

# Maria Elizabeth Kennedy, PhD

[maria.kennedy@rutgers.edu](mailto:maria.kennedy@rutgers.edu)

## EDUCATION

- 2017 **PhD Indiana University**, Bloomington, IN  
**Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology**
- 2009 **MA Indiana University**, Bloomington, IN  
**Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology & School of Journalism**
- 2003 **BA McGill University**, Montreal, QC, Canada  
**English Literature, minor in History, First Class Honors**

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2018-present **Rutgers University, Department of American Studies**, New Brunswick, NJ  
Assistant Teaching Professor (2022); Instructor (2018-2022)  
Co-Director, New Jersey Folk Festival (2021-present) Administrative Director (2018-2021)
- 2015-2018 **The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes**, Corning, NY  
Folk Arts Coordinator
- 2010-11/15 **Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities, Indiana University**, Bloomington, IN  
Graduate Assistant
- 2009/10/13 **Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Anthropology**, Indianapolis, IN  
Instructor, Adjunct
- 2007-2010 **Traditional Arts Indiana**, Bloomington, IN  
Graduate Assistant: Public Programs
- 1999-2004 **Conner Prairie Living History Museum**, Fishers, IN  
Museum Interpreter

## RESEARCH

### Peer Reviewed Publications

- (Advanced Contract Signed with Indiana University Press) Book: *Finding Lost Fruit: The Poetics and Practice of Orchard Conservation and Craft Cider Making in Britain*.
- 2019 Journal Article: "Agrarian Eve to Original Sin: Cultural Narratives of Women in the American Cider Industry." *New Directions in Folklore*, The Spirits of the Folk: Alcohol-Based Community Identity in the 21st Century, 17, no. 1 (April 2020). <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/ndif/issue/view/2016>.
- 2017 Journal Article: "Fruit in the Forest: Foraging Apples and Pressing Cider in the Finger Lakes." *Voices, the Journal of New York Folklore*. 43, no. 3/4 (2016): 17-22.
- 2013 Book Chapter: "The Foraged Countryside: Perceptions of Nature and Culture in Four Encounters with Fungi." *Shaping Rural Areas in Europe. Perceptions and Outcomes on the Present and the Future*. eds. Luís Silva & Elisabete Figueiredo. Springer, 2013.
- 2008 Journal Article: "'Strangers Expected': Families living together in scripture at the Bean Blossom Mennonite Church." *Midwestern Folklore*. 34:1 (2008): 23-40.

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## Reviews

- 2022 (forthcoming). Review of *The Orchards of Eastern England: History Ecology and Place*, by Gerry Barnes and Tom Williamson. *Agricultural History*, 2022.
- 2014 Review of *The English Breakfast: The Biography of a National Meal with Recipes*, by Kaori O'Connor. *Museum Anthropology Review*. August 2014.
- 2013 Review of *The Individual and Tradition*, edited by Pravina Shukla, Ray Cashman, and Tom Mould. *Folklore*, 2013.
- 2013 Review of *Rolf Gardiner: Folk, Nature, and Culture in Interwar Britain*, edited by Matthew Jefferies and Mike Tyllesley. *Journal of Folklore Research Online Reviews*, 2013.

## Academic Conference Presentations (selected)

- 2021 “Share Your Foodways: Collaborations for Food Access” forum at the American Folklore Society Conference: Harrisburg, PA.
- 2019 “Folk Festivals in Transition” at the American Folklore Society Conference: Baltimore, Maryland
- 2019 “Reworking the Landscape: Foraging Forgotten Agricultural Landscapes for the Craft Cider Revival” paper at the Ninth Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers: Burlington, Vermont.
- 2018 “Folklore Careers Beyond and Within Academia” at the Modern Languages Association Conference: New York, NY.
- 2018 “Beer Goggles in the Field: Who is Overlooked in the Craft Beverage Revival?” forum at the American Folklore Society Conference: Buffalo, NY.
- 2017 “The Dark Side of the Cider Cellar: Intersections of Drinking Culture and Fieldwork” in panel: *Hard Thinking about Hard Drinking: Community and Controversy in the Production and Consumption of Alcohol*. The American Folklore Society Conference: Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2016 “Cider, Orchards, and the Vernacular Landscapes of Rural New York” in organized panel: *Reframing the Rural: Making Traditional Agricultural Practices Pertinent to Contemporary Concerns*. Paper presented at the American Folklore Society Conference: Miami, Florida
- 2015 “Folk Arts Programming and the Craft Cider Revival: Heritage in the Marketplace” in organized panel: *Folklore and Agriculture*. Paper presented at the American Folklore Society Conference: Long Beach, California
- 2014 “The Cider Poetic: The Literary Orchard Inscribing Rural Heritage” in organized panel: *Literary cartographies: the co-production of page and place*. Paper presented at the Royal Geographical Society / Institute of British Geographers Conference: London, UK
- 2013 “Orchard Conservation in Britain: New Rhetorical Constructions of Old Geographical Frontiers.” Paper presented Royal Geographical Society / Institute of British Geographers Conference: London, UK

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## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

- 2022 **Cornell University School of Integrated Plant Sciences:** Visiting Scientist  
2022 **Cornell University, David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement:** Engaged Faculty Research Grant: \$30,000 in collaboration with PI Dr. Gregory Peck, Cornell University  
2022 **National Endowment for the Arts:** Grants for Arts Projects New Jersey Folk Festival: \$20,000  
2022 **Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation:** Folk and Traditional Arts Grants: New Jersey Folk Festival: \$7,000  
2021 **New Jersey Council on the Humanities:** Incubation Grant: New Jersey Folk Podcast: \$12,000  
2020 **National Endowment for the Arts:** Art Works Grant: New Jersey Folk Festival: \$20,000  
2019 **Rutgers University:** Humanities Plus Curriculum Development Grant: \$2000  
2019 **Rutgers University:** OASIS Leadership and Professional Development Program  
2018 **New York State Council on the Arts:** Project Support: At the Jewish Table: \$14,000  
2013 **Indiana University, College of Arts and Sciences:** Dissertation Year Fellowship \$20,000  
2012 **University of Gloucestershire, Countryside and Community Research Institute:** Visiting Student  
2011 **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada:** Doctoral Fellowship \$40,000  
2005 **Indiana University, School of Journalism:** Cushman Fellowship: \$13,500  
2003 **McGill University, Department of English:** Creative Writing Award

## PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND ENGAGED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2022 Engaged Research Project: **“Fruit Foraging in the Cider Industry”**  
Cornell University School of Integrated Plant Sciences, with PI Dr. Gregory Peck, Ithaca, NY. <https://foragedfruitproject.com/>  
*Visiting Scientist*
- 2018-present Annual Festival: **The New Jersey Folk Festival.**  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. [www.njfolkfest.org](http://www.njfolkfest.org)  
*Co-Director (2021-present); Administrative Director (2018-2021)*  
2023 **“New Directions in Folk” (in planning)**  
2022 **“On the Move: Transportation and Migration”**  
2021 **“Cultures of Oaxaca”**  
2020 **“Virtual New Jersey Folk Festival”**  
2019 **“45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”**
- 2021-present Podcast: **“New Jersey Folk Podcast”**  
Subsidiary Project of The New Jersey Folk Festival  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ <https://www.njfolkfest.org/podcast/>  
*Co-Director*
- 2015-2018 Annual Festival: **The Old Time Fiddlers Gathering and Folk Arts Festival.**  
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes. Lakewood Vineyards, Watkins Glen, NY.  
[www.Fiddlersgathering.org](http://www.Fiddlersgathering.org)  
*Director*
- 2016-2018 Exhibit and Public Programs: **“At the Jewish Table: Food and Heritage in Elmira.”**  
The Chemung Valley History Museum; The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes;  
The Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers; and Congregation Kol Ami. Elmira,  
NY. <https://carts.org/programs/folk-arts-2/active-projects/elmira-jewish-food-memories/>  
*Curator*

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- 2017 Public Lecture and Artist Collaboration: “**Behind the Glass: InCider Information.**”  
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and The Corning Museum of Glass,  
Corning, NY. <http://www.cmog.org/event/behind-glass-september>  
*Curator*
- 2015-2016 Exhibit and Public Programs: “**Black Voices of Corning: Perspectives on Place.**”  
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and The Heritage Village of the Southern  
Finger Lakes. Corning, NY. [www.Blackvoicesofcorning.org](http://www.Blackvoicesofcorning.org)  
*Curator*

## TEACHING

### Department of American Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

- 050:263 American Folklore (Fall: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)  
050:280/282 Topics: Mini Course: American Folklife (Fall: 2018, 2019, 2021)  
050:449 Principles of Folk Festival Management (Fall: 2020, 2021)  
050:450 Seminar in Folk Festival Management (Spring: 2019, 2020, 2021)

### Department of Anthropology, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

- Folklore of the United States (Fall 2009)  
Introduction to Folklore (Fall 2010, Summer 2013)

### Student Advising / Mentoring

- 2023 SJ Waldman. Exhibit for New Jersey Folk Festival: “Comic Art and Community Gardening.” MA  
Capstone Project. **Department of American Studies, Rutgers University Newark.** (project  
advisor)
- 2022 Danielle Daboll. Honors Project: “Landscape Architecture and Site Plan Development for New  
Jersey Folk Festival.” **Honors College, Rutgers University** (project supervisor)
- 2020 Samantha Waldman. “Telling it Straight: Hegemony, Queerness, and the American Family Sitcom.”  
BA Honors Thesis, **Department of American Studies, Rutgers University** (second reader)
- 2019 Natalie Dignam, “The Craft Beer Network: Inside Newfoundland’s Craft Beer Boom” MA Thesis,  
**Department of Folklore, Memorial University, Newfoundland** (outside reader)
- 2017 Victor Bouveron. New York State Council on the Arts Summer Internship Program. **The Arts  
Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.** (Supervisor)

### Guest Lectures in University Courses and Symposia

- 2022 “Documentation, Recording, and Podcasting in the Classroom” *Humanities Plus Community Engaged  
Learning Spotlight.* **School of Arts and Sciences Office of Teaching and Learning, Rutgers  
University.** Invited by Dr. David Goldman.
- 2022 “Wassail: Rituals and Festivals of the Orchard” in *Ritual and Festival*, **Department of American  
Studies, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.** Invited by Dr. Patricia Sawin. (virtual lecture)

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- 2022 “Johnny Appleseed and Foraged Landscapes” in *Landscapes, Cultures, and the Environment*, **Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies, SUNY Oneonta**. Invited by Dr. William Walker. (virtual lecture)
- 2021 “Public Program Development: Using Folklife and Foodways to Strengthen Communities” with Sally Van de Water of Middlesex County Folklife Program. *Graduate Public Humanities Workshops*, **Rutgers University**. Invited by Dr. Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan. (virtual lecture)
- 2021 “Folk Festivals and Archives” in *Ritual, Festival, and Public Culture*, **Department of American Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. Invited by Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger. (virtual lecture)
- 2020 “Wildflower Hay Meadows: Conservation Practices in the UK” in *Research Writing and Humanities*, **SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry School**. Invited by Dr. Karin Patzke. (virtual lecture)
- 2020 “Urban Legends and Fake News” in *Human Information Behavior*, **School of Library and Information Science, Rutgers University**. Invited by Dr. E.E. Lawrence. (in-person lecture)
- 2020 “Wassail: Landscape and Celebration” in *Ritual, Festival, and Public Culture*, **Department of American Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. Invited by Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger. (virtual lecture)
- 2017 “Cider and Orchard Traditions in England and America.” *Folklore Studies Colloquium*. **Department of American Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**. “From Old Orchards to Craft Cider.” Invited by Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger. (in-person lecture)

## SERVICE

### Department / University Committee Service

- 2021 ACLS Post Doc Search Committee, American Studies, Rutgers University
- 2020 Department By-Laws Revision Committee, American Studies, Rutgers University
- 2020 FCP Merit Raises Committee, American Studies, Rutgers University
- 2019 Department Representative, AAUP-AFT Faculty Union, Rutgers University
- 2018 – present Public Humanities Committee, Rutgers University

### Board Service

- 2018 – present New Jersey Folk Festival Inc: Ex Officio Member
- 2017 – present New York Folklore Society: 2021-present: Board President; 2017-2020: Board Member
- 2016-2018 Backbone Ridge History Group: Board Member

### Peer Review and Grant Panel Service

- 2019 *Digest, A Journal of Foodways and Culture*, Referee
- 2016; 2017 New York State Council on the Arts, Panelist: Folk Arts Program Grant Review
- 2016 National Endowment for the Arts, Panelist: State and Regional Partnership Grant Review

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## OTHER PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, POPULAR MEDIA

- 2021 Invited Talk (virtual): **Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures**. Fort Collins, CO. “Here We Come Wassailing: Christmas Traditions of Visitation.” December 14, 2021.
- 2021 Invited Talk (virtual): **Princeton Meadows Retirement Community**. Princeton, NJ. “Foraged Fruit and Tall Tales: Johnny Appleseed in Modern Cider Making.” November 10, 2021.
- 2021 Article: **Malus** “The Architecture of Orchards.” Minuteman Press: Santa Rosa, California. Issue 14, 2021.
- 2021 Invited Panelist (virtual): **Three Counties Cider and Perry Association, Craft Con** “Myths and Cider, The Mystic Chords of Marketing History” April 29, 2021.
- 2021 Invited Panelist (virtual): **American Cider Association, Cider Con 2021**. “Malus Busters: Myths in American Cider” February 3, 2021.
- 2020 Podcast Guest: **Gastropod**. “The Big Apple Episode” November 20, 2020.  
<https://gastropod.com/the-big-apple-episode/>
- 2019 Public Panel Speaker: **East Brunswick Public Library**: “The Jersey Devil.” February 2019.
- 2014 Radio Guest: **WFIU Public Radio: Earth Eats** with Annie Corrigan  
<http://indianapublicmedia.org/earthheats/wassailing-backyard-chicken-tips-mushrooms-wine/>  
<http://indianapublicmedia.org/earthheats/magic-cider-art-coffee-roasting-season-paw-paws/>  
<http://indianapublicmedia.org/earthheats/claudia-roden-mistletoe-loves-apple-trees-fire-roast-duck/>
- 2012 Essay: “Folklore and Landscape.” *Words and Wild Places: Collection of Creative Writing*. Caring for God’s Acre. Shropshire, England.
- 2012 Personal Blog / Website: *Cider With Maria* <http://www.ciderwithmaria.com>