

OLIVIA “LIVY” DREXLER  
PhD  
Curriculum Vitae

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Disability Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Community Engaged Research, Applied Anthropology, Special Education Studies, Educational Anthropology, Medical Anthropology

EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy**

May 2025, Anthropology, Michigan State University, Lansing, Mi.

Dissertation: Special Education in Indian Country: Conceptions of Disability, Special Education, Survivance and Refusal.

**Bachelor of Science Magna Cum Laude**

May 2017, Major Sociology and Anthropology, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mi.

**Associate in Arts**

May 2015, Major in General Studies, Delta College, University Center, Mi.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- 2026 **Drexler, O.** “Protection is Not Without Risk: Survivance, Refusal, and Risk-Resilience Dynamics within an Ojibwe Tribal School.” Under Review.
- 2025 **Drexler, O.** “Illustrating Their Lives: Using Art Elicitation Methods to Interview Ojibwe Special Education Students.” Under Review.
- 2025 **Drexler, O.** “Complicating Special Education: How Trauma Impacts and Complicates Understanding of Disability at an Ojibwe Tribal School.” Under Review.
- 2018 **Drexler, O.** "Disability and Queerness: exploration of disability and sexuality in autoethnography and institutional ethnography." *Michigan Sociological Review* 32.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- 2026 Cascio, M.A. & **Drexler, O.** “Thinking Beyond the Biomedical Box: Expanding Definitions of Disability in Interconnected Systems” in *The Routledge Handbook of Disability Anthropology*, edited by S. Colligan & A. Jaysane-Darr. In Preparation.

- 2021 Wentworth, C & **Drexler, L.** (2021). Flint Photo Data. Urban Food Systems in Flint, Michigan: Identifying Leverage Points.

- 2021 Wentworth, C., Hodbod, J. & **Drexler, L.** (2021). Values about the Flint Food System. *Flint Leverage Points Briefing Note 5*. Flint, Michigan: Community Foundation of Greater Flint and Michigan State University.

#### FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2024	Dissertation Completion Fellowship <b>Awarded to O. Drexler</b>	\$ 9,000.00
2021- 2023	Spencer Foundation: Research Grant on Education: Small Awarded to Dr. Heather Howard as PI, <b>O. Drexler listed as Research Manager</b>	\$46,469.16
2019	Scholar's Research Award from the College of Social Science <b>Awarded to O. Drexler</b>	\$ 1,516.00
2019	Charles P. and Linda A. Thompson Endowment <b>Awarded to O. Drexler</b>	\$ 1,000.00
2019	Kenneth E. and Marie J. Corey Research Enrichment Fund Award <b>Awarded to O. Drexler</b>	\$ 1,000.00
2017- 2022	Michigan State University Enrichment Fellowship <b>Awarded to O. Drexler</b>	\$49,000.00
2015- 2017	Central Michigan University Community College Honors Scholarship <b>Awarded to O. Drexler</b>	\$ 5,000.00

#### PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 **Drexler, O.** "Not Like Any Other School: How the Environment at a Tribal School Challenges Conceptions of Disability" Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2024 **Drexler, O.** "It's in the Blood: Diagnosing Students at a Tribal School." Council for Exceptional Children, San Antonio, TX.
- 2022 **Drexler, O.** "Special Education as the Double- Edged Sword: Portrayal of Special education in Anishinaabek News Sources" American Anthropology Association. Hybrid Conference
- 2021 Schmitt Olabisi, L., Wentworth, C., Zareei M., Gray S., Knox C., **Drexler L.**, & Wallace, R. V. "Working toward food justice in Flint, Michigan: Pandemic, Partnerships, and Points of Intervention," Food Resilience Access & Equity, Virtual Conference.
- 2020 **Drexler, O.** "A Complex Web: Using Anthropology to Understand Placement of Native American Students," Society for Disability Studies, Virtual Conference.
- 2020 **Drexler, O.** "Why are there so many Native American students in Special Education classrooms?" Society for Applied Anthropology, Albuquerque NM. \*Canceled due to Covid-19
- 2019 **Drexler, O.** "Native American Youth and Special Education Tracking." American Indian Studies Symposium, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI.
- 2019 **Drexler, O.** "Special Education in Indian Country and off the Rez." Native American Critical Issues Conference, Traverse City, MI.

- 2019 **Drexler, O.** “Investigating Special Education in Indian Country” GSA: Graduate Research Symposium, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI.
- 2018 **Drexler, O.** “Colonization in Autism: Understanding the Role that Colonialism Plays in the Disparity in Native American Autism Rates” Michigan Academy of Science Arts and Letters, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI. (Poster).
- 2018 **Drexler, O.** “Colonization in Autism: Understanding the Role that Colonialism Plays in the Disparity in Native American Autism Rates, “Transformations Conference,” Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. (Poster).
- 2018 **Drexler, O.** “Disability and Queerness: An Exploration of Disability and Sexuality” COGS: Graduate Research Conference, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. (Poster).
- 2017 **Drexler, O.** “Traverse City State Hospital: Insane Asylum as a Tourist Attraction,” Student Research and Creative Endeavors Exhibition, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI. (Poster).

## HONORS

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July 2024 Diversity Torch, College of Social Science, Michigan State University

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Spring 2024 **Waganakising: More than a Quillbox**  
**Research Assistant**, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University,  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Heather Howard  
**Summary:** Organized images of Anishinaabek quillboxes for online repository and display for Indigenous and local museums to promote Anishinaabe artists and cultural preservation and conservation
- Fall 2019-  
 Spring 2024 **Investigating Special Education in Indian Country**  
**Main Researcher**, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Heather Howard  
**Summary:** Completed field research at a tribal school in Minnesota, interviewed participants, volunteered as paraprofessional for participant observation, explored art based visual method with elementary aged students
- Fall 2020-  
 Summer 2021 **Flint Leverage Point Project**  
**Research Assistant**, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University,  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Chelsea Wentworth-Fourmier  
**Summary:** Interviewed participants, transcribed interviews, coded transcripts and photos for data analysis, gathered literature for project, and organized data.

Fall 2016-  
Spring 2017      **The Discourse of Disabled Sexuality**  
**Student Research**, Department of Sociology, Central Michigan University,  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Amanda Garrison  
**Summary:** Collaborated with faculty to come up with working theory for the  
discourse of Disabled Identity and Disabled Sexuality.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Jun. 2025-  
Present      **Community Project Manager**  
Project AWARE, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
**Supervisor:** Arionna Crispin  
**Summary:** Served as liaison between Project AWARE grant and Mount  
Pleasant Public School district, planned events and assisted in ensuring we were  
meeting grant goals and objectives. I also served as the data specialist, I  
designed surveys and evaluations and collected and analyzed data.

Feb. 2025-  
Apr. 2025      **Data and Systems Coordinator**  
TEAMS, Lansing School District, Public Health AmeriCorps  
**Supervisor:** Christina Rios and Margie Cole  
**Summary:** Gathered data for the Lansing School District's TEAMS program to  
improve internal processes and improve mental health services for Lansing  
students.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Summer 2024      **Lead Instructor** ANP 204: Introduction to Medical Anthropology, Department  
of Anthropology  
Fall 2023      **Teaching Assistant** ISS 310: People and the Environment  
Summer 2023      **Lead Instructor** ANP 370: Medical Anthropology, Department of  
Anthropology  
Summer 2020      **Lead Instructor** ANP 204: Introduction to Medical Anthropology, Department  
of Anthropology  
Spring 2020      **Teaching Assistant** ISS 220: Time Space and Change in Human Society,  
College of Social Science  
Fall 2019      **Teaching Assistant** ANP 270: Women's Health, Department of Anthropology  
Summer 2019      **Lead Instructor** ANP 270: Women's Health, Department of Anthropology  
Spring 2019      **Teaching Assistant** ANP 370: Medical Anthropology, Department of  
Anthropology  
Fall 2018      **Teaching Assistant** ISS 315: Globalization and Capitalism, College of Social  
Science

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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2019 to 2020	Graduate Employee's Union, Member Defense, Michigan State University
2019	Graduate Employee's Union, Diversity Specialist, Michigan State University
2018 to 2019	Graduate Employee's Union, Diversity and Inclusion Positions Plank Team Leader, Michigan State University
2018 to 2019	Graduate Students of Anthropology, Treasurer, Michigan State University
2017 to 2019	Graduate Employee's Union, Steward, Michigan State University

### CERTIFICATIONS

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Feb. 2026	UX Research Bootcamp, Erdos Institute
Aug. 2025	Restorative Justice Certification
Mar. 2025	Youth Mental Health First Aide
Jan. 2024	HRPP/IRB Certification
Dec. 2018	Cochrane Systematic Review Certification
Sep. 2018	Certificate of Competition of MSU Michigan Indian Day: Intergenerational Trauma: The Impact on Indigenous Communities
Jul. 2018	National Institute of Health Certification
Mar. 2018	Certificate of Excellence in Dialogue

### ORGANIZATION AFFILIATIONS

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2018 to present	Society for Applied Anthropology
2018 to Present	American Anthropology Association