

CURRICULUM VITAE

Vanessa Watts Simonds, ScD

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Professional Address Health and Human Development
Montana State University
316D Herrick Hall
PO Box 173540
Bozeman, MT 59717-3540
Email: vanessa.simonds@montana.edu
Phone: 406-994-7396

Date of Birth October 23, 1978
Place of Birth Montana, United States of America
Citizenship United States of America and Crow Tribe of Indians

EDUCATION

2005 – 2009 Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA
Degree: Doctor of Science, Public Health Intervention Design for Social Change
Minors: Epidemiology & Research Methods
Dissertation: *Native American Health: Social and Cultural Factors Associated with Prevention and Screening Behaviors.*

2003 – 2005 Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA
Degree: Master of Science, Epidemiology
Thesis: *Assessing Diet Quality of WIC Enrollees: A Comparison between Native Americans and Whites*

1998 – 2002 Montana State University
Bozeman, MT
Degree: Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science *with Honors*

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

2012 – 2014 Native Investigator
Native Investigator Development Program – Native Elder Research Center, University of Colorado, Denver, CO

2010 – 2011 Postdoctoral Fellow
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy,
affiliated with Masters of Public Health Program, Department of
Family & Community Medicine, University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque, NM

POSITIONS HELD

2014 – Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Human Development
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

2013 – Adjunct Assistant Professor
Department of Community and Behavioral Health,
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

2011 –2013 Assistant Professor
Department of Community and Behavioral Health,
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

2009 – 2010 Adjunct Instructor
Department of Health and Human Development,
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

2007 – 2010 Co-Investigator/Project Coordinator
Messengers for Health Program
Department of Health and Human Development,
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

RESEARCH FUNDING

Current Grants

2014 –2019 **Project Leader**
Project Title: Center for Health Equity in Rural Montana
Principal Investigator: A. Harmsen
Percent Effort: 0.5 FTE
Funding Organization: National Institute of General Medical
Sciences

Role in Prior Grants and Contracts

2012 – 2014 **Training Fellow**

Project Title: Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health Related Research to the Regional Native American Community Networks Program

Co-Principal Investigators: D. Buchwald & J. Henderson

Percent Effort: 0.75 FTE

Funding Organization: National Cancer Institute

2012 – 2013

Native Investigator

Project Title: Native Investigator Development Program, sponsored by the Resource Center for Minority Aging Research, Native Elder Research Center

Principal Investigator: S. Manson

Percent Effort: 0.2 FTE

Funding Organization: National Institute of Aging

2007 – 2010

Co-Investigator

Project Title: Messengers for Health

Principal Investigator: S. Christopher

Percent Effort: 0.5 FTE

Funding Organization: American Cancer Society

2008 – 2009

Co-Principal Investigator

Project Title: Urban Indian Diabetes Intervention Planning

Co-Principal Investigators: **V. Watts** & D. Tatsey

Percent Effort: 0.1 FTE

Funding Organization: National Center for Minority and Health Disparities, through the Center for Native Health Partnerships, Montana State University

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Also under Watts)

Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Simonds, V.W., Goins, R.T., Krantz, E.M., & Garrouette, E.M. (2013). Cultural identity and patient trust among older American Indian adults. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.29 (3) 500-6. PMID: 24002621

Simonds, V.W., Christopher, S. (2013) Adapting western methods to Indigenous contexts. Accepted by *American Journal of Public Health*. 103 (12), 2185-2192. PMID: 23678897

Simonds, V.W., Wallerstein, N., Duran, B., & Villegas, M. (2013) Community-based participatory research and its role in future cancer research and public health practice. *Preventing Chronic Disease*. 10, E78. PMID: 23680507

Hicks, S., Duran, B., Wallerstein, N., Avila, M., Belone, L., Lucero, J., Magarati, M., Mainer, E., Martin, D., Muhammad, M., Oetzel, J., Pearson, C., Sahota, P., **Simonds, V.W.**, Sussman, A., Tafoya, G., & White Hat, E. (2012). Evaluating Community-Based Participatory research to improve community-partnered science and community health. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. 6 (3), 289-99. PMID: 22982842

Simonds, V.W., Colditz, G., Rudd, R., & Sequist, T. (2011). Cancer screening among Native Americans in California. *Ethnicity & Disease*, 21 (2), 202-209. PMID: 21749025

Simonds, V.W., Rudd, R., Sequist, T. & Colditz, G. (2011). An assessment of printed diabetes prevention materials available to a Northern Plains tribe. *Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives*, 16, 431-447. PMID: 21271427

Simonds, V.W., Christopher, S., Sequist, T.D., Colditz, G. & Rudd, R. (2011). Exploring patient-provider interactions in a Native American community. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 22 (3), 836-852. PMID: 21841282

Christopher, S., **Watts, V.**, McCormick, A.K., & Young, S. (2008). The role of trust in eliminating health disparities: An example from community-based participatory research. *American Journal of Public Health*. 98, 1398-406. PMID: 12650366

Watts, V., Rockett, H., Baer, H., Leppert, J., & Colditz, G. (2007). Assessing diet quality in a population of low-income women: a comparison between Native Americans and Whites. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 11, 127-36. PMID: 12650366

Watts, V., Christopher, S., Streitz, J.L. & McCormick, A.K. (2005). Evaluation of lay health advisor training for a community-based participatory research project in a Native American community. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 29, 59-79

Watts, V., & Dunkel, F.V. (2003). Postharvest resistance in hard spring and winter wheat varieties of the Northern Great Plains to the Lesser Grain Borer (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae). *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 96, 220-230. PMID: 12650366

Review Articles and Articles Appearing as Chapters in Edited Volumes

Christopher, S., Burhansstipanov, L., Knows His Gun McCormick, A. & **Simonds, V.W.** (2012). Using a community-based participatory research approach to develop an interviewer training manual with members of the Apsáalooke Nation, in *Methods for Community-Based Participatory Research for Health*. B. Israel, E. Eng, A. Shulz & E. Parker, Editors. Wiley, John, and Sons, Incorporated.

Rudd, R., Rosenfeld, L., & **Simonds, V.W.** (2012). Health literacy: A new area of research with links to communication. *Atlantic Journal of Communication*, 20, (1), 16-30.

Simonds, V.W., Christopher, S., Old Elk, L., LaVeaux, D., Crooked Arm Pease, B., Jefferson, L., Stewart, M., Lefthand, M., LodgePole, R., McCormick, A., Pretty On Top, E., Simpson, C., Stewart, G., & Whiteman, C. (2012) Messengers for Health: Apsáalooke women capture the vision of wellness, in *Cancer Disparities: Causes and Evidence-Based Solutions*. R. Elk & H. Landrine, Editors. Springer Publishing Company and The American Cancer Society.

Rudd, R. & **Watts V.** (2007). Diffusion of innovations, in *Encyclopedia of Epidemiology*. S. Boslaugh, Editor. Sage Publications, Inc: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Articles in Preparation

Simonds, V.W., Garrouette, E.M., & Buchwald, D. Addressing health literacy in underserved communities.

Simonds, V.W., Garrouette, E.M., & Buchwald, D. Health literacy demand of informed consent documents.

Huyser, K., Jernigan, V. & **Simonds, V.W.** Food security trends for American Indians.

Presentations (Competitively selected)

Oral Presentations

Watts, V. & Christopher, S. (2009). Legacy of conventional research with Indigenous communities and its relevance to current public health research. American Public Health Association 2009 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Christopher, S., **Watts, V.**, Knows His Gun McCormick, A., & Young, S. (2007). Trust in community-based participatory research. American Public Health Association 2007 Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Watts, V. (2007). Native American health: Social and cultural factors associated with medical screening adherence. Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, Kansas City, Missouri.

Rosenfeld, L. & **Watts, V.** (2007). Free listing: Beyond survey development. Sixth Annual Qualitative Research Conference, St. Louis, Missouri.

Watts, V., Rockett, H., Baer, H. Leppert, J., & Colditz, G. (2005). Assessing diet quality in population of low-income pregnant women: A comparison among American Indians and Caucasians. American Public Health Association 2005 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Christopher, S., Smith, A., McCormick, A., & **Watts, V.** (2003). Outreach methods for a community-based project on the Apsáalooke reservation. American Public Health Association 2003 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

Christopher, S., McCormick, A., Smith, A., **Watts, V.**, Lowry, A., LaFromboise, V., & Deschamps-Gopher, J. (2002). Lay health advisor training for a community-based cervical health project on the Apsáalooke (Crow) reservation. American Public Health Association 2002 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Watts, V., & Dunkel, F.V. (2000). Postharvest resistance in hard spring and winter wheat varieties to the Lesser Grain Borer (*Coleoptera: Bostrichidae*). Entomological Society of America 2000 Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec.

Poster Presentations

Rhoades, D.A., Olson, A.L., Hawkins, M., Branam, D., Cannady, T., Norton, B., Ding, K., Dvorac, J., Spicer, P., **Simonds, V.W.**, & Doescher, M.P. (2015). Tanning Beliefs and Behaviors among Rural American Indian and Non-Hispanic White Youth. Stephenson Cancer Center Research Symposium. Oklahoma City, OK.

Christopher, S., McCormick, A., Hallett, J., Real Bird, S., **Simonds, V.W.**, Martin, C., & Grant, M. (2014). *Listen to my story: Data analysis of story data in health research*. National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Conference, National Harbor, MD.

Christopher, S., McCormick, A., Hallett, J., Real Bird, S., **Simonds, V.W.**, Martin, C., & Grant, M. (2014). *Walk with me: Using stories for chronic illness self-care*. National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Conference, National Harbor, MD.

Jernigan, V.B.B., Huyser, K., **Simonds, V.W.**, & Valdes, J. (2014). Changing Patterns of Food Insecurity among American Indians and Alaska Natives: US Current Population Survey 2000-2010. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Albuquerque, NM.

Simonds, V.W., Garroutte, E.M., Martin, C., & Buchwald, D. (2014). The Role of Health Literacy in Health Disparities: A Review of the Literature. 6th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference, Bethesda, MD.

Simonds, V.W., Garroutte, E.M., & Buchwald, D. (2014). IRB policies and health literacy: Ethical challenges to informed consent. American Public Health Association, New Orleans, LA.

Simonds, V.W., Garroutte, E.M., & Buchwald, D. (2013). The health literacy burden of informed consent documents. Fifth Annual Health Literacy Research Conference, Washington, District of Columbia.

Smith, A., Christopher, S., McCormick, A., **Watts, V.**, Small, J., & LaFromboise, V. (2003). Progress and obstacles: Lay health advisors working on a community-based cervical health project on the Apsáalooke reservation. American Public Health Association 2003 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

Christopher, S., McCormick, A., Smith, A., LaFromboise, V., & **Watts, V.** (2002). Interviewer training for Indian women in their community. American Public Health Association 2002 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Poster Presentations by Students

Real Bird, S. Christopher, S., **Simonds, V.W.**, & McCormick, A. (2014). Impacts of Historical Trauma on Chronic Illness Management. American Public Health Association, New Orleans, LA.

Margetts, M. & **Simonds, V.W.** (2014). Improving Tribal Environmental Health Literacy—A Toolkit for Understanding Tribal Environmental Health Policies and Legislation.” 6th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference, Bethesda, MD.

Thompson, D. & **Simonds, V.W.** (2013). Usability, readability and diversity assessment of internet-based information related to anxiety. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, Nashville, TN.

Jackson, E., **Watts, V.**, & Christopher, S. (2008). Training community women to conduct outreach through community meetings. Leadership Alliance Symposium. Hartford, Connecticut.

Rides The Bear, S., & **Watts, V.** (2008). Development of a culturally sensitive educational booklet on patient/provider communication on the Crow reservation. Leadership Alliance Symposium. Hartford, Connecticut.

Presentations (Invited)

Simonds, V.W. (2014). Addressing health literacy in research and practice. MT INBRE Network Research and Training Symposium. Montana State University, Bozeman, MT.

Simonds, V.W. (2013). Health Literacy in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. First Annual Symposium: National American Indian and Alaska Native Addiction Technology Transfer Center, University of Iowa College of Public Health, Iowa City, IA.

Simonds, V.W. (2013). Addressing cervical cancer disparities using CBPR. Native American Cancer Control Gathering. Iowa Cancer Consortium, Sioux City, IA.

Simonds, V.W. (2013). Assessing health literacy demands in health education and

research contexts. Department of Community and Behavioral Health Seminar Series, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Simonds, V.W. (2012). Mismatched expectations: Exploring health literacy demands placed on Native Americans. Des Moines University, Des Moines, IA.

Simonds, V.W. (2011). Community-based participatory research to address Native American health. Native American Heritage Month Speaker, American Indian Student Association, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Simonds, V.W. (2011). "The trust part of the tipi is the anchor": Exploring patient/provider interactions in a Native American community. Community Engagement Seminar Series, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.

Simonds, V.W. (2010). Career paths as an Indigenous Research Scholar, Indigenous Wellness Research Institute, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Simonds, V.W. (2008). Native American health: Social and cultural factors associated with medical screening adherence. Harvard University Native American Program Seminar Series, Cambridge, MA.

Simonds, V.W. (2009). Public health, graduate degrees, & me. Montana Apprenticeship Program, American Indian Research Opportunities, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

Watts, V. (2006). Success in graduate school. Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science 2006 Annual Meeting, Tampa, Florida.

Watts, V. (2006). What is public health? Montana Apprenticeship Program, American Indian Research Opportunities, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

Watts, V. (2005). Epidemiology: Be a disease detective. American Indian Research Opportunities Biomedical Seminar on Health Issues for Native Americans, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

AWARDS / HONORS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 2013 – Present | Scholar, National Congress of American Indians, Washington University St. Louis—Center for Diabetes Translation Research |
| 2007 | Outstanding Oral Presentation Award SACNAS National Conference |
| 2006 – 2007 | "1665 Caleb Cheeshahteamuck Pre-Doctoral Fellow" Harvard University Native American Program |
| 2003 – 2009 | Snitzler Award Harvard Committee on General Scholarships |

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| 2003 – 2005 | American Indian Graduate Center Fellowship |
| 2002 – 2005 | Sequoyah Graduate Fellowship |
| 2003 – 2005 | A.T. Anderson Scholarship |
| | American Indian Science & Engineering Society |
| 2003 – 2004 | Finch College Alumnae Association Graduate Education Grant |
| 2003 | James A. Fergusson Fellowship |
| 2001 – 2002 | Miss Indian MSU-American Indian Council Pow Wow |
| 2000 | Morris K. Udall Scholar |
| 1998 – 1999 | Science and Engineering for All Scholar |
| 1997 – 1999 | A.T. Anderson Scholarship |
| | American Indian Science & Engineering Society |
| 1998 | Top 10 GPA Cottey College |
| 1998 | Phi Theta Kappa international honor society for two-year colleges |
| 1998 | Sigma Delta Kappa English honor society for two-year colleges |

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 2009 – Present | <i>Member</i> , Native Research Network |
| 2005 – Present | <i>Member of Coordinating Committee</i> , Spirit of 1848 Caucus, American Public Health Association. (Social Justice and Public Health) |
| 2003 – Present | <i>Member</i> , American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Caucus, American Public Health Association. |
| 2005 – 2009 | <i>Founding Member</i> , Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, HSPH Student-Chapter, Harvard School of Public Health. |

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Montana State University

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|--------|---|
| 2015 – | Hiring Committee, Director of Center for Health Equity in Rural Montana |
| 2015 – | Scholarship Committee |
| 2014 – | Committee Member, Tribal College Transfer Project |
| 2014 – | Graduate Representative for PhD student Eric Smoll |
| 2014 – | Hiring Committee, Community Health, HHD |
| 2014 | Reviewer for Provost's Native American Recruitment and Retention Initiative Proposals |

University of Iowa

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|-------------|---|
| 2011 – 2014 | Admissions Committee |
| 2011 – 2014 | University of Iowa Native American Council Member |
| 2012 | Hiring Committee |
| 2012 | Iowa Edge Panelist |

OTHER SERVICE

- 2014 – Advisory Council Member, National American Indian & Alaska Native
Addiction Technology Transfer Center
- 2014 External Examiner, Janet Jull, Candidate in the PhD in Population Health
Program at the University of Ottawa

EDITORIAL / REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Ad Hoc Reviewer

American Journal of Public Health
Journal of General Internal Medicine
Preventing Chronic Disease
Women's Health Issues
Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved
Ethnicity and Disease
Progress in Community Health Partnerships
Journal of Health Communication

Grant Reviewer

- 2014 Montana IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence, Pilot
Grant Program
- 2013-15 Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health, Sanford
Research Center, Pilot Grant Program
- 2013 Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, University of
Iowa, Pilot Grant Program
- 2013 Native People for Cancer Control, University of Washington,
Community Grant Program

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Graduate Courses

Fall 2013, Graduate Students, Evaluation 1: Theory and Applications, (172:181).
Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University
of Iowa, 12 students, 16 weeks, (3 hr lecture).

Spring 2013, Graduate Students, Community-Based Participatory Research (172:260).
Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University
of Iowa, 8 students, 16 weeks, (3 hr. lecture).

Fall 2012, Graduate Students, Evaluation 1: Theory and Applications, (172:181).
Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University
of Iowa, 15 students, 16 weeks, (3 hr lecture).

Spring 2012, Graduate Students, Special Topics: Community-Based Participatory Research (172:170). Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University of Iowa, 5 students, 16 weeks, (3 hr lecture).

Undergraduate Courses

Spring 2015, Undergraduate Upperclassmen, Principles of Epidemiology (CHTH 440), Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University, 27 students, 16 weeks (3 hr lecture).

Fall 2014, Undergraduate Upperclassmen, Principles of Epidemiology (CHTH 440), Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University, 35 students, 16 weeks (3 hr lecture).

Spring 2010, Undergraduate Upperclassmen, Principles of Epidemiology (HDHL 440), Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University, 32 students, 16 weeks (3 hr lecture).

Spring 2009, Undergraduate Upperclassmen, Principles of Epidemiology (HDHL 440), Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University, 33 students, Co-taught with Marc Schure, 16 weeks (3 hr lecture).

Spring 2009, Undergraduate Upperclassmen, Research Methods (HDCF 371), Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University, 36 students, Co-taught with Dr. Dawn Tarabochia, 16 weeks (3 hr lecture).

Classroom Invited Lectures

Spring 2014, "Indigenous Research Methods," invited lecture for Theories/Models in Health (CHTH 502) taught by Dr. Elizabeth Rink, Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University.

Fall 2013, "Qualitative Research and Indigenous Methods," invited lecture for Qualitative Research for Public Health (CBH:172:183) taught by Dr. Brianna Woods-Jaeger, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, University of Iowa.

Fall 2013, "Introduction to Health Literacy in Public Health," invited lecture for Introduction to Public Health (MPH:170:101) taught by Dr. Jason Daniel-Ulloa & Dr. Mary Aquilino, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, University of Iowa.

Spring 2012, "Community-based participatory research with Native American Communities," invited lecture for Health Disparities & Cultural Competence (CBH:172:135) taught by Dr. Joe Coulter, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, University of Iowa.

Spring 2012, "Community-based participatory research: An example in a Native American community," invited lecture for Master of Public Health Seminar, College of Public Health, University of Iowa.

Fall 2011 & 2012, "Cultural aspects of interviewing," invited lecture for Communicating with the Community (CBH:172:185) taught by Dr. Anne Helene Skinstad, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, University of Iowa.

Spring 2011, "The patient-provider relationship," invited lecture for Sociology of Medical Practice (SOC 340) taught by Dr. Kimberly Huyser, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico.

Spring 2011, "Promoting cervical health using CBPR approaches," invited lecture for Public Health Seminar (PH 513) taught by Drs. Victoria Sanchez and Alexis Handal, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of New Mexico.

Fall 2010, "Health Literacy: two studies in a Native community," invited lecture for Intercultural Communication (CJ 314) taught by Julie Lucero, Department of Communication and Journalism, University of New Mexico.

Fall 2008, "Native American health," invited lecture for Health Disparities (HDHL 452) taught by Dr. Dawn Tarabochia, Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University.

Spring 2008, "Indian Child Welfare Act," invited lecture for Family Law and Public Policy (HDCF 425R) taught by Dr. Bethany Letiecq, Department of Health and Human Development, Montana State University.

Mentorship and Supervision

Undergraduate Student Mentoring and Supervision

Anthony Hopf, BS student
Erin Smith, BS Student
Mattea Grant, BS student
Christine Martin, BS student
Destinie Thompson, BS student
Rochelle Lodgepole, BS student
Larna Old Elk, BS student
Lachelle Simpson, BS student
Shilo Rides The Bear, AS student
Emmaline Jackson, BS student
LaDawn Plainfeather, AS student
Annie Leider, AS student

Graduate Student Advising, Mentoring, and Supervision

Deborah M. LaVeaux, EDD

Christine Martin, MS student

Miranda Margetts, MS student

Nate Tucker, MS student

Carolyn Sleeth, MPH student

Hunter Harig, MPH student

Sydney Switzer, Non-degree graduate Student