

Summary

Professional Appointments

- Adjunct Professor, Masters Program in Cultural Sustainability, Goucher College, ongoing
- Director, Arts and Humanities Programs, Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network, ongoing
- Senior Research Scientist, Appalachian Studies Program, Dept of Religion and Culture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 2012-2016
- Graduate Faculty in Folklore and Folklife, University of Pennsylvania, 2002-2012
- Director, Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania, 2002-2008
- Adjunct Associate Professor of English and Folklore, University of Pennsylvania, 2002-2010
- Folklife Specialist, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, 1982-2002

Education

- Ph.D. Folklore and Folklife, University of Pennsylvania, 1989
- B.A. in English and Philosophy, *magna cum laude*, Boston College, 1974

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

Books and Monographs

- From West Africa to West Philadelphia: Storytelling Traditions of Philadelphia's Liberian Elders. Philadelphia: Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania, 2008
- Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of the New River Gorge National River and the Gauley River, Recreational Area. (with Rita Moonsammy and Thomas Carroll). Boston and Philadelphia: National Park Service and the Center for Folklore and Ethnography, 2007
- Piecing Together the Fragments: An Ethnography of Leadership for Social Change in North Central Philadelphia 2005-2005 (with Rosina Miller). New York and Philadelphia: NYU School of Public Service and the Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania, 2006
- Waging Democracy in the Kingdom of Coal: OVEC and the Movement for Social and Environmental Justice in Central Appalachia 2002-2003. Philadelphia: Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania, 2004
- Conserving Culture: A New Discourse on Heritage (ed). Urbana: University of Illinois, 1994
- Chaseworld: Foxhunting and Storytelling in New Jersey's Pine Barrens. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992
- The Grand Generation: Memory, Mastery, Legacy (with Marjorie Hunt and Steven J. Zeitlin) Seattle and Washington, D.C.: University of Washington Press, 1987
- One Space, Many Places: Folklife and Land Use in New Jersey's Pinelands National Reserve. Washington, D.C.: American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, 1986

Articles and Scholarly Reviews

- "Dialogues All the Way Down: Speech Genres as Matrices of Social and Ecological Reproduction." In *Music and Sustainable Cultures*, ed. Timothy Cooley and Greg Barz. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. (under review)

- “Deep Commoning: Public Folklore and Environmental Policy on a Resource Frontier.” *International Journal of Heritage Studies*. 22 (8):635-649. 2016.
- "Appalachian Outlaws." Media Review Essay. *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. 20 (2). 2014
- "Groundtruthing the Public Trust: Ethnography, Mountaintop Retention, and the Reclamation of NEPA." *Practicing Anthropology*. 36 (4). 2014.
- “Edgework and Boundary Crossings: Assessing Foundations for Public Ecology in the Appalachian Region” (with Betsy Taylor) In *Environmental Considerations in Energy Production*, ed. John R. Craynon. Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration Conference Proceedings. Englewood, CO: SME, 2013
- “Knowledge Commons and the Reconstitution of Public Space in Mountaintop Removal Activism” (with Anita Puckett, Elizabeth Fine, Ann Kingsolver and Betsy Taylor, In *The Struggle for Appalachia: Identity, Place, and Movement Building*, eds. Steve Fisher and Barbara Ellen Smith. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2012
- "Carnival Time in the Kingdom of Coal." In *Carnival Art, Culture, and Politics: Performing Life*, ed. Micheline Crichlow. New York and London: Routledge, pp. 163-183.
- “Decoration Day in the Mountains: Traditions of Cemetery Decoration in the Southern Appalachians”, by Alan Jabbour and Karen Singer Jabbour. Review Essay. *Southern Quarterly*. 48 (2): 144-48., 2011
- “Carnival Time in the Kingdom of Coal.” *Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation, and Culture*. 16:559-81. 2010
- “Mountaintop Removal Mining.” In *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*. Eds. J. Baird Callicott and Robert Frodeman. Detroit: Cengage Learning, Vol. II pp. 63-67. 2009
- (with Edward Emmett, Hong Zhang, Chinton Desai, David Freeman, and Nancy Rodman). “Development and Successful Application of a ‘Community-First’ Communication Model for Community-Based Environmental Health Research.” *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. 51: 146-156. 2009
- “Molly Mooching on Bradley Mountain: The Aesthetic Ecology of an Appalachian Morel.” In *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*. May Issue, 2006
- “Ethnography.” *Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife*, ed William M. Clements. London: Greenwood, 2005
- “Knowing Ginseng: The Social Life of an Appalachian Root.” *Cahiers de Litterature Orale*. 53-54: 265-92, 2004
- "Reclaiming the Commons: Narratives of Progress, Preservation, and Ginseng." In *Culture, Environment, and Conservation in the Appalachian South*, ed. Benita J. Howell. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003
- "Interrupting the Monologue: Folklore, Ethnography, and Critical Regionalism." *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, 2002
- "Weathering the Storm: Cultural Survival in an Appalachian Valley."
- "Tending the Commons: Ramp Suppers, Biodiversity, and the Integrity of 'the Mountains'"
- "American Ginseng and the Idea of the Commons." *Orion Magazine*, Oct. 1998.
- "'One Reason God Made Trees:' The Form and Ecology of the Barnegat Bay Sneakbox." In *Senses of Place: American Regional Cultures*, ed. Barbara Allen and Tom Schlereth. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992.
- "Soundscape and Story: Foxhunting in New Jersey's Pine Barrens." *Folklife Annual 1989*, Eds. Alan Jabbour and James Hardin. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress.
- "Culture and the Cultivation of Nature in New Jersey's Pinelands National Reserve." *Folklife Annual 1987*. Eds. Alan Jabbour and James Hardin. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress.

Selected Honors and Awards

- (with Ted Emmett et al) Merit in Authorship Award, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, 2010
- Fellow, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Summer Seminar on Carnival, University of Iowa, July 2005
- Dee Visiting Scholar, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, October 18-20, 2004
- Elected to Fellows of the American Folklore Society, 2001
- John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, 1998
- Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship on the Folklore of New Jersey, Douglass College NJ, 1996
- Librarian of Congress Incentive Award, for *One Space, Many Places: Folklife and Land-Use Planning in New Jersey's Pinelands National Reserve*, 1987

Public Conferences, Symposia, and Workshop Series (Selected)

- Convener of public symposium: "Ecological Restoration, the Environmental Humanities, and the Reimagining of Appalachian Landscapes." With support of Virginia Tech Humanities Symposium Grant. Blacksburg, VA, March 10, 2017.
- Moderator, Baltimore Rhythm Festival Residency, Liberian Women's Chorus for Change, 2014
- Moderator, Liberian Storytelling session for Liberian Culture Camp, Philadelphia, Folklore Project\ Folk Arts and Cultural Treasures Charter School, Chinatown, Philadelphia, 2009
- Community Storytelling Series, Center for Folklore and Ethnography, Philadelphia, PA, 2007
- "Ethnographic Writing Workshop Series," Center for Folklore and Ethnography and Kelly Writer's House, University of Pennsylvania, 2005
- "Gathering Place: Folklore, Aesthetic Ecologies, and the Public Domain." Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania, 2004
- "Voiceover: Cultural Transmission as Translation, Reproduction, and Exchange." Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania, with the Center for Folklore Studies, Ohio State University, 2002
- Director of National Conference, "Cultural Conservation: Reconfiguring the Cultural Mission." Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1990

Interactive Websites, Archival Collections, and Databases (Selected)

- Curator and content specialist, *Tending the Commons: Folklife and Landscape in Southern West Virginia*. Library of Congress American Memory Web Presentation. <http://www.loc.gov/collection/folklife-and-landscape-in-southern-west-virginia/about-this-collection/>
- Writer and advisor, *Journey Up Coal River*. Aurora Lights. http://auroralights.org/map_project/
- Writer/Editor, *Center for Folklore and Ethnography* web pages, University of Pennsylvania. <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/folklore/center/>
- Curator, Penn Folklore Archival Databases and web pages, Center for Folklore and Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania. <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/folklore/center/archive.html>

- Curator of multi-media field collections and electronic databases (not yet online),
Folklore Archive, University of Pennsylvania.
<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/folklore/center/Research.html>

Professional Papers, Conference Keynotes, and Guest Lectures (Selected)

- “The Witness Trees’ Revolt: Folklore’s Invitation to Narrative Ecology.” Public address, Center for Folklore, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. March 11, 2017.
- “The Political Ecology of Place Names in West Virginia.” Society for Applied Anthropology Meeting, Santa Fe, NM. March 30, 2017.
- “Up Against the Myth of Emptiness: Retrieving Appalachian Landscapes in the time of the Regulatory Paradigm.” Appalachian Studies Association Meeting, Blacksburg, VA. Part of Invited session “Reimagining Appalachian Landscapes: Ecological Restoration and the Environmental Humanities.” March 10, 2017.
- “Commons Environmentalism.” For Diverse Environmentalisms Research Team Symposium, Indiana University, Bloomington. March 3, 2016.
- “Tending Sensibility: Toward a Narrative Ecology.” American Folklore Society Meetings, Long Beach, CA as part of invited session on “Sensory Ecologies.” Oct. 2015.
- "Traversing the Sensibility Rift: Rich Dirt as Local Subject in the Appalachian Coalfields." American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington D.C. Dec. 5, 2014
- "Rich Dirt and High Humility: Environmental Humanities and Multi-Sectoral Commoning." Goucher College, Towson, MD. July 28, 2014.
- "Dialogues all the Way Down: Speech Genres as Matrices for Cultural and Ecological Reproduction." For Conference: "Sequestering Tradition: Cultural Sustainability in Theory and Practice", Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, VT. August 13, 2013.
- "Edgework and Boundary Crossings: Foundations for Public Ecology in the Appalachian Region." (with Betsy Taylor) Meetings of the Society for the Exploration of Minerals and Metallurgy. Charleston, WV. April 2013.
- "Genus, Genre, and Genius Loci: A Bakhtinian Approach to Narrative Ecology." Meeting of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, Bloomington, Indiana. June 2012.
- "Shadow Commoning in the Kingdom of Coal: Foundations and Prospects." Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Baltimore, MD. March 2012.
- "The Social Life of Nut Trees: A Regional Approach to Ecological Heritage." American Studies Program, Penn State University, Harrisburg, PA. December 2009.

Public Interest Keynotes, Essays, Workshops, and Commissioned Papers (Selected)

- “Common Sensibility: Public Folklore as Participatory Worldmaking.” Workshop, Center for Folklore, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. March 11, 2017.
- "Narrative Ecology of an Appalachian Landscape." Public Lecture, University of Maine, Machias, ME. April 23, 2014.
- “Folklore, Critical Regionalism, and Environmental Justice.” Keynote Address, North Carolina Folklore Society Meeting, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. April 2, 2011
- “Listening for the Community of Land and People in West Virginia Place Names,” Keynote address for Mountain Summer Justice, Appalachian Folklife Center, Pipestem, WV. May 18, 2009

- “Molly Mooching on Bradley Mountain.” Public Reading for the annual Fall for the Book Festival, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, 2008
- Workshop on Engaging the Community Forest in the New Management Plan for the New River Gorge National River. National Park Service, Philadelphia, PA. March 2008
- Workshop on Deep Community Forestry, Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies, University of West Virginia, Morgantown, WV January 2007
- “Deep Community Forestry in West Virginia’s Mississippi Headwaters.” Keynote address, Annual Meeting of the Forest Guild, Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, September 28, 2006
- "Holding up the Mountains: The Narrative Ecology of Southern West Virginia's Community Forest." Keynote Address, Sixth Summit on the Mountains, Ripley, WV. May 26, 2006
- "Articulating National and Local Commons: Forest Communities and the Politics of Cultural Recognition." Keynote Address for annual meeting of National Network of Forest Practitioners, Gloucester, OH, Sept. 8, 2005
- "Gleanings from the Mending Wall: Stream Buffer Zones as Cultural Commons.” Dee Scholar Public Lecture, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, October 20, 2005
- “Wild Ginseng, Ethnography, and the Democratic Prospect.” Paper commissioned by the Fund for Folk Culture, Convening on Cultural Conservation, Natural Resource Stewardship, and Sustainable Livelihoods, Santa Fe, NM, 2003
- “Landscape and History at the Headwaters of Southern West Virginia’s Big Coal River.” Online publication, Library of Congress, 2000
- "Tending the Commons: Ramp Suppers, Biodiversity and the Integrity of ‘the Mountains’.” Online publication, Library of Congress, 1998
- “American Ginseng and the Culture of the Commons.” Orion Magazine. Autumn 1997

Community-Based Ethnographic Fieldwork

- Stories of the Land: A Folk Art Survey of Pennsylvania’s Lehigh Valley for the Pennsylvania Commission on the Arts. May – August, 2017.
- From West Africa to West Philadelphia: Storytelling Traditions of the Black Atlantic (Documentation of storytelling traditions from West Africa, the West Indies, and West Philadelphia communities). 2005-present.
- Ethnographic evaluator for NIH funded study of community exposure to perfluorooctanate, in the Little Hocking Watershed, working with Edward Emmett, principal investigator, University of Pennsylvania Medical School. A documentary collaboration with photographer Lyntha Scott Eiler. 2003-2007.
- Principal investigator, “Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of the New River Gorge National River and the Gauley National Recreation Area.” National Park Service Ethnography Program, Boston, Massachusetts. 2003-2007.
- Conducted field research in southwest Philadelphia and in south Philadelphia, in committees of recent immigrants from Indonesia and Liberia, for service learning course “Exploring Memory and Tradition in Philadelphia Communities.” 2004-2007.
- Principal investigator, “Leadership for Social Change: A Collaborative Ethnography of the Village of Arts and Humanities” (North Philadelphia) under contract to New York University’s Robert Wagner School of Public Service, with support from the Ford Foundation. 2004-2006.
- Principal investigator, “Leadership for Social Change: A Collaborative Ethnography of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition” (West Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia) under contract to New York University’s

Robert Wagner School of Public Service, with support from the Ford Foundation. 2002-2004.

- Director and fieldworker, Coal River Folklife Project, for the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress. A documentary collaboration with photographers Terry and Lyntha Scott Eiler, funded by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund for Folk Culture. 1994-1999.
- Director and fieldworker on the New River Gorge Folklife Project, Southern West Virginia, for the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress. A documentary collaboration with photographers Terry and Lyntha Scott Eiler, funded by the National Park Service. 1991-1994.
- Interviews and field research for the Smithsonian Institution's Grand Generation traveling exhibition. 1985-1987.
- Fieldwork in Plaquemines Parish and areas surrounding Jean Lafitte National History Reserve, New Orleans, Louisiana, for the American Folklife Center, in cooperation with the National Park Service. 1985.
- Director and fieldworker, Pinelands Folklife Project, for the American Folklife Center in cooperation with the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. 1983-1986.