

BEN BRIDGES

EDUCATION

- May 2024 Dual PhD in Folklore and Anthropology
Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology; Department of Anthropology
Indiana University Bloomington
Dissertation [*Passed with Distinction*]: “Cedar Arts in a Changing Climate:
Weaving Rules, Value, and Tradition in Southeast Alaska”
Chairs: Jason Baird Jackson and Sarah R. Osterhoudt
- November 2021 MA in Anthropology
Department of Anthropology
Indiana University Bloomington
- May 2019 MA in Folklore
Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology
Indiana University Bloomington
- May 2017 BA in Anthropology, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa
Minors: Art, Latin American Studies, Spanish
Elon University, NC

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Humanities	Heritage Studies, (Eco)Tourism
Indigeneity, Sovereignty	Applied Folklore; Reciprocal and
Space, Place, and Landscape	Collaborative Ethnography
Material Culture and Folk Art	Southeast Alaska, American South

EMPLOYMENT and EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2024– **Assistant Professor of Folklore and Environmental Humanities.** Department of
American Studies. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2024 **Bark Harvester** (contracted). Sealaska Corporation. Prince of Wales, AK.
- 2023 **Photographer** (contracted). Sealaska Heritage Institute. Prince of Wales, AK.
- 2022 **Instructor-of-Record.** Collins Living-Learning Center. IU.
- 2021–22 **Visiting Scholar.** Sealaska Heritage Institute. Juneau, AK.
- 2020–21 **Graduate Assistant.** American Folklore Society. Bloomington, IN.
- 2017–20 **Associate Instructor.** Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. IU.
- 2018 **Archival Assistant.** John C. Campbell Folk School. Brasstown, NC.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Instructor-of-Record, Indiana University**
2022 Art at the Edge of Environmental Change (CLLC-L210).

Associate Instructor, Indiana University

- 2020 Memes, Trolls, and Fandoms (COLL-C103).
 2019 Embodying the Humanities (COLL-C103).
 2019 World Arts and Cultures (FOLK-F121).
 2018 Folklore in the United States (FOLK-F131).
 2017–18 Introduction to Folklore (FOLK-F101).

Workshops

- 2023 Facilitator. “Finding Your Writing Voice.” Professionalization Workshop Series, Department of Anthropology. Indiana University.
 2022 Panelist. “Course Design 1: The Basics of Creating a Course.” Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. Indiana University.

PUBLICATIONS

Books (peer-reviewed)

- 2023 **Bridges, Ben**, Ross Brillhart, and Diane E. Goldstein, eds. *Behind the Mask: Vernacular Culture in the Time of COVID*. Logan: Utah State University Press.

Articles (peer-reviewed)

- Under review **Bridges, Ben**. “Rewilding as Traditionalisation: Cultivating Pastness in European Landscapes.” *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 34 (1).
 2021 **Bridges, Ben** and Sarah Osterhoudt. “Landscapes and Memory.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.013.304>

Chapters (peer-reviewed)

- Under review “Lay of the Land: The Folklorist’s Niche in an Ecosystem of Experts.” In *Folklore in the Public Square: How the Study of Traditional Culture Can Tackle Contemporary Social Issues*, edited by Tom Mould and Andrea Kitta. Logan: Utah State University Press.
 2023 **Bridges, Ben**, Ross Brillhart, and Diane E. Goldstein. “Introduction.” In *Behind the Mask: Vernacular Culture in the Time of COVID*. Logan: Utah State University Press.

Public Writing

- 2022 Bridges, Ben. “Crystal World’s Countermural Tells a Different History of Alaska.” *SAPIENS*. Published June 1, 2022. <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/crystal-world/>

GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023–24 **College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship**. \$22,000. Indiana University.
 2023 **Spicer Foundation Mini-Grant**. \$1,500. Edward H. and Rosamond B. Spicer Foundation. Grant to facilitate the donation of fieldwork materials to local archives.

- 2022 **College Travel Award.** \$300. College of Arts and Sciences. Indiana University.
- 2022 **William Slaymaker Graduate Fellowship.** \$3,000. College of Arts and Sciences. Indiana University.
- 2022–23 **American Folklore Society Graduate Fieldwork Grant.** \$4,000. Grant to document cedar harvesting. American Folklore Society.
- 2022–23 **Phillips Fund for Native American Research.** \$3,200. Grant to document oral histories of cedar bark harvesting. American Philosophical Society.
- 2022 **Jacobs Research Fund.** \$2,840. Grant to document cedar harvesting. Whatcom Museum. Bellingham, WA.
- 2022 **GPSG Research Award.** \$1,000. Grant to document Celebration 2022, a Southeast Alaska Native arts festival. Graduate and Professional Student Government. Indiana University.
- 2017–22 **Departmental Fellowship.** \$18,000. Fellowship to support departmental employment (2017–21) and dissertation research (2021–22). Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2021 **Sustainability Research Development Grant.** \$10,000. Grant to conduct dissertation research. Integrated Program for the Environment and Sustain IU. Indiana University.
- 2021 **Folklore and Ethnomusicology Summer Research Fellowship.** \$4,000. Fellowship to support exploratory summer research. Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2021 **Skomp Feasibility Fellowship.** \$3,250. Fellowship to support exploratory summer research. Dept. of Anthropology. Indiana University.

AWARDS and DISTINCTIONS

- 2024 **PhD Dissertation, Passed with Distinction.** Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Dept. of Anthropology. Indiana University.
- 2023 **Folklore and Science Junior Scholar Prize.** For “Warming Warps: Weaving Folklore, Science, and Vernacular Constructions of Climate Change.” Folklore and Science Section. American Folklore Society.
- 2023 **Collins LLC Teaching Award.** For “Art at the Edge of Environmental Change,” taught Fall 2022. Collins Living-Learning Center. Indiana University.
- 2022 **Warren E. Roberts Paper Prize.** “Visualizing Alaska Native Sovereignty in Juneau’s Material Culture.” Folk Arts and Material Culture Section. American Folklore Society.
- 2021 **David Bidney Graduate Paper Prize.** “Asked and (Un)Answered: Negotiating Genre and Authority in Sealaska Corporation’s Q&A Sessions.” Dept. of Anthropology. Indiana University.
- 2021 **People’s Choice Award and Graduate Runner-Up Prize.** “The Role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Subsistence Economies in Reducing Inequalities: A Southeast Alaskan Case Study.” United Nations SDG: Global Partners Research Forum Poster Competition. Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University.
- 2021 **PhD Qualifying Exams, Passed with Distinction** (Anthropology). Dept. of Anthropology. Indiana University.

- 2020 **PhD Qualifying Exams, Passed with Distinction** (Folklore). Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2020 **Dorson Paper Prize.** “‘What You Care for on the Ground You Cannot Cut’: An Investigation of Ecological Practices Surrounding Invasive and Native Species in the Southern Peruvian Andes.” Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2019 **Student Paper Honorable Mention.** “The Pachamama and Eucalyptus Dialectic: Religious Response to Invasive Species in Southern Peru.” International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.
- 2019 **Chair’s Recognition Award.** Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2019 **Henry H. Glassie Teaching Award.** Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2018 **Distinguished Service Award.** Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2017 **William A. Wilson Student Paper Prize.** “Navigating Tourism through Myth in Quechua Communities of Southern Peru.” Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section: American Folklore Society.
- 2017 **Student Paper Prize.** “Navigating Tourism through Myth in Quechua Communities of Southern Peru.” Southern Anthropological Society.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Seeing the Tongass for the Trees: Negotiating Cedar Value in Southeast Alaska.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Toronto, ON (November 18).
- 2023 “Cedar Arts in a Changing Climate: Workshop Presentation.” Anthropology and Environment Society Graduate Student Workshop. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Toronto, ON (November 16).
- 2023 “Tending Endangered Roots: The Heritagization and Reinvigoration of Southeast Alaska Native Art.” Panel Organizer, “Replanting Roots: Sustaining and Reviving Indigenous Knowledges and Practices.” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Portland, OR (November 2).
- 2022 “Murals, Countermurals, and Visual Sovereignty in Juneau, Alaska’s Public Art.” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Tulsa, OK (October 15).
- 2021 “Herring Today, Gone Tomorrow: Traditionalization, Heritage, and Sustainability in Sitka, Alaska.” Diverse Environmentalisms Research Team (DERT) Student Symposium, virtual (April 23).
- 2021 “Placing the Past in the Future: Environmental Conservation as a Traditionalizing Act.” University of Pennsylvania EnviroLab Conference, virtual (March 18).
- 2020 “Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Environmental Policy in Southeast Alaska.” Youth Environmental Alliance in Higher Education, virtual (December 9).
- 2020 “Publicizing Folklore: A 21st Century Approach to Staying Relevant in a World of Limited Attention” forum. American Folklore Society annual meeting, virtual (October 19).

- 2020 [accepted; withdrawn due to COVID] “Remembering through Rewilding: Transforming and Traditionalizing the Landscape.” American Folklore Society annual meeting, virtual (October).
- 2020 “Rewilding the Landscape: The Tradition of Conservation and the Conservation of Tradition.” IU/OSU Student Folklore Conference, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (February 22).
- 2019 “Payments to Pachamama: Commodifying Cosmology in Southern Peru.” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Baltimore, MD (October 18).
- 2019 “The Pachamama and Eucalyptus Dialectic: Religious Response to Invasive Species in Southern Peru.” International Society for Religion, Nature and Culture conference, Cork, Ireland (June 15). Awarded Student Paper Honorable Mention.
- 2019 “Ecospirituality and Invasive Species: Balancing the Opportunities and Limits of the Andean Eucalyptus.” IU/OSU Student Folklore Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (February 23).
- 2019 “The Future is Now: The Humanities and Environmental Crises.” Discussant. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (February 8).
- 2018 “Cultural Borderlands and Boundary Crossing in Contemporary Quechua Myth.” Landscape, Space, and Place Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington (March 2).
- 2017 “Navigating Tourism through Myth in Quechua Communities of Southern Peru.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN (October).
- 2017 “The Intersection of Tourism and Mythology in Huilloc, Peru.” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC (June).
- 2017 “Quechua Myth, Catholicism, and El Niño Melchor.” Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Conference, Antigua, Guatemala (April).
- 2017 “Navigating Globalization through Myth in Quechua Communities of Southern Peru.” Southern Anthropological Society Annual Meeting, Carrollton, GA (March).
- 2017 “*Call of the Wild*: An Ethnographic Film of the Conservators Center.” Co-presented with Sarah Kraemer and Oly Zayac. Spring Undergraduate Research Forum, Elon University, NC (April).
- 2016 “Intellectual Engagement through Cultivated Community in Elon’s Honors Fellows Program.” North Carolina Honors Association Conference, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC (September).
- 2016 “Ethnography Across Disciplines: Understanding Global and Local Communities.” Moderator. Spring Undergraduate Research Forum, Elon University, NC (April).
- 2015 “Ethnography Across Disciplines.” Moderator. Spring Undergraduate Research Forum, Elon University, NC (April).

GUEST LECTURES and PANELS

- 2020 “Exhibiting Extinction.” Presented to REL-D439: Studies in Religious Ethics – Extinction. Indiana University.
- 2019 “Embodiment in Film.” Presented to COLL-C103: Embodying the Humanities. Indiana University.
- 2019 “Māori Vernacular Architecture: The Meeting House and Marae.” Presented to FOLK-F121: World Arts and Cultures. Indiana University.
- 2018 “Women’s Ware: Women in North Carolina Pottery.” Presented to FOLK-F131: Folklore in the United States. Indiana University

- 2018 “Folk Narrative: Myth.” Presented to FOLK-F101: Introduction to Folklore. Indiana University.
- 2017 “Navigating Globalization through Myth in Southern Peru.” Presented to LIFE@Elon. Elon University.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 **Proofreader.** *Sustaining Natures*. Edited by Sarah R. Osterhoudt and K. Sivaramakrishnan. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- 2023 **Editorial Assistant.** *The Soul of a Folklorist: Lessons in Applied Folklore*. Edited by Diane Goldstein and Ann K. Ferrell. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- 2020–21 **Editor in Chief.** Trickster Press. Indiana University.
- 2019–20 **Book Reviews Editor.** Trickster Press. Indiana University.
- 2019–20 **Editorial Assistant.** *Performing Diverse Environmentalisms: Expressive Culture at the Cruc of Environmental Change*. Diverse Environmentalisms Research Team (DERT). Indiana University.
- 2017–19 **Editor.** Trickster Press. Indiana University.

UNIVERSITY and FIELD SERVICE

- 2021–present **Graduate Affiliate.** Material Culture and Heritage Studies Laboratory. IU.
- 2020–21 **Student Representative.** Departmental Colloquium Committee: Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2019–21 **Member.** Media and Public Outreach Committee. American Folklore Society.
- 2018–21 **Associate Instructor Coordinator.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.
- 2020 **Member.** Virtual Annual Meeting Committee: American Folklore Society.
- 2019–20 **President.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.
- 2019 **AFS Summer Intern.** American Folklore Society.
- 2018–19 **Social Chair.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.
- 2017–18 **Treasurer.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Sustainable Southeast Partnership, Southeast AK.
- Diverse Environmentalisms Research Team, Indiana University
- American Folklore Society
 - Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section
 - LGBTQIA+ Section
- American Anthropological Association
 - Anthropology and Environment Society
 - Society for Economic Anthropology
- The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture
- The Phi Beta Kappa Society
- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi