Dr. Arvin completed a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, San Diego, and currently has a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has also held Ford Foundation, Newberry Library and Charles A. Eastman fellowships. Using a Native feminist approach, her scholarship theorizes race, indigeneity and gender in relation to settler colonial societies, with a specialization in analyzing scientific constructions of the Polynesian race. She has, e.g. analyzed constructions of Polynesians as ‘almost white’ in anthropological and other scientific discourses, genomics and its 20th century understandings of race, ideas of “mixed-race” and Asian immigrants understandings of Native identity in Hawai‘i. Her publications include “Spectacles of Citizenship: Native Hawaiian Sovereignty Gets A Makeover,” in the 2012 anthology Transnational Crossroads: Reimagining Asian America, Latin@ America, and the American Pacific, and a 2013 co-authored essay, with Eve Tuck and Angie Morrill, “Decolonizing Feminism: Challenging Connections Between Settler Colonialism and Heteropatriarchy” in the journal Feminist Formations. Her dissertation, titled “Pacifically Possessed: Scientific Production and Native Hawaiian Critique of the ‘Almost White’ Polynesian Race,” received the American Studies Association’s outstanding dissertation prize in 2013, awarded for most outstanding dissertation in American Studies, American Ethnic studies or women’s studies. She has significant teaching experience in women’s studies and ethnic studies, including courses on “Ghosts, Slavery and Colonialism” and Native feminisms.