

# Robert E. Lewis Jr.

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## Research Interests

Potawatomi, language revitalization, discourse markers, language pedagogy, morphology and syntactic theory, computational linguistics, law

## Education

- 2020            Ph.D. in Linguistics, The University of Chicago  
Dissertation: *Potawatomi Discourse Markers*  
Committee: Amy Dahlstrom (chair), Itamar Francez, Lenore Grenoble
- 2013            M.A. in Linguistics, University of Kansas  
Thesis: *Complementizer Agreement in Najdi Arabic*  
Committee: Harold Torrence (chair), Jason Kandybowicz, Andrew McKenzie
- 2011            B.A. in Linguistics, University of Kansas
- 2010            A.A. in Liberal Arts, Haskell Indian Nations University

## Employment History

- 2023-present    Curriculum and Instruction Manager, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.
- 2022            Middle and High School Potawatomi Language Teacher, Hannahville Indian School / Nah Tah Wahsh PSA.
- 2018-2019      Linguist, Forest County Potawatomi Community.
- 2017 Summer    Linguistic Curricula Developer, Forest County Potawatomi Community.
- 2016 Summer    Linguistic Curricula Developer, Forest County Potawatomi Community.

## Academic Positions

- 2021-2022      Assistant Professor, The University of Winnipeg

## Publications

### *Books*

- 2021            Thomas Loftis and **Robert E. Lewis Jr.** *Building Potawatomi Verbs*. Self published.

### *Papers*

- R&R            Robert E. Lewis Jr. The future *ge-* in Potawatomi. *International Journal of American Linguistics*.
- to appear      Corinne Kasper & **Robert E. Lewis Jr.**, The Potawatomi Complementizer System. *Papers of the Algonquian Conference*.
- 2023            Robert E. Lewis Jr. Potawatomi-English Language Planning and Isaac McCoy's Baptist Mission Schools. *Papers of the 52nd Algonquian Conference*.

- 2023 Robert E. Lewis Jr. A Survey of Computational Infrastructure to Help Preserve and Revitalize Bodwéwadmimwen. *Proceedings of the Sixth Workshop on the Use of Computational Methods in the Study of Endangered Languages*, 44-50. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- 2022 Robert E. Lewis Jr. The Scattered Evidential System of Potawatomi. *Papers of the 51st Algonquian Conference* ed. by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin, 99-120. Michigan State University Press.
- 2019 Robert E. Lewis Jr. Theme signs in Potawatomi as object agreement and the inverse. *Papers of the 48th Algonquian Conference*, ed. by Monica Macaulay and Margaret Noodin, 123-142. Michigan State University Press.
- 2017 Robert E. Lewis Jr. There's no mii in Potawatomi: The diachronic nature of six discourse markers in the Ojibwe-Potawatomi branch. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society*, ed. by Julia Nee, Margarey Cychosz, Dmetri Hayes, Tyler Lau and Emily Ramirez, 483-496. Berkeley Linguistics Society.

#### *Edited volumes*

- 2016 Ershova, Ksenia, Joshua Falk, Jeffrey Geiger, Zachary Hebert, **Robert E. Lewis Jr.**, Patrick Munoz, Jacob B. Phillips, and Betsy Pillion, eds. *Proceedings of the Fifty-First Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. CLS.*

#### *Reviews*

- 2023 Robert E. Lewis Jr. Review of Sharon Hoogstraten. *Dancing for Our Tribe; Potawatomi Tradition in the New Millennium* University of Oklahoma Press. 2022. *Great Plains Quarterly*.
- 2020 Robert E. Lewis Jr. Review of Michael D. Sullivan Sr.. *Relativization in Ojibwe*. University of Nebraska Press. 2020. *International Journal of American Linguistics*, 581-583.

#### **Presentations**

- 2023 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *A Preverb Stemmer for Bodwéwadmimwen*. 55th Algonquian Conference. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- Robert E. Lewis Jr. *A Survey of Computational Infrastructure to Help Preserve and Revitalize Bodwéwadmimwen*. The 6th Workshop on the Use of Computational Methods in the Study of Endangered Languages. Online.
- 2022 Corinne Kasper and **Robert E. Lewis Jr.** *The Potawatomi Complementizer System*. 54th Algonquian Conference. Boulder, Colorado, USA.
- Robert E. Lewis Jr.** and Sogi LeClere. *Investing in effective language initiatives*. Potawatomi Gathering Tribal Leaders Meeting. Hannahville Indian Community.
- Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Suffix-less and reduplicated participles in Potawatomi: Old rules and new words*. Prairie Workshop on Languages and Linguistics VI. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- Collins, Carla, Donald Keeble, and **Robert E. Lewis Jr.** *Bodwéwadmimwen Éthë ték, Inc.'s Ggékyamnanêk Wdathmownëwan Project: The Center for the Potawatomi Language's Our Elders' Stories Project*. Presentation at Indigenous

Storytelling: Short stories and translations of Aesop's Fables in the Indigenous America. South Bend, Indiana, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *The Grasshopper (and the Ant): A Potawatomi yadsokan*. Presentation at Indigenous Storytelling: Short stories and translations of Aesop's Fables in the Indigenous America. South Bend, Indiana, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *New Evidence on the Cree-Ojibwe Connection: Futurity and Complementizers*. Presentation at The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Washington DC, USA.

2021 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Look! Directive Interjections across the Algonquian Language Family*. 53rd Algonquian Conference.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *The Immediate Future Tense in Potawatomi*. 23rd Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. Santa Barbara, California, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Towards a Grammar of Potawatomi Interjections*. Presentation at The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, San Francisco, California, USA.

2020 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *A History of Potawatomi Language Planning and Policy: Education Funding from 1819 to 1848*. 52nd Algonquian Conference. Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *The Evidential System of Potawatomi*. Presentation at The University of Chicago's Workshop on Language, Variation and Change, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Narrative Structure of a Potawatomi Text*. Presentation at The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

2019 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *The Scattered Evidential System of Potawatomi*. Presentation at The 51st Algonquian Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Transitive Inanimate Commands*. Presentation at the Potawatomi Language Conference, Wasauksing First Nation, Canada.

2018 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Additivity in Potawatomi*. Presentation at The University of Chicago's Workshop on Language, Variation and Change, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Potawatomi mine: conjunction, adverbial, adjectival, and additive focus particle*. Presentation at Workshop in General Linguistics 15, Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Learning how to advocate for community language rights: Citizen Potawatomi Nation*. Presentation at Let's Talk In Our Own Words: Native Language Revival and Preservation in the Indigenous Americas, South Bend, Indiana, USA.

2017 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *The Potawatomi particle na: How and where to use it*. Presentation at The 49th Algonquian Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Wi can help to focus and cleft: Towards an understanding of the Potawatomi particle wi*. Presentation at Workshop in General Linguistics 14, Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *The Potawatomi particle gé: An additive, coordinator, and possibly a topic marker.* Presentation at Illinois Language and Linguistics Society 9, Urbana, Illinois, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *There's no mii in Potawatomi: The diachronic nature of six discourse markers in the Ojibwe-Potawatomi branch.* Presentation at The 43rd Berkeley Linguistic Society, Berkeley, California, USA.

2016 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Theme signs in Potawatomi as object agreement and the inverse.* Presentation at The 48th Algonquian Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Information structure conditioned word order in Potawatomi.* Presentation at The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Washington D.C., USA.

2015 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Determining that Potawatomi word order is pragmatically conditioned.* Presentation at The 47th Algonquian Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

### Guest Lectures

2022 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Ways that academia can repair community harm: The legacy of Charles F. Hockett's Potawatomi fieldwork.* Guest Lecture for the University of Michigan's Unpacking Misconceptions and Stereotypes of Native Languages, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

2017 Robert E. Lewis Jr. *Indigenous Languages of North America.* Guest Lecture for The University of Chicago's Languages of the World, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

2016 Cherry Meyer and **Robert E. Lewis Jr.** *Ojibwe and Potawatomi.* Guest Lecture for The University of Chicago's Languages of the World, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

### Fellowships and Grants

2021 The University of Winnipeg.  
Marsha Hanen Global Dialogue and Ethics Award. \$4,000.

2021 The University of Winnipeg.  
Indigenous Research Training Award. \$2,000.

2021 The University of Winnipeg.  
COVID-19 Special Discretionary Grant. \$2,985.

2021 Endangered Language Fund.  
Native Voices Endowment Grant: *Building Potawatomi Verbs.* \$9,540.

2019-20 The University of Chicago, Division of the Humanities.  
*Mellon Humanities Dissertation Completion Fellowship.*

2018 Endangered Language Fund.  
Native Voices Endowment Grant: CoLang Fellowship. \$2,559.

2017-18 American Philosophical Society.  
Phillips Fund for Native American Research: *Discourse Markers in Potawatomi.* \$2,800.

2012 United State Department of Education  
Foreign Languages and Areas Studies Fellowship. Arabic, Morocco.

## Teaching Experience

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

2023 Fall Introduction to Potawatomi

The University of Winnipeg

2022 Winter Language Typology.

2022 Winter Language Revitalization.

2021 Fall Introduction to Linguistics.

2021 Winter Language Revitalization.

The University of Chicago

2018 Winter *Lecturer*, Introduction to Morphology.

University of Kansas

2013 Spring *Lecturer*, Introduction to Linguistics.

2012 Fall *Lecturer*, Introduction to Linguistics.

## Research Project Mentorship

2021 Summer Algonquian Interjections Project.  
Indigenous Summer Scholars Program, University of Winnipeg.  
Supervised an undergraduate who worked through Algonquian bilingual texts to find interjections in order to create a pedagogical database.

2018 Summer Project Supervisor for a Odyssey Scholar:  
Department of Linguistics, The University of Chicago.  
Supervised an undergraduate who worked through Potawatomi texts to look for a possible same object vs. different object system for the conjunction particles *mine* and *=the*.

## Service

2014-2015 Officer/organizer, The 51st Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society.

2013-present Abstract reviewer, Chicago Linguistic Society.

2012-2013 Colloquium organizer, University of Kansas Linguistics Colloquiums.

## Peer Review

*Proceedings of the Algonquian Conference*

## Professional Societies

Member, Canadian Linguistic Association.

Member, Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas.

Member, Linguistic Society of America.

## Languages

Natural English (native), Potawatomi, French, Spanish, Modern Standard Arabic.  
(*in decreasing order of proficiency*)

Research Najdi Arabic.

Programming  $\LaTeX$ , python, java.