

Ofelia Zepeda



Ofelia Zepeda, Tohono O’odham (formerly Papago) Nation, was born in Standfield, Arizona in 1952¹. She is a poet who earned her BA, MA, and PhD in linguistics from the University of Arizona^{1,2}. She has worked to preserve the language of Tohono O’odham by writing a book on the grammar of the language, *A Papago Grammar* (1983)¹. Her poetry focuses on the linguistics, Tohono O’odham traditions, the natural world, and her experiences in contemporary Tohono O’odham life¹. It is also influenced by traditional Papago themes and songs¹. Her poetry works include *Ocean Power: Poems from the Desert* (1995) and *Jewed’l-hoi/Earth Movements, O’odham Poems* (1996)^{1,2}. Zepeda has been honored with several awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship (1999) for her contributions as a poet, linguist, and cultural preservationist^{1,2}, and a grant from the Endangered Language Fund for working on a dictionary project for the Tohono O’odham¹. Currently, she serves as a professor of linguistics, director of the American Indian Studies Program at the University of Arizona and as director of the American Indian Language Development institute^{1,2}. She also edits a book series, *Sun Tracks*, which publishes works by Native artists and writers, at the University of Arizona Press^{1,2}.

Citations

1. Poetry Foundation. (n.d.). Ofelia Zepeda. Poetry Foundation. Retrieved January 25, 2023, from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/ofelia-zepeda>

2. Ofelia Zepeda. University of Arizona. (n.d.). Retrieved January 25, 2023, from <https://ais.arizona.edu/users/ofelia-zepeda>