

BEN BRIDGES

PERSONAL

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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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fall 2024– **Assistant Professor of Folklore and Environmental Humanities.** Department of American Studies. **Adjunct Assistant Professor.** Environment, Ecology, and Energy Program (E3P). University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, NC.

2024 **Bark Harvester** (contracted). Sealaska Corporation. Prince of Wales, AK.

2023–24 **Doctoral Fellow.** College of Arts and Sciences. Indiana University.

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.

HONORS

- 2025 **Schwab Academic Excellence Award.** Institute for Arts and Humanities. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2024 **PhD Dissertation, Passed with Distinction.** 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 **Carl Ziegler 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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRODUCTS OF SCHOLARSHIP

Books (refereed)

- 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.

Chapters (refereed)

- Under review **Bridges, Ben**. “Folklore and the Environment.” In *Routledge Handbook of Folklore and Anthropology*, edited by Ziyong You and Mintzi Auanda Martínez-Rivera. New York: Routledge.
- 2026 [in press] **Bridges, Ben**. “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.

Refereed articles

- 2025 **Bridges, Ben**. “Rewilding as Traditionalisation: Cultivating Pastness in European Landscapes.” *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 34 (1): 25–36.
<https://doi.org/10.3167/ajec.2025.340104>
- 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>

Public Writing

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

Unpublished oral presentations (refereed)

- 2025 “Upending Expectations: ‘Ground Narratives’ and the Disruption of Assumption.” Moderator. American Folklore Society, Atlanta, GA (October 21).
- 2025 “Bundles of Bark: Forest Products and Economic Sovereignty in Southeast Alaska.” International Association for Society and Natural Resources conference, Vancouver, BC (June 12).
- 2024 “All Bark and No Blight: Material Culture, Ethnobotany, and Alaska Cedar Futures.” American Folklore Society annual meeting, Albuquerque, NM (November 9).
- 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).

Invited talks and panels

- 2025 “Missing Stories and Moving Forward: A Discussion of Ziyang You’s *Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Chinese and Chinese American Women*.” Invited Panelist. American Folklore Society, Atlanta, GA (October 20).
- 2025 “The Giving Trees: Exchanging Responsibility and Value in Northwest Coast Cedar Bark Economies.” Global Indigeneity and American Indian Studies, Carolina Seminar. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2025 “Environmental Justice.” UNC CompostMates. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2025 “On Origin Stories.” Sociology and Anthropology Departmental Commencement. Elon University.
- 2025 “Honors Fellows.” Alumni Speaker for Scholarship Weekend. Elon University.

Reviews

- 2025 Bridges, Ben. 2025. Review of *Crooked on the Stretcher Board (Ch’ats’ a’Vizhit Teech’iriikii): Collected Essays on Gwich’in History, Language, and Folk Culture* by Craig Mishler and Kenneth Drizhuu Frank (Hanover, NH: International Polar Institute Press). *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at UNC Chapel Hill

- 2025 Art, Nature, and Climate Change (FOLK/ANTH 334; 25 students)
- 2025 Beyond Human/Nature: The Cultural Side of Environmental Issues (ENEC 89; 24 students; First Year Seminar)
- 2025 Writing Material Culture (AMST 489; 9 students)
- 2025 America’s Role in the Global Environment (AMST 277; 25 students)
- 2024 Beyond Human/Nature: The Cultural Side of Environmental Issues (FOLK 89; 24 students; First Year Seminar)

Courses taught at Indiana University, instructor-of-record

- 2022 Art at the Edge of Environmental Change

Courses taught at Indiana University, associate instructor

- 2020 Memes, Trolls, and Fandoms
- 2019 Embodying the Humanities
- 2019 World Arts and Cultures
- 2018 Folklore in the United States
- 2017–18 Introduction to Folklore

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.

Guest Lectures

- 2025 “Parades, Potlatches, and Popular Festivals.” Presented to FOLK 202: Everyday Cultures: Folklore in America. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2025 “Studying Material Culture.” Presented to FOLK 202: Everyday Cultures: Folklore in America. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2024 “Celebration and Carnavalesque.” Presented to FOLK 202: Everyday Cultures: Folklore in America. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2024 “Climate Change in America.” Presented to AMST 101: Introduction to American Studies. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2024 “On Heritage.” Presented to FOLK 850: Folklore Theory. UNC Chapel Hill.
- 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.

Teaching-related Grants

- 2025 BeAM Makerspace Faculty Mini-Grant, for art supplies in FOLK/ANTH 334
- 2025 First Year Seminar Enhancement Grant, for cultural event visit in ENEC 89

Students (* = chair)

- Jake Bruce* (MA, Folklore; 2025–present)
- Ari Green (PhD, American Studies; 2025–present)
- Kristen Viera (PhD, E3P; 2025–present)
- Riya Parshad (MA, Folklore; 2024–present)
- Isa Millikan (MA, Folklore; 2024–present)
- Lily Smith (MA, Folklore; 2024–present)

GRANTS

- 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.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental Service

- 2025 **Chair.** Social Media Committee. Department of American Studies. UNC.
- 2024–25 **Member.** Undergraduate Studies Committee. Department of American Studies. UNC.
- 2021–24 **Graduate Affiliate.** Material Culture and Heritage Studies Laboratory. IU.
- 2020–21 **Student Representative.** Departmental Colloquium Committee: Dept. of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.
- 2018–21 **Associate Instructor Coordinator.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.
- 2019–20 **President.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.
- 2018–19 **Social Chair.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.
- 2017–18 **Treasurer.** Folklore Student Association. Indiana University.

University Service

- 2024–present **Director.** Environmental Humanities Minor. UNC.
- 2025 **Reviewer.** Master's Merit Fellowship. The Graduate School. UNC.
- 2024 **Reviewer.** Impact Awards. The Graduate School. UNC.

National / International Service

- 2025 **Peer Reviewer.** (University of Alaska Press; *Arctic Anthropology*).
- 2024–25 **Member, Reviewer.** Advisory Committee for COVID-19 Symposium. Library of Congress.
- 2024 **Reviewer.** Folklore and Science Section Prizes. American Folklore Society.
- 2019–21 **Member.** Media and Public Outreach Committee. American Folklore Society.
- 2020 **Member.** Virtual Annual Meeting Committee: American Folklore Society.
- 2019 **AFS Summer Intern.** American Folklore Society.

Additional Editorial Service

- 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 Crux of Environmental Change*. Diverse Environmentalisms Research Team (DERT). Indiana University.
- 2017–19 **Editor.** Trickster Press. Indiana University.