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Mary S. Linn, Curator

Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Mary Linn is curator of cultural and linguistic revitalization at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and a contributor to the Smithsonian's Recovering Voices Program. A specialist in working with Indigenous communities to sustain and revitalize endangered languages, Linn joined the Center in 2014 from the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma, where she was associate curator of Native American languages and associate professor. She is currently co-curator of the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival program *Basque: Innovation by Culture*.

Linn works actively in language revitalization, including training Indigenous community members in linguistics and language documentation, revitalization strategies, language policy, survey methods, and culturally based language curriculum. After joining the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in 2002, she started the Native American Languages Collections. Linn's community-based work, through the Oklahoma Native Language Association and the Collaborative Language Research Institute has led to extensive programming around language revitalization, including the Oklahoma Breath of Life Workshop (2010–2014) and the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair (2003–2014).

Linn earned her doctorate degree in linguistics from the University of Kansas and her bachelor's degree in American studies at Wichita State University. Linn's primary research is in the Euchee (Yuchi) language and effective strategies in the language acquisition of endangered languages, including youth motivation.

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