



K. Brandon Barker

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Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology

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Education

Ph.D. in English, 2012. University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA.

Areas of Concentration: Folkloristics, Material Culture, Linguistics, Embodiment, Early American Literature, Renaissance Literature

Ph.D. Exam Areas: Folkloristics, Linguistics, Early American Literature, Renaissance Literature

Dissertation: *The American Pedal Steel Guitar: Folkloristic Analyses of Material Culture and the Body.*

M.A. in English (American Folklore and Literature), 2006. Middle Tennessee University, Murfreesboro, TN.

B.A. in English (Early American Literature), 2002. Maryville College, Maryville, TN.

Academic & Public Positions

Assistant Professor of Folklore, 2020-Present

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, Bloomington

Affiliated Faculty, 2020-Present

Cognitive Science Program, Indiana University, Bloomington

Core Lecturer of Folklore (Graduate Faculty), 2016-2020.

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, Bloomington

Visiting Lecturer, 2013-2016.

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, Bloomington

Lead Folklorist & University Liaison. 2012-2013.

Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America - Atchafalaya Swamp Base

Publications: Folklore, Social Science Publications

Books

2021. *The Aesop's Fable Paradigm: An Unlikely Intersection of Folklore and Science*.
(first-editor, with second-editor Daniel J. Povinelli).
<https://iupress.org/9780253059222/the-aesops-fable-paradigm/>
2019. *Folk Illusions: Children, Folklore, and Sciences of Perception*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
(first-author, with second-author Claiborne Rice).
http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=809599

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Under Review. "Embodying Heritage in the Cajun Dance of Cal and Lou Courville." (9,500 words)
Western Folklore.
- Forthcoming. "Environmental Stewardship and Expressive Scouting in Louisiana's Atchafalaya
Swamp." (10,000 words) *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany*.
2023. "Folk Illusions in The Dictionary of American Regional English: Text, Context, and a
Triangulation Method for Cognitive Folkloristics." (with Claiborne Rice, 9,850 words) In
Folklore. Special Issue on dictionaries as sources for folklore research edited by Jonathan
Roper (University of Tartu).
2019. "Introduction: The Perplexities of Water." (with Daniel J. Povinelli) In *Journal of Folklore
Research*. 56.2/3 Special Issue, Folklore as (Unlikely) Frame for Science, The Aesop's Fable
Paradigm. 1-13.
2019. "The Animal Question as Folklore in Science." In *Journal of Folklore Research*. 56.2/3 Special
Issue, Folklore as (Unlikely) Frame for Science, The Aesop's Fable Paradigm. 15-26.
2019. "Anthropomorphomania and the Rise of the Animal Mind: A Conversation." (with Daniel J.
Povinelli) In *Journal of Folklore Research*. 56.2/3 Special Issue, Folklore as (Unlikely) Frame
for Science, The Aesop's Fable Paradigm. 71-90.
2019. "Conclusion: Old Ideas and the Science of Animal Folklore." (with Daniel J. Povinelli). In
Journal of Folklore Research. 56.2/3 Special Issue, Folklore as (Unlikely) Frame for Science,
The Aesop's Fable Paradigm. 113-23.
2019. "Doctor Fomomindo's Preliminary Notes for a Future Index of Anthropomorphized Animal
Behaviors." (with Daniel J. Povinelli, Marissa Wieneke, and Kristina Downs). In *Journal of
Folklore Research*. 56.2/3 Special Issue, Folklore as (Unlikely) Frame for Science, The
Aesop's Fable Paradigm. 125-291.
2019. "Henry Glassie – Game-Changer Entry." (3,500 words) In *Sage Encyclopedia of Research Methods
and Foundations*. Edited by Paul A. Atkinson et al.
<https://methods.sagepub.com/foundations/glassie-henry>

2018. "Folk Illusions as Emic, Educational Prompt." *Journal of Folklore and Education*. Vol. 5: 42-48. <https://www.locallearningnetwork.org/journal-of-folklore-and-education/current-and-past-issues/jfe-vol-5-2018/journal-of-folklore-and-education-volume-5-issue-1/folk-illusions-as-emic-educational-prompt/>
2016. "Folk Illusions and the Social Activation of Embodiment: Ping Pong, Olive Juice, and Elephant Shoe(s)." *Journal of Folklore Research* 53(2): 63-85. (with Claiborne Rice)
2012. "Folk Illusions: An Unrecognized Genre of Folklore." *Journal of American Folklore*. 125(498): 444-473. (with Claiborne Rice).

Essays in Books

2011. "Light as a Feather, Stiff as a Board." In *World Without Weight: Perspectives on an Alien Mind*. By Daniel J. Povinelli. pp. 289-290. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Book Reviews

2021. Review of *Johnny Cash International: How and Why Fans Love the Man in Black*. By Jonathan Silverman and Michael Hinds. In *Reception: Texts, Readers, Audiences, History*. Vol 13, 117-121.
2019. Review of *Fragile Grounds: Louisiana's Endangered Cemeteries*. By Jessica H. Schexnayder and Mary H. Manhein. In *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*.
<http://www.jfr.indiana.edu/review.php?id=2249>
2018. Review of *Yo Mama, Mary Mack, and Boudreaux and Thibodeaux: Louisiana Children's Folklore and Play*. By Jeanne Pitre Soileau. In *Children's Folklore Review*. Vol. 39: 92-96.
2018. Review of *Legendary Louisiana Outlaws: The Villains and Heroes of Folk Justice*. By Keagan LeJeune. In *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*. <http://www.jfr.indiana.edu/review.php?id=2070>
2015. Review of *Costume: Performing Identities through Dress*. By Pravina Shukla. In *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*. <http://www.jfr.indiana.edu/review.php?id=1958>
2015. Review of *Yankee Twang: New England Country and Western Music*. By Clifford Murphy. In *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*. <http://www.jfr.indiana.edu/review.php?id=1818>
2013. Review of *Body Language: Sisters in Shape, Black Women's Fitness, and Feminist Identity Politics*. By Kimberly J. Lau. In *Western Folklore*. 72(2): 214-15.
2010. Review of *Exploring the Networked Worlds of Popular Music: Milieu Cultures*. By Peter Webb. In *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*. <http://www.jfr.indiana.edu/review.php?id=699>

Publications: Science Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

2017. "Folk Illusions: More than Child's Play." *The Psychologist*. Vol. 30: 52-54. (with Clai Rice)

Invited Submissions

2017. "QA: Interview of Comparative Psychologist, Daniel J. Povinelli." *Current Biology* 26(7): R202-R204. (Interview with Daniel J. Povinelli)

Popular Articles, Media Appearances & Popular Articles Featuring Barker's Work

2023. "1875 Mention of The Bell Witch (Re)Discovered." By K. Brandon Barker. *Adams Enterprise*. Submitted article for March issue.
2021. "Local Historian Wins Historic Preservation Award." By K. Brandon Barker. *Adams Enterprise*. Invited article on Adams, Tennessee's local historian Tim Henson's 2021 Historic Preservation Award from the Tennessee Historic Commission.
2021. Podcast Appearance. "Illuminating Folk Illusions with Dr. Brandon Barker and Dr. Claiborne Rice." *SOUNDLORE*. Interview with Amber Lueck.
iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/playlist/dedicated/202633383/1_rpiorabh/1_cx7ymgzm
2020. Documentary Appearance. *The Mark of the Bell Witch*. Small Town Monsters (released on Amazon, AppleTV, Roku). www.smalltownmonsters.com/shop/bellwitchdvdbluray
2020. Radio Appearance. Tooth Fairy Folklore. *Wisconsin Public Radio*. Live Interview of Barker with *Central Time* host, Robert Ferrett on Monday, May 18th.
2020. "The Tooth Fairy as an Essential Worker in a Child's World of Wonder." By K. Brandon Barker. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/the-tooth-fairy-as-an-essential-worker-in-a-childs-world-of-wonder-132646>. Republished online by *Washington Post*, *The Wire*, *Nesify*, *Fairfield Citizen*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Idaho Press Tribune*, *Stamford Advocate*, *Connecticut Post*, *Newsblur*, *Edwardsville Intelligencer*, *The Telegraph*, *Big News Network*, *Flipboard*.
2019. Newspaper Interview. "The nostalgic thrill of Capture the Flag and other 'night games': Capture the Flag and other nostalgic games remain an essential part of childhood, despite the rise of organized sports and digital devices" Minneapolis *Star Tribune* By Rachel Hutton.
2019. "The Illusionists on the Playground: What Folk Illusions Reveal about Children's Perception and Cognition." Interview with KB Barker, C Rice, & S. Martinez-Conde. *Scientific American*. <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/illusion-chasers/the-illusionists-on-the-playground/>
2016. Translation of Martinez-Conde and Macknik article, "Folk Illusions: Discover the Science of Schoolyard Illusions," in *Psyche & Brain* (4): October.
2016. "Folk Illusions: Discover the Science of Schoolyard Illusions." By Susana Martinez-Conde & Stephen L. Macknik. *Scientific American: Mind*. Sep/Oct, 27 (5): 18-19.
2016. "Child's Play: The Misperception Tricks that Children Play on one Another." By Susana-Martinez Conde. *Scientific American*, Illusion Chasers blog. August 12.
<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/illusion-chasers/child-s-play/>.

Creative Writing

Fiction

2016. "Searching for Ratzinger." *The Turnip Truck(s)* 2(2): 94-128. (with DJ Povinelli)

Drama

2019. Confessions of a Former Monkey Mind Doctor. Two-person show performed at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, Louisiana as a part of ACA's Fall Season. \$10,000 budget.
2018. Confessions of a Former Monkey Mind Doctor. Two-person show performed at the John Waldron Arts Center, Bloomington, Indiana as a sponsored program of Indiana University, College of Arts and Science's Fall Themester, Animal/Human. Funded at \$11,000. Shows November 26 & 27 at John Waldron Arts Center.
- 2017/16. Confessions of a Former Monkey Mind Doctor. Two-person show performed at the Folklorists are Fallible Conference at the University of Tartu in Estonia (2017) and at the Wolfgang Kohler Primate Center at the University of Göttingen (2016). (with DJ Povinelli)

Teaching

PhD. Dissertation, M.A., M.F.A. Committees

- Gwyneth Harris, M.A. *In-Progress* (director)
- Iris Teeuwen, PhD. *In-Progress* (committee member)
- Quaid Adams, M.A. *In-Progress* (director)
- Myc Wiatrowski, PhD. *In-Progress* (committee member)
- Emmie Papa-Eddy, PhD. *In-Progress* (committee member)
- Emily Bryant, PhD. 2021 (committee member)
- Rosalind Rini Larson, PhD. 2021 (committee member)
- Dominick Tartaglia, PhD. 2021 (committee member)
- Nate Gibson, PhD. 2020 (committee member)
- Barbara McGinness, M.A. 2020 (committee member)
- Shawn Lopez, M.F.A. 2016 (orals defense, outside committee member)
- Rose Schlemmer, M.F.A. 2016 (orals defense, outside committee member)

Undergraduate Honors Theses

- Jack Kovalski, B.A. with Honors. 2015 (director)
- Barbara McGinness, B.A. with Honors. 2015 (director)

Courses Taught at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. 2013-Present.

Q 101: Introduction to Cognitive Science. Shaping and teaching an introductory course on the historical developments, core subjects, and primary methods in the interdisciplinary-discipline, cognitive science. Readings include José Luis Bermúdez, Richard Gregory, Steven Pinker, Katharine Young, Jay Mechling, Susana Martinez-Conde, Stephen Macknik, Daniel Dennett, Richard Shiffrin, Elaine Scarry, and Endel Tulving.

F 512: Survey of Folklore. Shaping and teaching a graduate course on folkloristic genre theory and folkloric genres. Readings include Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Bauman, Truider Harris, Dan Ben-Amos, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Mikhail Bakhtin, Amy Shuman, Galit Hasan-Rokem, Henry Glassie, Susan Stewart. Major student outputs are class presentations on a given genre and a seminar-length essay.

F 804: Folklore and the Body. Developing and teaching a graduate course on the folkloristic study of the body and embodied processes. Course focuses on how culture shapes both our bodies and our embodied experiences, by studying identifiable folkloric genres and forms alongside relevant data from philosophy and the experimental sciences. Readings include Katherine Young, David Hufford, Thomas Csordas, Deidre Sklar, Malcolm MacLachlan, and V.S. Ramachandran, and Elaine Scarry. Student's major output is fieldwork-based study.

F 712: Body Adornment. Shaping and teaching a graduate course on the folkloristic study of body adornment. Course focuses on how cultural traditions affect that several modes of body adornment, including permanent body art (e.g. tattoos and scarification), dress, temporary body art (e.g. hair-dye and makeup), and costume (e.g. Mardi Gras festival costumes and Country Music performance costumes). Students come to recognize the socio- symbolic qualities of adornment traditions alongside an understanding of relevant philosophical and scientific theories in regards to body image. Readings include Paul Schilder, Pravina Shukla, Charles K. Wolfe, Arnold Rubin, Thomas Cash, and Thomas Pruzinsky.

F 497: Advanced Seminar in Theories and Methods. Developing and teaching the capstone course for Folklore and Ethnomusicology majors and minors. The course operates on three levels: (1) a literature review within the disciplines of folkloristics and ethnomusicology, (2) a professional workshop for the development of resumes, curriculum vitas, and cover letters, (3) a semester-length project that culminates in a presentation to students and faculty at an annual undergraduate continued: symposium. Readings include selections from Steve Felds, Marcia Gaudet, Henry Glassie, Richard Bauman, Joel Sherzer, Dell Hymes, Anya Royce, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Amy Shuman, Dorothy Noyes, Elliott Oring, John McDowell, Diane Goldstein, Gregory Schrempp, and Pravina Shukla.

F 420: American Country Music. Developing and teaching an upper-level, undergraduate course on the American popular music genre, country music. Course focuses on the complex interplay of American folk musical traditions—like Appalachian ballads, African- American blues and jazz, polka, cajun and zydeco, and western swing—that gave rise to the country music industry. Readings include Charles K. Wolfe, Bill Malone, Bill Ivey, Barry Ancelet, Robert Oermann, Robert Stone, Rich Kienzle, Theresa Ortega, and Mary Bufwack.

F 404: Folklore and the Body. Developing and teaching an upper level, undergraduate course on folklore and the body. Course focuses on the ways we dress, shape, and move or bodies within given folk communities by studying many folkloric examples of play, adornment, dance, and work while providing an introduction to relevant philosophical discussions. Readings include Katherine Young, David Hufford, Matthew and Sandra Blakeslee, Plato, Descartes, Merleau-Ponty.

F 368: Folklore and Science of Childhood. Developing and teaching an upper-level, undergraduate course on the folkloristic study of children's cultural traditions. Course focuses on the major children's genres of folklore, including song, rhyme, games, narrative, and material culture. While surveying examples from these genres, students think critically about the issues of developmental science in the context of biology and culture. Readings include Elizabeth Tucker, Simon Bronner, Jay Mechling, Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, Iona and Peter Opie, W.W. Newell, Alan Dundes, Linda Dégh, John McDowell, and Brian Sutton-Smith.

F 367: Folklore of the South. Developing and teaching an undergraduate course on the folkloric customs of the American south. This course fulfills general-education diversity requirements for IU's College of Arts and Sciences. Considered genres include legend, fairy tale, music, foodways, vernacular architecture, body adornment, folk speech, and myth. Readings include Marcia Gaudet, Barry Ancelet, Bill Ferris, John Burrison, Henry Glassie, Solimar Otero, Marcie Cohen Ferris, John Vlatch, John Laudun, Anne Curzan, and Jay Edwards.

F 253: American Foodways. Developing and teaching a sophomore-level course on the folkloristic study of food traditions in America. Course focuses on the cultural impact on localized taste and preference as well as surveying several ethnic, geographical foodways like Cajun foodways, Mexican-American foodways, Italian American foodways, Appalachian foodways, and African-American foodways. Class Project includes poster-board presentation of IU Themeseter Symposium on the folk inflections of the submarine sandwich. Readings include Jacqueline Thursby, Marcia Gaudet, Carolyn Korsmeyer, and James Still (literary text).

F 101: Introduction to Folklore. Developing and teaching an introductory course in the major genres, texts, and theories of folkloristics. A 300-seat lecture course, F101 includes responsibility for managing four Teaching Assistants. Readings include Brunvand's Study of American Folklore and selected non-American textual examples from Southeast Asia, South America, and Western Europe. Supplemental readings include Rosemary Zumwalt, Kenneth Goldstein, Pravina Shukla, Joyce Hammond, Jack Santino, and Carolyn Ware.

C 103: Illusions in Culture. Developing and teaching an Intensive Freshman Seminar (IFS) course as a dual IFS and Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Experience (ASURE). This course examines the manifestation of perceptual illusions in elite, popular, and folk forms of expressive culture. Readings include Susanna Martinez-Conde, Steven Macknik, Richard Gregory, Brandon Barker, Claiborne Rice, Malcolm MacLachlan, Céline Delavaux, Maggie Shiffrar, Christina Joseph, and Katharina Leow. (In 2022, taught as dual IFS + ASURE course)

C 103: Embodying the Humanities. Developing and teaching a College of Arts and Sciences CAPPS course as an inaugural Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Experience (ASURE) course. This course examines a range of humanities topics—including philosophy, visual art, literature, poetry, music, film, and folklore—in the contexts of twenty-first century theories of embodiment and embodied cognition as espoused in philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, and cognitive science. Readings include Descartes, Plato, Malcom MacLachlan, Susana Martinez-Conde, Steven L. Macknik, Katharine Young, David Hufford, Peter Stockwell, and Joanna Gavins.

C 103: The Science of Animal Folklore. Developing and teaching a course on the myriad human representations of animals and animal minds in folkloric culture *and* in animal cognition/comparative psychology. Readings include, the Brothers Grimm, Aesop's Fables, Wolfgang Mieder, Boria Sax, Daniel Povinelli, Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, John Johnson, Jason Jackson, Roger Abrahams, Jan Harold Brunvand, Wendy Doniger, Graham Richards.

Awards

David and Cheryl Morley Early Career Award for Outstanding Teaching. “An award for outstanding achievement in teaching for assistant TT professors in the College of Arts and Sciences. This award is intended to recognize an outstanding portfolio of teaching endeavors executed by a junior member of the College of Arts and Science’s tenure track faculty.” Indiana University, Bloomington, 2023.

Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. From IUB [VPFAA website](#), “Sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the Outstanding Junior Faculty Award is the most prestigious campus-level award available specifically to pre-tenure faculty.” Indiana University, Bloomington, 2023

The Opie Prize, best scholarly book on children’s folklore for *Folk Illusions: Children, Folklore, and Sciences of Perception*. American Folklore Society, 2020.

Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award. Indiana University, Bloomington, 2018/19.

Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award. Indiana University, Bloomington, 2016/17.

The Florence Sanders Jones Awards for Outstanding Graduate Student in English, University of Louisiana-Lafayette, 2010.

Editorial Work

Editor. 2020-Present. *Children’s Folklore Review*. <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/cfr>

Editor. 2019-Present. Folklore, Foodways, and American Vernacular Music Editor at Large. University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press Editorial Board.

Assistant Editor. 2021-Present. *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*. <https://jfr.sitehost.iu.edu/reviews.php>

Guest Editor. 2019. Folklore as (Unlikely) Frame for Science. *Journal of Folklore Research* 56.2/3.

Assistant Editor. 2005. Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin. Murfreesboro, TN.

Grants & Grant Writing

Fellowship Recipient. Forthcoming. IUB College of Arts + Sciences’ Career Connections Fellowship Program. Recipients participate in intensive workshops to better include career competencies/connections in CASE coursework. \$1,500 Award. May 2023.

PI. College of Arts & Humanities Institute (CAHI) Research Travel Grant. Awarded at \$3,000 for folklore fieldwork in Kentucky and Tennessee for a project entitled, “An Ethnographic Study of Folklore, History, and Art in the Black Patch.”

Editor. BP Deepwater Horizon Promotional Fund awarded at \$150,000, August 2013. To support promotional costs of the Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America Atchafalaya Swamp Base.

Lead Writer. Pugh Family Foundation Grant awarded at \$7,500, Spring 2013. To support capital costs of the Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America Atchafalaya Swamp Base.

Select Conference & Symposium Presentations

Conference Presentations

“Are Beliefs Real? Answers from the Field.” American Folklore Society, Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon. November 3, 2023.

“Theory of Mind: Historical Developments and Implications for Folklorists.” American Folklore Society, Annual Meeting, Virtual/Portland, Oregon. October 11, 2023.

“Folk Psychology & the Bell Witch.” International Society for Contemporary Legends Research. Sheffield Hallam University, South Yorkshire, UK. June 2023.

“John Baker, Jr. and the Washingtons of Wessyngton Plantation.” The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Tulsa, Oklahoma. October 2022.

“Self/Other Paradox in Children’s Folklore, History, and Theater in Adams, Tennessee.” The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. 2019.

“Folk Illusions and Traditional Representations of Embodiment.” Organized Panel -- Yes Illusions: Folk Illusions in Culture, Technology, and Philosophy. The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Buffalo, New York. 2018.

“Critical Response.” Special Organized Panel -- Author Meets Critics: *Sacred Art: Catholic Saints and Candomblé Gods in Modern Brazil* by Henry Glassie and Pravina Shukla. The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Buffalo, New York. 2018.

“Tradition, Expectation, and Phenomenology in Louisiana’s Atchafalaya Swamp.” Organized Panel -- Diverse Environmentalisms and Senses of Place: Performance, Experience, and Affect. The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 2017.

“Considering the Folklorist’s Responsibilities for Environmental Stewardship and Cultural Sustainability in South Louisiana’s Atchafalaya Swamp.” DERT Symposium, Performing Diverse Environmentalisms: Expressive Culture at the Crux of Ecological Change. Bloomington, Indiana. 2017.

“Where do Scientific Experiments Come From?” The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Miami, Florida. 2016.

“I hate the Bell Witch: Mirror Summoning Rituals and the Science of Visual Perception.” The American Folklore Society Annual Meeting. Long Beach, California. 2015

“The Folklore of Concussions in American Football.” The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Santa Fe, New Mexico. 2014.

“Ping-Pong: A New Folk Illusion and Its Complication of Director/Actor Roles.” The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Providence, RI. 2013.

“Folk Illusions: A Newly Recognized Category of Folklore.” The American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Bloomington, IN. 2011.

“Bending the Body to Its Musical Will: The Folklore of Playing the Pedal Steel Guitar.” The Louisiana Conference on Literature and Language. Lafayette, LA. 2011.

“Can We Play Too? Fieldworking Light as a Feather, Stiff as a Board.” The American Folklore Society Annual Meeting. Nashville, TN. 2010.

“The Quest for Pedals: Artistic and Material Transformation of the Mysterious Pedal Steel Guitar.” The Louisiana Conference on Literature and Language. Lafayette, LA. 2010.

“Sacred Emotions: A Folkloristic Approach to Cognitive Literary Universals.” The American Folklore Society Annual Meeting. Boise, Idaho. 2009.

“Music, Social Constraints, and Cognitive Universals: An Inter-Disciplinary Understanding of Emotion in the Works of Shakespeare.” with Wendy Wilkerson and Bryan Davis. South Central Modern Language Association Annual Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA. 2009.

“It's Gotta be Black Formica: Toward a Deeper Understanding of the Pedal Steel Guitar.” The American Folklore Society Annual Meeting. Louisville, KY. 2008.

“Punking the System: Four Perspectives on Punk Pedagogies” with Chris Driver, Rachel Strickland, and Dave Taylor. Southeastern Writing Center Association Annual Meeting. Charleston, SC. 2005.

“Steel the One: Material Culture of Franklin Steel Guitars.” The American Folklore Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. 2005.

“Swapping Serpents: Mythological Comparisons from Appalachia and Japan.” The American Folklore Society. Salt Lake City, Utah. 2004.

Invited Lectures & Public Talks

Invited Mini-Lecture, Forthcoming. “Faculty Lecture at COAS Spring 2024 College-Wide, Direct Admit Scholars Day.” Indiana University, Bloomington. I have been invited by Dean Rick van Kooten to present to visiting direct@admit students “a 15-minute presentation or reading along with another faculty member, probably from the sciences. Our goal here is showcase the breadth and depth of the College’s offerings by highlighting through some of our world-class faculty two very different fields.” February 10th & March 23rd, 2024.

Invited Lecture. “John Baker, Junior: Identity, Folklore, and Activist History at Wessyngton Plantation.” Department of Anthropology. University of Tennessee. Annual Visiting Lecture Series. November 8th & 9th, 2023.

Invited Lecture. “Cultural Universals? Folktales, Animals, and the Human Search for Origins.” [CARTA](#) Symposium at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, entitled *The Role of Myth in Anthropogeny*. May 19-20, 2023.

Invited Public Talk. “Cross-Cultural Connections to the Bell Witch of Adams, Tennessee.” Red River Tales Festival. Adams, Tennessee. September 2022.

Invited Lecture. “Identity – John Baker, Jr.” Intensive Freshman Seminar Faculty Panel, Indiana University, Bloomington. August 11, 2022.

Invited Lecture. “Generational Farming in South Louisiana.” IU Food Institute. Bloomington, Indiana. March 29, 2018.

Invited Speaker. Indiana University Auditorium’s Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella. “Telling Good (Cinderella) Stories.” February 28, 2018.

Invited Closing Remarks. Ohio State University/Indiana University Folklore and Ethnomusicology Conference. April 23, 2016.

Invited Speaker. Indiana University Auditorium's Rosanne Cash Pre-Show Lecture. "The Roots of Country Cash." September 25, 2014.

Invited Speaker. Mathers Museum Public Lecture Series. "The 'American' Pedal Steel Guitar." Mathers Museum, Indiana University. February 8, 2014.

Colloquium Lecture. "Folk Illusions: What Studying the Body Teaches us About Folkloristics." Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University. September 27, 2013.

Invited Speaker for Departmental Symposium. "Folk Illusions: Twisting the Hands, Floating the Arms, and Levitating the Body." English Department. University of Louisiana at Lafayette. 2012.

Guest Speaker. Graduate School Orientation. University of Louisiana at Lafayette. 2011, 2010.

Guest Speaker. "Folklore Studies II: Musical History as Text," Panel Presentation for English Week. University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2010.

Service

Service Positions

2013-Present. Managing Instructor/Pedagogical Mentor for 27 Graduate-Student Associate Instructors and 1 Undergraduate Student Intern in F101, C103, & IFS courses.

2021-Present. Director of Undergraduate Studies. Dept of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University.

2021-Present. Faculty Liaison (ex officio) to Folklore & Ethnomusicology Student Association.

2016-Present. Member Graduate Faculty. Indiana University.

Selected Committees & Campus Service

College Undergraduate Research Advisory Council (URAC). Indiana University. 2023-Present.

CASE Review Committee. College of Arts & Sciences. Indiana University. Fall 2022.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University. 2019-Present. [Chair, 2021-Present]

Organizer for campus-wide invited lecture delivered by John Baker, Jr.: "The Washingtons of Wessyngton: Stories of My Family's Journey to Freedom." April 8, 2022. [approximately 150 attendees]

Merit Committee. Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. 2021-2022.

Curriculum Committee. Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. 2021-2022.

Graduate Affairs Committee. Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. 2020-2021.

Assessment and Learning Outcomes Committee. Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. 2021-Present.

Departmental Vision Committee. Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Indiana University. 2014-16.

Organizer for campus-wide invited lecture delivered by the eminent folklorist Dr. David Hufford: "Near Death Experiences, After Death Contacts, and the Spirits of Sleep Paralysis: Epistemology, Culture, Neuroscience, and Belief," November 10, 2011.

Search Committee Member for Folklorist. English Department. University of Louisiana at Lafayette. 2011/2012.

Graduate Student Advisory Committee to the Dean of Graduate School. University of Louisiana at Lafayette. 2011, 2010, 2009.

Folklore Coordinator. Boy Scouts of America (Evangeline Council) Tree-Planting Dedication to the Atchafalaya Basin. 2011.

Professional/Community Service

American Folklore Society Annual Conference. 2023. Conference Abstract Review Committee. Reviewed Individual Presentation & Panel Submissions.

Volunteer Lecture. 2022. "Are Crows Really Smarter than Seven-Year-Old Children? Folklore and Animal Science." Indiana University, Mini University. June 16th.

Board Member. 2022-Present. Wessyngton Plantation - African American Cemetery, 501c3. Cedar Hill, Tennessee.

Convener. 2019-Present. Folklore & Science Section. American Folklore Society.
<https://www.afsnet.org/general/custom.asp?page=FLandScience>

Junior-Convener. 2022. Children's Folklore Section. American Folklore Society.
<https://americanfolkloresociety.org/our-community/sections/childrens-folklore/>

Volunteer Selection Committee Member. 2021. "Folklore & Science Prize." Folklore & Science Sections. American Folklore Society.

Volunteer Panelist. 2019. Panel on the Supernatural for Spirit performance (a local theatrical production in Adams, Tennessee. United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. September 8.

Volunteer Lecture. 2019. "The Bell Witch of Adams, Tennessee." Indiana University, Mini University. June 10.

Volunteer Selection Committee Member. "Folk Heritage Fellowships." Traditional Arts Indiana. Fall 2018.

Volunteer. Louisiana Conference on Literature and Language. 2012. Volunteer. Louisiana Conference on Literature and Language. 2009. Volunteer. Tennessee Folklore Society Annual Conference. 2006, 2005.