONAL

Enrolled member by blood of the Choctaw Nation (Choctaw Nation Roll #31732)
Also of documented Chickasaw Nation ancestry

EDUCATION

PH.D. Social Anthropology, Harvard University 1999
A.M. Social Anthropology, Harvard University 1994
A.B. Sociology/Anthropology (with honors), Smith College. 1987 (Graduated in three years from four-year institution)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology (2008–present)
Research Associate, Research Labs of Archaeology (2001–present)
Advisory Board Member, Research Labs of Archaeology (2015–16)
Fellow, Institute for the Arts and Humanities (2004–present)

Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma.

Contract work, author of report for Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation v. U.S. Department of the Interior, et al. (2014–15)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology (2007–09; 2012–13)
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology (2001–07)

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Division of Tribal Government Services, Washington, D.C.

Cultural Anthropologist (Jan 2000–Dec 2000)
Research Intern/Fellow (1994–95)

Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine, Pleasant Point Reservation

Intertribal Trade Representative (1996). Supervisor and tribal contractee: Wendell Long.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Teaching Assistant. Departments of Anthropology, Government, Sociology (1992–94)
Research Assistant. Ines Talamantez, Visiting Prof of Native American Religions (1991)
Research Assistant. Prof. Michael T.C. Hwang, Graduate School of Education (1988–89)
Co-coordinator of Conferences. American Indian Program. (1988–90)
Assistant to the Academic Appointments Administrator, Graduate School of Education (1987–89)

Law Offices of Attorney Robert Hernandez, Boston, MA
Paralegal, civil rights cases (1987)

Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee, Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations. Flagstaff, AZ
Researcher/Activist (1986)

HONORS

President, Choctaw Nation Tribal Chapter, American Indian Science and Engineering Society (2019–2022)

President, Association of Indigenous Anthropologists (2018–21 [2nd term]; 2010–12 [1st term])

Board Member, Association of Indigenous Anthropologists (2008–present)

Finalist, Oklahoma Book Award, for *Choctaw Nation* (2008)

North American Indian Prose Award, for *Choctaw Nation* (2007)

Edward Kidder Graham Award for Outstanding Faculty (for undergraduate teaching) (2003)

Sigma Xi, Harvard-Radcliffe Chapter (selected 1997)

Anthropology Department Nominee (based on graduate-school G.P.A.), Harvard University Frederick Sheldon Award (1994)

BOOKS

In press. *Native Agency: Indians in the Bureau of Indian Affairs*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Entered production in January 2022; Expected publication date in the fall of 2022. 328 pages.

2007 *Choctaw Nation: A Story of American Indian Resurgence*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 302 pages. Winner, North American Indian Prose Award. Finalist, Oklahoma Book Award.

ARTICLES

In press. Elisa Sobo, Valerie Lambert, and Michael Lambert. “Performing the Past and the Present: How the Public Ritual of the Land Acknowledgment Often Perpetuates Harm and Fails to Fulfill Its Potential.” In *The Routledge Companion to Performance Anthropology*, eds. Syring, David and Lauren Griffith. Milton Park, England: Routledge.

2021b. Michael Lambert, Elisa Sobo, and Valerie Lambert. “Rethinking Land Acknowledgments: How Do We Transform Land Acknowledgments from Conscious-clearing Rites into Meaningful Calls to Action?” *Anthropology News*, December 2021.

2021a. Elisa Sobo, Michael Lambert, and Valerie Lambert. “Land Acknowledgments Meant to Honor Indigenous People Too Often Do the Opposite – Erasing American Indians and Sanitizing History Instead.” *The Conversation*, October 7, 2021.

2017a. “Rethinking American Indian and Non-Indian Relations in the US: Perspectives from Indian Country and from Inside the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 40(2): 278–94.

2017b. “Negotiating American Indian Inclusion: Sovereignty, Same-Sex Marriage, and Sexual Minorities in Indian Country.” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 41(2): 1–21.

2016. “The Big Black Box of Indian Country: the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal-Indian Relationship.” *American Indian Quarterly* 40(4): 333–63.
2014. “Teach Our Children Well: On Addressing Negative Stereotypes in Schools.” With Michael Lambert (Valerie Lambert and Michael Lambert). *American Indian Quarterly* 38(4): 534–40.
- 2007b. “Political Protest, Conflict and Tribal Nationalism: The Oklahoma Choctaws and the Termination Crisis of 1959 – 1970.” *American Indian Quarterly* 31(2): 283–309.
- 2007a. “Choctaw Tribal Sovereignty at the Turn of the Twenty-first Century.” In *Indigenous Experience Today*, eds. Starn, Orin and Marisol de la Cadena, 151–70. Oxford: Berg Press.
- 2001b. “Choctaws in Oklahoma: Government.” In *Choctaw Language and Culture*, eds. Haag, Marcia and Henry Willis, 300–05. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
- 2001a. “Contemporary Ritual Life.” In *Choctaw Language and Culture*, eds. Haag, Marcia and Henry Willis, 317–321. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
2000. “Native Spiritual Traditions and the Tribal State: The Oklahoma Choctaws in the Late Twentieth Century.” In Niezen, Ronald. *Spirit Wars: Native North American Religions in the Age of Nation-Building*, 156–60. Berkeley: University of California Press.
1988. “Continuity and Change: An Examination of Puberty Ceremonies Among the Mescalero Apache Indians.” In *Essays on the Ethnohistory of the North American Indian*, Vol. 6, ed. Brown, Ian. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

SINGLE-AUTHORED AND CO-AUTHORED TRIBAL AND FEDERAL REPORTS

2015. *In the Matter of Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation v. Department of Interior, et al., Case No. CIV-05-1524-W, In the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, Expert Opinions of Valerie Lambert, Ph.D.* Single-authored report for the Chickasaw Nation and the Choctaw Nation c/o Whitten Burrage, Oklahoma City, OK; Nix, Patterson and Roach, LLP, Austin, TX; Bullock Law Firm, PLLC, Tulsa, OK; and Indian and Environmental Law Group, PLLC, Tulsa & Ada, OK. 30 pages.
 Hired by the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations to bolster a federal case, *The Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation v. Department of Interior, et al.*, involving the failure of the US government to protect Choctaw Nation land. The case ended with a settlement, announced on October 6, 2015, to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations by the U.S. government of \$186,000,000.
2001. *Summary Under the Criteria and Evidence for Proposed Finding For Federal Acknowledgment of the Nipmuc Nation (Hassanamisco Band), MA.* With Dr. Virginia DeMarce (Virginia DeMarce and Valerie Lambert). Peer-reviewed by anthropologists, historians and genealogists; signed by Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, January 19, 2001. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 219 pages.
2001. *Summary Under the Criteria and Evidence for Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Webster/Dudley Band of Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck Indians, MA.* With Dr. Virginia DeMarce (Virginia DeMarce and Valerie Lambert). Peer-reviewed by anthropologists, historians, and genealogists;

signed by Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, January 19, 2001. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 179 pages.

1995. *Summary Under the Criteria and Evidence for Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Yuchi Tribal Organization, Inc.* Peer-reviewed by anthropologists, historians and genealogists; signed by Ada Deer, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, July 11, 1995. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 38 pages.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

2021b. “Battling the Federal Government: *The Chickasaw Nation and the Choctaw Nation v. the Department of the Interior*.” Invited presentation for executive session panel, “Speaking Truth to Anthropology: Reckonings, Reflections, & Contributions of American Indian Scholars in the Profession.” American Anthropological Association.

2021a. “The Five Tribes in the Twenty-First Century: Challenges, Disappointments, and Triumphs.” Invited presentation for invited panel, “Indigenous Sovereignty in Old Indian Territory and Contemporary Oklahoma.” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association.

2020. “Formation of the Contemporary Choctaw Nation.” *Chahta Tosholi* Virtual Speaker Series, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Cultural Services, Choctaw Nation Tribal Government. Invited. Interviewed by Megan Baker (Choctaw Nation). Durant, OK

2020. One of three speakers for “Native America/Anthropology: A Virtual Roundtable,” Cultural Anthropology Colloquia Series, Department of Cultural Anthropology. Invited. Duke University, Durham, NC

2020. One of four speakers for “STEM Talking Circle: A Discussion Featuring Native American Professionals.” Invited. Society of American Indian Government Employees, Skiatook, OK

2019. “The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Trust Responsibility Toward Tribes.” Invited talk. Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA

2019. “The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Land, and the Federal Acknowledgment Process.” Invited Talk. History 231, Native American History: The East. University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

2019. “American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Past and Present.” Invited Speaker, Panel Discussion. Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC-Chapel Hill (2019).

2017. “Does Anthropology Matter to American Indians?” Organizer and speaker, Association of Indigenous Anthropologists Invited Roundtable. American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C.

2017. “American Indian Land, Water, and Other Resources.” Invited Talk, Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology Seminar Series, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

2016. “Rethinking American Indian and Non-Indian Relations in the U.S.: Perspectives from Indian Country and from Inside the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” Invited Talk, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin. Austin, TX.

2015. “American Indian Anthropologists in the Twenty-first Century.” Remarks presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings on the panel, *The Familiar and the Strange in Remaining Native and Becoming an Anthropologist: Celebrating Dr. Beatrice Medicine’s Contributions to Anthropology*, a panel selected by the AAA Executive Program Committee as an Executive Session. Denver, CO.

2015. “Research by and for Indigenous Peoples: Perspectives and Issues.” Remarks presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings in my role as a discussant for the panel, *Ethics in the Field: A Conversation on Research and Engagement in Indigenous Communities*. Denver, CO.

2015. “Diversity at UNC-Chapel Hill.” Presentation delivered at the University-wide Diversity Liaisons Meeting. Selected to represent the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, NC.

2014. “American Indians and the State.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings on the panel, *Being Like a State*, an invited panel of the Association of Political and Legal Anthropology. Washington, DC.

2014. “Why Are Indians Still Here? American Indian Nationhood in the 21st Century.” Paper presented for UNC Program for the Humanities, Spotlight on Scholars lecture series. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

2010. “Anthropologizing Indians.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings on the panel, *Native Voices, Disciplined Practices: Self-Determination in Ethnographic Representation by American Indian Anthropologists Past and Present*, an invited panel of the Association of Indigenous Anthropologists. New Orleans, Louisiana.

2009. Discussant, Conference on Sovereignty. American Philosophical Society, German-American Frontiers of Humanities. Potsdam, Germany.

2009. “Indians and Anthropology.” Paper presented on the panel, *Indians and Anthropology: Decolonizing the Discipline*, a colloquium marking the 40th anniversary of the publication of the landmark text *Custer Died for Your Sins* by Vine Deloria, Jr. Colloquium co-organizer. University of North Carolina Anthropology Department. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

2008. “Water, Gas, and Gambling: Exploring the Contours of Tribal Sovereignty in Contemporary America.” Invited paper presented at Indiana University. Bloomington, Indiana.

2007. “Choctaw Nation Building, the Cobell Case, and the BIA.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings on the panel, *Activism in North American First Nations*. Washington, D.C.

2007. Chaired panel, *Native American Popular Genre Writing*, at the conference, ‘What’s Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies: An International Scholarly Meeting.’ Norman, OK

2005. “Choctaw Tribal Sovereignty at the Turn of the Twenty-first Century.” Paper presented at a Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Conference entitled *Indigenous Experience Today*. (Co-organizers: Orin Starn and Marisol de la Cadena.) Venice, Italy.

2001. “Killing the “White Man’s Indian”: Disjunctures Between Stereotypes and Realities in the American Heartland (Oklahoma).” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings on the panel, *American Indians in the 21st Century: Looking Both Ways*. Washington, D.C.

1997. “The Oklahoma Choctaw Nation: Electoral Processes.” Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings on the panel, *Building Tribal Governments in the 1990’s*. Seattle.

1994. “Urbanization, Tribal Membership, and Tribal Governments.” Invited lecture for graduate and undergraduate class of *Native People of North America*, Professor Ronald Niezen, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.

1992. “From Lobbyists to Bowling to Bingo: Indians Representing Indians.” Invited paper presented at *Behind Glass: Native American Representation in the Year of Columbus*. Smith College Symposium, Smith College.

1992. “An Historical Perspective on Oklahoma Indian Tribes.” Invited lecture for graduate and undergraduate class, *The Indian Question in the Americas*, Professor David Maybury-Lewis, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.

1987. “Boys and Gangs on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation.” Invited paper presented for *The Presidential Intern Committee Speaker Series*, Smith College.

BOOK REVIEWS

2023 (expected). Review of *Power and Balance: Increasing Leverage in Negotiations with Federal and State Governments, Lessons Learned from the Native American Experience* by Steven J. Haberfeld. *NAIS Journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*.

2009. Review of *The Choctaws in Oklahoma: From Tribe to Nation, 1855–1970* by Clara Sue Kidwell. *Ethnohistory* 56(1): 217–18.

1997. Review of *Women and Power in Native North America*, ed. Klein, Laura F. and Lillian A. Ackerman. *American Ethnologist* 24(1): 233–4.

1996. Review of *Choctaws and Missionaries in Mississippi, 1818-1918* by Clara Sue Kidwell. *American Ethnologist* 23(1): 174–5.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

UNC Institute for Arts and Humanities Publication Grant (2022)

WN Reynolds Senior Faculty Research and Scholarly Leave (2019)

UNC Center for Global Initiatives Course Development Grant (2012)

University Associate Professor Support Program Grant (2008)

University Research Council Publication Grant, University of North Carolina (2006)

University of North Carolina Junior Faculty Development Award (2005)

University of North Carolina Institute for the Arts and Humanities Fellowship (2005)

University Research Council Fellowship, University of North Carolina (2004)

University Center for International Studies Faculty Curriculum Development Award (2004)

University of North Carolina Research and Study Assignment (2004)

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship (2003-2004)
National Academy of Sciences/ Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship (1997-8)
AAUW Educational Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (did not accept, 1997-8)
Irene Diamond Dissertation Fellowship (did not accept, 1997-8)
Choctaw Nation Fellowship (did not accept, 1996)
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fellowship (1994-6)
Bureau of Indian Affairs Fellowship (1994-5)
Harvard Department of Anthropology Dissertation Research Fellowship (1994-5)
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Prize Fellowship (1990-1998)
Harvard Department of Anthropology Summer Research Fellowship (1992)
Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowship (did not accept, 1990-92)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Founder and Elected President, Choctaw Nation Tribal Chapter, American Indian Science and Engineering Society. (2019–2022)
President, Association of Indigenous Anthropologists (2018–21 [2nd term]; 2010–12 [1st term]).
Member, Editorial Board, *Cultural Anthropology* (2022–present)
Member, Editorial Board, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (2022–present)
Co-Founder, Abiyala Sovereign Nations’ Citizens Collective, UNC-CH faculty group (2020–present)
Board Member, Association of Indigenous Anthropologists (2008–present)
Chair, Department of Anthropology Diversity Committee (renamed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, UNC-CH (2021–present).
Departmental Diversity Liaison, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Selected to represent the department at University-wide Diversity Liaisons meetings, events, and activities (2012–16; 2018–2022; Chair of Department Diversity Committee 2021–present)
Invited Speaker, Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity, National Science Foundation Day, hosted by UNC’s Office of Research Development. Chapel Hill (2017)
Invited Speaker, American Indian Recruitment Event (attended by 50 prospective American Indian college students), UNC-CH American Indian Center, Chapel Hill. (2016, 2019)
Invited Speaker, Diversity Liaisons Meeting, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill (2015)
Expert Witness, *the Chickasaw Nation and the Choctaw Nation v. the U.S. Department of the Interior* (2014–15). Case settled with the US Dept of Justice for \$186,000,000.
Member, Editorial Board, *American Anthropologist* (2012–15)
Selection Committee, Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity (2012–19)
Member, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs’ Diversity Awards Committee (2014–16)
Member, Carolina American Indian Faculty and Staff Caucus [founded 2014] (2014–present)
Faculty Reviewer, Dean’s Distinguished Dissertation Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2015, 2016)
Reviewer, *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples* (2014)
Member, Review committee for books by and about American Indians in the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS). Chaired by Kara Stewart (Sappony Nation), 3-5 IFL Literacy Coach, CHCCS (2014–15)
Organizer, American Indian Heritage Month Michael D. Green Lecture, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Fall 2014)
Member, Fulbright U.S. Student program review committee, Center for Global Initiatives (2013)
Member, Pre-Dissertation Travel Awards review committee, Center for Global Initiatives (2013)

External Reviewer, review for promotion to named chair of a full professor, University of California at Los Angeles (2011)

External Reviewer, tenure and promotion review of anthropologist, University of Maine (2010)

Member, Faculty, Student, and Staff Committee to Create a UNC Latin@ Center (2008–09)

Member, UNC Taskforce on Emerging Campus Communities (2008–09)

Moderator, panel for New Directions in American Indian Research Conference (graduate student conference), The Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill (2007)

Chair, “Native American Popular Genre Writing.” At *What’s Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies: An International Scholarly Meeting*. Norman, Oklahoma (2007)

Member, Advisory Board of UNC-Chapel Hill American Indian Center (2006–07)

Member, Administrative Board of The Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill (2005–08)

Member, UNC-Chapel Hill Provost’s Committee on Native American Issues (2001–06)

Member, Fellowship Committee, The Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill (2005–08)

Member, Search Committee for Director of UNC American Indian Center (2006–07)

Member, Advisory Board, American Indian Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill (2001–05)

Member, Admissions Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Anthropology (2006–07)

Reviewer of Book Manuscripts (2), University of Nebraska Press (2007)

Reviewer of Book Manuscript, Duke University Press (2006)

Reviewer of Article, *American Indian Quarterly* (2006)

External Reviewer, tenure and promotion review of anthropologist, Indiana University (2005)

Member, University Center for International Studies Travel Grant Review Committee (2005 – 6)

Speaker, Recruitment visit of 25 American Indian prospective UNC graduate students (2006)

Member, Carolina Cultural Celebrations Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (2005–08)

Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor specializing in American Indian literature, Curriculum in American Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill (2005–06)

Member, Committee that pursued a target-of-opportunity hire in American Indian Studies at the Associate Professor level, American Studies Curriculum, UNC-Chapel Hill (2005–06)

Principal Organizer and Fundraiser, talk and 50-person dinner for UNC Native American Heritage Month Speaker (Michell Hicks, Chief of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) (2005)

Principal University Liaison, recruitment visit of 15 prospective UNC undergraduates from reservation of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina (2005)

Speaker, Recruitment visit of 25 American Indian prospective UNC graduate students (2005)

Speaker, Recruitment visit of 50 American Indian prospective UNC undergraduates (2005)

Contributor (helped edit and review proposal; acquired letter of support), *Proposal to Establish American Indian Center at UNC-Chapel Hill* (2005–06)

Moderator, panel for New Directions in American Indian Research Conference (graduate student conference), The Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill (2005)

Co-editor, *AnArchaey Notes*, UNC Department of Anthropology annual newsletter (2005–06)

Moderator, panel for New Directions in American Indian Research Conference (graduate student conference), The Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill (2004)

Faculty Advisor, Alpha Pi Omega Sorority for UNC female American Indian students (2001–03)

Chair, UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Anthropology Colloquium Committee (2002–03)

Chair, UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Anthropology Library Committee (2002–03)

Member, UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Anthropology Colloquium Committee (2001–02)

Member, UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Anthropology Library Committee (2001–02)

Book Reviewer, *American Ethnologist* (1997)

Book Reviewer, *American Ethnologist* (1996)

Representative of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Harvard Peabody Museum. Appointed by Choctaw chief Hollis Roberts to represent Tribe in repatriation negotiations with Museum (1991–94)
Student Representative to the Faculty, Harvard Department of Anthropology (elected 1991–92)
Treasurer, Council of Native American Students at Harvard (elected 1990–91; 1991–92; 1992–93)
Co-coordinator American Indian Program Conferences, Harvard University. Co-coordinated the first and second ever conferences of American Indian Women Chiefs (1988–90)