



Serina Payan Hazelwood, MAIS, CSE {she/her/ella}

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Summary of Qualifications

Serina Payan Hazelwood (she/her/ella) is a queer, detribalized-Indigenous Chicana scholar, holistic sexuality educator, and somatic community gatherer completing her PhD in Sustainability Education at Prescott College. Guided by the Mexican Epistemologies of the, Serina's work fosters liberatory learning spaces through Indigenous and self-determined pedagogies, enriched by anti- and decolonial, queer, and feminist of-color methodologies.

As founder of The Elsewheres, a collaborative platform reanimating ancestral and collective Knowledges, she offers accessible, transformative education for historically resilient and marginalized communities. Her dissertation, *Reanimating Chingonisma: Creating Indigenous Elsewheres Through Liberatory Praxis*, reflects her dedication to decolonial futures and cultural resilience.

Serina's contributions include *The People's Book of Human Sexuality* (2024) and *Reimagining U.S. Federal Land Management Through Decolonization* (2021). Residing on Kumeyaay land in Rosarito, Baja California, she is committed to creating culturally responsible spaces that emphasize liberation, resilience, and community-centered learning. [Serina's positionality and identity statement can be found here.](#)

GALLUP® Strengths

Connectedness • Activator • Strategic • Communication • Responsibility

Honors, Awards, & Accomplishments

AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator	2022
Certified Holistic Sexuality Educator, Institute for Sexuality Education & Enlightenment	2018
Co-Chair AASECT Institute	2021 - 2022
Scholarship recipient, <i>Change Maker</i> , Prescott College	2019, 2020
Presenter, Drum Circle Facilitator Guild	2020
President's Honor Recipient, Glendale Community College	2017 - 2019
Grant recipient winner, <i>Innovation for Adopting New Technologies and Pedagogies</i>	2017
Presenter, <i>GCC Ignite</i> ®, Glendale Community College	2016
ECHO Magazine Community Profile feature	2013
Intuit® Small Business, Big Wishes recipient	2012
AZ Foothills Magazine® "8 Healthy Spots" award	2012
<i>Sonoran Living</i> ® Community Profile feature	2012
Healthcare Advertising® Gold Winner	2001
Healthcare Advertising® Silver Winner	2001

Work Experience

Steward of Community Knowledges The Elsewheres An educational platform rooted in decolonial praxis, guiding, cultivating, and protecting ancestral and community-centered knowledge through accessible learning experiences and collaborations.	2024 – Present
Narrative Editor La Hija de la Chingada: Chronicles of a Mexican Chef in the U.S.A. Collaborated with the author to shape their writings into a cohesive and impactful narrative, conducting in-depth interviews to develop a story that authentically reflected the author's voice and experiences.	2024
Visionary Founder and Facilitator Payan Medicine Offering transformative education, retreats, and movement that integrates Indigenous Knowledges, sexuality education, and somatic practices to promote healing, resilience, and cultural connection.	2016 – Present
Facilitator, <i>Racial Justice Student Sanctuary</i> Prescott College The Racial Justice Student Sanctuary at Prescott College's role centers on creating a supportive space for BIMPOC students to engage in collective healing, spirit restoration, and resilience-building, fostering solidarity through shared stories and restorative practices.	2024 - Present
Dean of Student Affairs Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment Managing the implementation of core business models to streamline processes for functionality and efficiency, as well as assisting in program development.	2021 - 2022
Co-Chair AASECT Institute Creating virtual training sessions that introduce new tools, perspectives, and strategies for advancing sex positivity and liberation with a decolonial framework.	2021 - 2022
Operations Manager Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment Managing the implementation of core business models to streamline processes for functionality and efficiency as well as assisting in program development.	2018 - 2021
Graphic Design Artist and Marketing Consultant Athena Expressions, Banner Health Systems, BC Graphics, Zila Pharmaceuticals, Brazen Graphix Providing turn-key marketing services such as graphic design, website development, branding, marketing management, and promotional products.	1997 – 2020
Fitness & Wellness Instructor Phoenix, Arizona Creating body-positive, inclusive classes for community that incorporates movement and somatic awareness for marginalized folx.	1998 – 2020

Sex Educator/Sales Associate 2013 - 2018
 Fascinations®, My Secret Luxury®, Fascinations®, Castle Mega Store®
 Educating community about products related to sexual pleasure and function.

Adjunct Instructor, Yoga 101 Fall 2013 – Fall 2017
 Glendale Community College
 An introduction to the history of yoga, postural poses, and meditation that incorporates somatic awareness.

Adjunct Instructor, Yoga 102 Spring 2014 – Fall 2017
 Glendale Community College
 An advanced yoga practice that explores the 8-limbs of the traditional yoga path with an incorporation of somatic awareness.

Adjunct Instructor, Zumba® Fall 2013 – 2017
 Glendale Community College
 A dance-fitness course that introduces participants to world music and dance rhythms.

Wellness Instructor 2013 - 2017
 Glendale Community College
 Leading senior adults in wellness courses such as Zumba Gold®, SilverSneakers®, yoga, drum circle, and guided meditation.

Wellness Instructor, Demos-on-the-Go 2014 - 2017
 Glendale Community College
 Leading faculty and student body in community-building activities that included meditation, movement, and drumming

Owner/Instructor, In the RA Fitness 2011 - 2013
 Phoenix, Arizona
 A boutique fitness studio with a social justice and body-positive business model, featuring classes designed for large-bodied, LGBTQIA+, and 40+ aging adults.

Presentation, Facilitation, and Leadership Experience

Co-Facilitator, Healing Through Story: Narrative Justice and Spirit Restoration October 13, 2024
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Fuerza
 A workshop co-facilitated for PPH engaged participants in grounding rituals, discussions on narrative sovereignty, and a collaborative exercise addressing institutional censorship, creating a space for narrative justice, spirit protection, and agency restoration through ritual and reflective practices.

Panelist, Finding Home May 8, 2024
 San Francisco Public Library
 Explored the concept of 'home' amidst a shifting landscape in a panel from *The People's Book of Human Sexuality* to discuss themes of identity and belonging in a world of constant change.

Facilitator, *Anti-Colonial Professional Communication and Personal Reflection Skills*

December 2, 2023

The Sexual Health School

Transforming the practice of sexuality Sexuality Professionals through the Re-Humanizing approach and Indigenous values. The workshop taught skills to disrupt power, enhance communication skills, and deepen personal reflection using the Tezcatlipoca model and the Four Rs in their therapy practice.

Facilitator, *Developing Positionality Statements*

September 22, 2023

Prescott College Fall Symposium

A workshop on positionality guided participants through self-reflection and somatic awareness, encouraging them to examine how proximity to power and identity shapes their interactions, research, and learning.

Speaker, *La Chola Xola: Reclaiming Indigenous Guerrillera Identities y Celebrating Ceremonia in Chola Spaces*

October 13, 2023

Yakima Community College, Yakima, WA

Presenting a workshop through the Nahui Ollin to explore storytelling and collaborative re-memberings, challenging colonial systems of power and envisioning Indigenous Indigenous Elsewheres that are "beyond the erasures of coloniality..."

Facilitator, *Chingona Chicana/x Retreat*

May 25-28, 2023

Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico

Chingona Retreats are immersive, intimate wellness workshops that focus on the path toward liberation.

Facilitator, *Reclamation, Ritual & Renewal: A Decolonial Approach to Unsettling Our Story*

February 25, 2023

Sex X Southwest, Tucson, Arizona

An experiential clay-play course that incorporates somatic observation as individuals investigate the stories of their bodies.

Facilitator, *Online Sacred Sexuality*

January 21, 2023

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

A course that invites participants to discover and explore their own ideas about sacredness and sexuality, and how these internal concepts impact their professional work

Facilitator, *Tucson, Arizona - Creative and Educative: Using Our Hearts & Arts in Sex Education, Counseling & Therapy*

November 11, 2022

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

A deeply playful, in-person workshop will uncover the effectiveness and pleasure of the engagement of our creative selves in the fields of sex education, counseling and therapy.

Facilitator, *Tucson, Arizona - Exceptional Educator: Theory and Methods of Holistic Sex Education*

November 8 - 10, 2022

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

An experiential, virtual course that leads educators to create their own teaching philosophy statements and curriculum design

- Co-Chair, AASECT Virtual Programming: Radical Erotic Liberation Through Relationality in the Field of Sexuality** October 14, 2022
 American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists
 Institute is intentionally designed with techno-heutagogical (self-determined) approaches to inspire, decolonize, and decrease distance toward liberation in the field of sexuality. Participants are invited to activate embodied wisdom and engage and receive in libratory discourse as it relates to sexuality, relationality, erotic sovereignty, love, pleasure, passion, justice, and joy.
- Facilitator, Online Sexuality, Ritual, and Healing** September 24, 2022
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that teaches professionals how to incorporate the healing benefits of ritual in their practice.
- Facilitator, Online Cultural Identities and Sexuality in the US: Counter-Narratives and Self-Reflection** July 30, 2022
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that exposes participants to the systems of oppression that exist within the field of sexuality and help participants to understand how individual identities intersect with power.
- Collaborator, XITO Institute: Teaching & Organizing for Decolonial Ethnic Studies** July 8 - 10, 2022
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 An experiential institute that encourages educators in the field to learn more about decolonizing and re-humanizing methodologies.
- Facilitator, Online Exceptional Educator: Theory and Methods of Holistic Sex Education** June 24 - 26, 2021
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 An experiential, virtual course that leads educators to create their own teaching philosophy statements and curriculum design
- Facilitator, Online Principles of Holistic Sex Education** May 23, 2022
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that empowers participants to self-determined definitions of principles of holistic sex education and how they imagine applying those principles.
- Presenter, 2022 National Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit** May 10-11, 2022
 Oregon State University
 Guiding TEK attendees in 60-minute morning meditations to calm the nervous system and connect with spirit
- Facilitator, Online Sacred Sexuality** April 3, 2022
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that invites participants to discover and explore their own ideas about sacredness and sexuality, and how these internal concepts impact their professional work
- Co-Facilitator, Online Exceptional Educator: Theory and Methods of Holistic Sex Education** October 14-17, 2021
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 An experiential, virtual course that leads educators to create their own teaching philosophy statements and curriculum design

Facilitator, *Reclamation, Ritual & Renewal: A Decolonial Approach to Unsettling Our Story*

October 14, 2021

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

A virtual experiential clay-making course that incorporates somatic art play with individual story-telling regarding lived experience and white supremacy.

Facilitator, *Online SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*

September 17-19, 2021

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.

Facilitator, *Reclamation, Ritual, Renewal: A Call to Liberate BIPOC Bodies, Minds, and Souls*

August 1, 2021

Michigan Family Reunion Festival - A Womyn's Space

A collaborative music-making workshop that facilitated ritual to connect participants' to reclaim liberation in body, mind, and spirit. The ritual included stillness, meditation, movement, and music.

Facilitator, *Online SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*

May 21-23, 2021

AASECT

A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.

Co-Chair, *AASECT 2021 Virtual Institute, Unsettling Genders: Honoring Emergent & Indigenous Conversations of Diversity*

April 9, 2021

AASECT

A virtual conference that celebrates decolonial perspectives about genders that honor and center Indigenous voices; challenging limited notions of genders informed by white supremacy, settler-colonialism, and cissexism.

Facilitator, *Online SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*

March 19-21, 2021

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.

Facilitator, *Online SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*

May 14-16, 2021

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.

Facilitator, *Online SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*

January 8-10, 2021

Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment

A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.

- Co-Facilitator, *Online Exceptional Educator: Theory and Methods of Holistic Sex Education*** December 10-12, 2020
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 An experiential, virtual course that leads educators to create their own teaching philosophy statements and curriculum design
- Co-Facilitator, *Online Exceptional Educator: Theory and Methods of Holistic Sex Education*** October 15-17, 2020
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 An experiential, virtual course that leads educators to create their own teaching philosophy statements and curriculum design
- Co-Facilitator, *Online SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*** August 21-23, 2020
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.
- Co-Facilitator, *Online SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*** June 26-28, 2020
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.
- Presenter, *The History of Playing Indian and Performance Culture Consciousness*** February 21, 2020
 Drum Circle Leadership Guild 2020 Conference, Prescott, Arizona
 An examination of the history of why and how European-descendant-Americans identify with other cultures other than their own and the ways in which culture performance is perpetuated in drum circles.
- Facilitator/Organizer, *Reclamation and Renewal: A Yoga Workshop for WOC*** October 26, 2019
 Twisted Yoga Studio
 A yoga workshop for women of color to explore and contemplate the impact of the systems of oppression and privilege within the yoga community.
- Co-Facilitator, *SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*** August 1– 3, 2019
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.
- Co-Facilitator, *Community Sustainability Retreat*** July 25, 2019
 Western New Mexico University
 Facilitating community drum circles for WNMU core faculty to promote emotional intelligence, connection, and stress relief.
- Co-Facilitator/Organizer, *Spiritual Revolution Retreat*** July 4 – 8, 2019
 Montezuma, Costa Rica
 A chronicle of the soul's journey for queer-women that combines music, movement, and message.

- Co-Facilitator, *Night of American Tantra*** June 15, 2019
 AASECT Conference
 An experiential activity offering participants the opportunity to explore connection to others and general intimacy through breath work, drumming, body movement, and energy practices.
- Instructor, *Our Bodies, Our Sex Lives: Adult Sexual Development*** April 16, 2018
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that explores young adulthood to senior age sexual development.
- Assistant/Small Group Facilitator, *SAR: Sexual Attitude Reassessment*** April 13 - 15, 2018
 Institute for Sexuality Education and Enlightenment
 A course that introduces participants to a broad range of human sexual behavior through media and experiential learning for the purposes of identifying personal bias.
- Facilitator/Organizer, *Weekend of La Loba Retreat*** March 16 – 18, 2018
 Shakti Drummers, Payson, Arizona
 An empowerment retreat for women seeking freedom from an over-aculturated society; inspired by *Women Who Run with Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estés.
- Facilitator, *Women in Leadership Retreat*** July 2017
 Glendale Community College
 Leading community-building experiential activities to promote connection, emotional intelligence, fun, and stress relief.
- Facilitator, *GCC Leadership Retreat*** July 2016
 Glendale Community College
 Leading community-building experiential activities to promote connection, emotional intelligence, fun, and stress relief.
- Facilitator, *Yoni Goddess Workshop*** September 2015
 Brazen Pleasures
 A sexuality-education workshop for women with a focus on anatomy and pleasure.
- Facilitator, *OM My Goddess Yoga Workshop Series*** April 2015
 Brazen Yoga
 A sexuality-empowerment workshop that incorporated postural yoga poses with a focus on female anatomy and power.

Publications and Writings

- Payan Hazelwood, S. 2024. Yoga: A Liberatory Praxis. In B.I., Laureano. *The People's Book of Human Sexuality: Expanding the Sexology Archive*. Routledge.
<https://www.routledge.com/The-Peoples-Book-of-Human-Sexuality-Expanding-the-Sexology-Archive/Laureano/p/book/9781032021126>
- Jacobs, L. A., Payan Hazelwood, S., Avery, C. B., & Sangster- Biye, C. (2021). Reimagining U.S. federal land management through decolonization and Indigenous value systems. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*. doi:10.18666/JPRA-2021-10973

Payan Hazelwood, S. (2020). *Disenfranchised grief: uranium poisoning on Indigenous lands in the United States* [Essay].
<https://w.taskstream.com/ts/payanhazelwood/SerinaPayanHazelwood.html/uczjzbzt00ufzczqzlkzgzi>

Payan Hazelwood, S. (2020). The history of yoga and the impact of colonization in the United States [Thesis].
<https://w.taskstream.com/ts/payanhazelwood/SerinaPayanHazelwood.html/k7eef6eu00kffafgfaf8ecfgfs>

Education & Certifications

Prescott College, Doctoral Candidate, Sustainability Education Program	Present
Prescott College, Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on Liberatory Praxis Through Indigenous Knowledges	2023
Prescott College, Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts	2020
Glendale Community College, Associate of Arts	2019
Institute for Sexuality Education & Enlightenment, Holistic Sex Educator Certificate	2018
Zumba®, Zumba Gold®, Zumba Toning®, Aqua Zumba®	2009 – 2017
Drum Circle Leadership Facilitator Training	2017
Principle-Based Partner Yoga® Training	2016
Yoga Nidra® Certification	2015
Venus Code Tantra Training®	2015
SilverSneakers® Training	2014
Yoga Teacher Training, 300-Hour	2014
FiTour® Personal Trainer Certificate	2014
Yoga Teacher Training, 200 Hour	2013
Real Ryder® Group Cycle Training	2012
ISSA Personal Trainer Certificate	1999