

Maria Elizabeth Kennedy, PhD

~ maria.kennedy@rutgers.edu ~

EDUCATION

- 2017 **PhD Indiana University**, Bloomington, IN
Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology
- 2009 **MA Indiana University**, Bloomington, IN
Dual MA Degree: 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-present); Instructor (2018-2022)
New Jersey Folk Festival, Co-Director, (2020-2024) Administrative Director (2018-2020)
- 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

Journal Articles

- 2025 Kennedy, Maria. 2025. "Un-Cultivation in America: Discourses of Wild and Foraged Apples". *Plant Perspectives* 2 (2):385-408. <https://doi.org/10.3197/WHPPP.63876246815906>.
- 2019 "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 (2019). <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/ndif/issue/view/2016>.
- 2016 "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.

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- 2008 “‘Strangers Expected’: Families living together in scripture at the Bean Blossom Mennonite Church.” *Midwestern Folklore*. 34:1 (2008): 23-40.

Book Chapter

- 2013 “The Foraged Countryside: Perceptions of Nature and Culture in Four Encounters with Fungi.” In *Shaping Rural Areas in Europe: Perceptions and Outcomes on the Present and the Future*, pp. 197-212. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands, 2013.

Manuscripts In Process

Book: (In Peer Review, Advance contract with Indiana University Press) *Cider Poetics: Custom and Conservation in a Changing Rural Britain*

Article: (In Preparation with Co-Author Dr. Gregory Peck) “Selection Principles: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Fruit Foraging in the Cider Industry of New York”

Article: (Revising and expanding invited lecture for publication) “Podcast Pedagogy: How Folklore Studies and Radio Can Impact Creative University Teaching and Scholarship”

Reviews

- 2025 Exhibit Review: *Maria Prymachenko: Glory to Ukraine. Produced by The Ukrainian Museum*, by Peter Doroshenko. *Journal of American Folklore* 138, no. 548 (2025): 245-246. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/963974>.
- 2022 Book Review of *The Orchards of Eastern England: History Ecology and Place*, by Gerry Barnes and Tom Williamson. *Agricultural History*, 96 (4): (November 2022) 630–632.
- 2014 Book Review of *The English Breakfast: The Biography of a National Meal with Recipes*, by Kaori O'Connor. *Museum Anthropology Review*. Vol 8 No. 1 (2014).
- 2013 Book Review of *The Individual and Tradition: Folkloristic Perspectives*, edited by Pravina Shukla, Ray Cashman, and Tom Mould. *Folklore* 124 (3): (2013). 362–64.
- 2013 Book Review of *Rolf Gardiner: Folk, Nature, and Culture in Interwar Britain*, edited by Matthew Jefferies and Mike Tyldesley. *Journal of Folklore Research Online Reviews*, 2013.
- 2009 Book Review of Sadako Ohki, Tea Culture of Japan." *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews* (2009).

Awards, Fellowships, Grants (selected)

- 2025 **University of Warsaw:** Visiting Scholar: Department of Sociology
- 2024 **Rutgers University:** Mutual Mentoring Grant: “If You Build It: Managing Large Events in Public Humanities Programming” \$5000
- 2024 **Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming:** Writer in Residence
- 2023 **National Endowment for the Arts: Grants** for Arts Projects, New Jersey Folk Festival “Cultures of Cultivation” \$15,000
- 2022 **Cornell University School of Integrative Plant Sciences:** Visiting Scientist
- 2022 **Cornell University, David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement:** Engaged Faculty Research Grant “Foraged Fruit Project”: \$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 “On the Move: Transportation and Migration”: \$20,000

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- 2022 **Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation:** Folk and Traditional Arts Grants: New Jersey Folk Festival “Community Gardens and Comic Arts Exhibit”: \$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 “Oaxaca”: \$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
- 2011 **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada:** Doctoral Fellowship \$40,000
- 2005 **Indiana University, School of Journalism:** Cushman Fellowship: \$13,500

Invited Talks

- 2025 “Podcast Pedagogy: How Folklore Studies and Radio Can Impact Creative University Teaching and Scholarship”. **University of Warsaw, Department of Sociology.** Nov 21, 2025. (In-person lecture)
- 2025 “Foraged Apples: Cider, Science, and Lore” **North American Fruit Explorers** Conference. November 7, 2025. (online webinar)
- 2025 “Foraged Fruit and the Shaping of Contemporary Tree Cultures” **Arboricultural Association,** Gloucestershire, UK. January 15, 2025. (virtual webinar)
- 2022 “Wassail: Rituals and Festivals of the Orchard” in course *Ritual and Festival*, **Department of American Studies, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.** Invited by Dr. Patricia Sawin. (virtual lecture)
- 2021 “Here We Come Wassailing: Christmas Traditions of Visitation.” **Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures.** Fort Collins, CO. December 14, 2021. (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)

Academic Conference and Presentations (selected recent presentations)

- 2025 “Podcast Pedagogy: Media and Oral Storytelling in the Classroom” paper presented at the American Folklore Society Conference: Atlanta, USA.
- 2025 “Koliada in the City: Re-Embodying Ritual Meaning Through Vocal Performance in Manhattan's Ukrainian Village” paper presented at the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore Congress: Aberdeen, UK.
- 2024 “Exploring Un-Cultivation in the American Northeast: Wild Orchards and Social and Horticultural Networks of Innovation” paper presented at the Linnean Society Conference: London, UK.
- 2023 “Exploring Un-Cultivation in the American Northeast: Wild Orchards and Social and Horticultural Networks of Innovation” paper presented at the Royal Geographical Society Conference: London, UK.
- 2022 “Podcasting in the Classroom” presentation at the Digital Humanities Showcase. Rutgers University. New, Brunswick, NJ

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- 2021 “Share Your Foodways: Collaborations for Food Access” panel presented at the American Folklore Society Conference: Harrisburg, PA.
- 2019 “Folk Festivals in Transition” paper presented at the American Folklore Society Conference: Baltimore, Maryland
- 2019 “Reworking the Landscape: Foraging Forgotten Agricultural Landscapes for the Craft Cider Revival” paper presented at the Ninth Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers: Burlington, Vermont.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES, ENGAGED RESEARCH PROJECTS, and ARTISTIC PRACTICE

- 2021-present **Artist Encounter Series**
Project Leader, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Events and Programs
 - 2025 Oral History Symposium: Cultures of South Jersey, Oct 2025
 - 2025 Jackson Pines and Friends from Albert Hall, April 2025
 - 2024 Jackson Pines: From Archives to Stage, October 2024
 - 2024 James Kogan: Field Recording Workshop and Folk Music of Eastern Europe
 - 2024 Laki Bali, Greek Folk Fusion, March 2024
 - 2024 Medukha and VJ Fuzzy Bastard: Slavic Folk Chaos and Video Art Colab, February 2024
 - 2023 Kuf Knotz and Christine Elise: Harp and Hip Hop, February 2023
 - 2022 Yulissa Maqueos Gonzales: Oaxacan Band Leader, April 2022
 - 2021 Winter Concert Showcase: December 2021
 - 2021 Josh White: Paul Robeson and Folk Music Panel and Performance, Virtual, April 2021
 - 2021 Yesenia Mejia: Oaxacan Traditional Song, Virtual, April 2021
- 2024-present **If You Build It: Events and Public Humanities, Mutual Mentoring Project**
Project Collaborator, Rutgers University New Brunswick / Newark
Collaborators: Rutgers University Newark: Dr. Elena Lahr-Vivaz; Dr. Jennifer Austin; Dr. Lacey Hunter; Stephanie Rodriguez
Project Website: *forthcoming*
Events and Programs:
 - 2024 Webinar: Large Event Management, Oct 4, 2024
 - 2024 Webinar: Budgets and Finance, Nov 1, 2024
 - 2024 Webinar: Project Management Tools, Dec 6, 2024
- 2024-present **The Jersey Apple Gathering**
Project Leader, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Collaborators: Dr. Megan Muehlbauer, Rutgers University Extension; Community Partners: Fran McManus, *Edible Jersey*; Ashley Asdal, Riamede Farm; James Malchow, Ralston Cider Mill Museum
Events and Programs
 - 2024 Symposium: The Jersey Apple Gathering, Ralston Cider Mill, February 24, 2024
- 2022-present **The Foraged Fruit Project**
Project Co-Leader, Rutgers University; *Visiting Scientist*, Cornell University

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Collaborators: Dr. Gregory Peck, Cornell University; Community Partners: Einhorn Center for Community Engagement; Scott Ramsey, New York Cider Association

Project Website: <https://hardcider.cals.cornell.edu/foraged-fruit-project/>

Events and Programs

- 2025 Invited Talk: “Foraged Apples: Cider, Science, and Lore” North American Fruit Explorers Conference. November 7, 2025.
- 2025 Panel Presentation: “Foraged Fruit Project” New York Cider Association Annual Meeting, Albany, NY. March 18, 2025.
- 2025 Invited Talk, Webinar: “Foraged Fruit and the Shaping of Contemporary Tree Cultures” Arboricultural Association, Gloucestershire, UK. January 15, 2025.
https://youtu.be/ORy70oHV8Bk?si=xPoKuY1r_kmAtf3s
- 2024 Panel Presentation: “The Foraged Fruit Project” American Cider Association Conference, Portland, OR, Jan 19, 2024
- 2023 Presentation Booths: New York Cider Week, Oct 2023
- 2022 Presentation Booths: New York Cider Week, Oct 2022

2022-present

Ukrainian Village Voices

Vocal Performer, (2022-present) **Workshop Coordinator** (2024-present) Manhattan, NYC

Organization Website: <https://www.ukrainianvillagevoices.com/>

Notable Performances and Workshop Coordination

- 2025 Workshop: Kurbasy Up Close: Master Class, New York, NY, Oct 12, 2025
- 2025 Workshop: Anastasia Fyk: Ukrainian Dances, New York, NY, Jan 22, 2025
- 2025 Performance: Golden Festival, Astoria, Queens, Jan 18, 2025
- 2024 Performance: Ukrainian Celebration, United Nations, New York, NY, Dec 18, 2024.
- 2024 Workshop: Marika Kuzma: Ukrainian Christmas Koliada, New York, NY, Nov 15, 2024
- 2024 Performance: Golden Festival, Astoria, Queens, May 11, 2024
- 2023 Performance: Smithsonian Folklife Festival. *Creative Encounters: Living Religions in the United States*. Washington, DC. July 6-9 2023.
- 2022 Performance: New Jersey Folk Festival, New Brunswick, NJ, April 30, 2022

2023-2025

From Each Little Seed: Oaxacan Gardeners of New Brunswick

Project Leader, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Collaborators: Dr. Mary Nucci, Rutgers University; Community Partner: Dan Swern, coLAB Arts; Graduate Student Curator: S.J. Waldman

Events and Programs

- 2025 Panel Discussion: Exhibit Artists, Authors and Producers, *American Food* class, Rutgers University, April 2025
- 2024 Exhibit at New Brunswick Guelaguetza, July 2024
- 2024 Exhibit and Public Program: Rutgers Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Culture, April 2024
- 2023 Exhibit and Public Programs: New Jersey Folk Festival, April 2024

2021-2024

New Jersey Folk Podcast

Project Leader, Producer Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Community partners: New Jersey Folk Festival Inc and the Arts Institute of Middlesex County

Podcast: <https://open.spotify.com/show/7nVELywwQtG2p5PKkv9yjB?si=7d2804c0ebd64cec>

Events and Programs

- 3 Podcast Launch and Performance with Nelson Baez, NBPAC, March 23, 2023
- 2022 Podcasting Workshop Series with Community Participants, Feb-Apr 2022

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- 2018-2024 **The New Jersey Folk Festival**
Co-Director (2020-2024); Administrative Director (2018-2020) Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Collaborators: Dr. Carla Cevalco, Rutgers University; Community Partner: New Jersey Folk Festival Inc
Project Website: www.njfolkfest.org
Events and Programs
2024 “Garden State: Cultures of Cultivation” April 27, 2024
2023 “New Directions in Folk” April 29, 2023
2022 “On the Move: Transportation and Migration” April 30, 2022
2021 “Cultures of Oaxaca” April 24, 2021 (Livestream)
2020 “New Jersey Folk Festival” April 2020 (Virtual)
2019 “45th Anniversary” April 30, 2019
- 2015-2018 **The Old Time Fiddlers Gathering and Folk Arts Festival.**
Director The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.
Lakewood Vineyards, Watkins Glen, NY. www.Fiddlersgathering.org
- 2016-2018 **At the Jewish Table: Food and Heritage in Elmira**
Curator, The Chemung Valley History Museum; The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
with community partners The Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers and Congregation Kol
Ami. Elmira, NY. <https://arts.org/programs/folk-arts-2/active-projects/elmira-jewish-food-memories/>
- 2017 **Behind the Glass: InCider Information**
Curator, The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and The Corning Museum of Glass,
Corning, NY. <http://www.cmog.org/event/behind-glass-september>
- 2015-2016 **Black Voices of Corning: Perspectives on Place**
Curator, The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and The Heritage Village of the Southern
Finger Lakes. Corning, NY. www.Blackvoicesofcorning.org

TEACHING

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

050:263 American Folklore (Fall: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025)

050:272 American Food (Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

050:280 / 281 / 282 Topics: Mini Courses:

American Folklife (Fall: 2018, 2019, 2020)

American Folklore (Spring: 2025)

050:350 Event and Program Management in Arts and Humanities (Developed Course)

050:389 Junior Seminar: Cultural Media Production (Fall: 2023, 2024)

050:449 Principles of Folk Festival Management (Fall: 2020, 2021)

050:450 Seminar in Folk Festival Management (Spring: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

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

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- 2023 Ashley Codner. Public Humanities Graduate Internship: “Jazz and Black Creative Spaces” **New Jersey Folk Festival**. (supervisor)
- 2023 SJ Waldman. Exhibit for New Jersey Folk Festival: “Comic Art and Community Gardening.” MA Capstone Project. **Department of American Studies, Rutgers University Newark**. (supervisor)
- 2022 Andrew James, Victoria Broughton, and Jules Hart “Fruit Foraging in the Cider Industry” Engaged Research Project, Peck Lab, School of Integrative Plant Sciences, **Cornell University**. (supervisor)
- 2022 Danielle Daboll. Honors Project: “Landscape Architecture and Site Plan Development for New Jersey Folk Festival.” **Honors College, Rutgers University** (supervisor)
- 2020 SJ 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)

Guest Lectures in University Courses and Symposia

- 2023 “Public Folklore in Action” in *Introduction to Folklore*. Department of American Studies, **University of North Carolina Chapel Hill**, Invited by Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger. (virtual lecture)
- 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 “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)

SERVICE

Department / University Committee Service

- 2024-2025 School of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Student Service Award Committee
- 2024-2025 Advisory Committee: SOMOS Poetry and Culture Festival, Rutgers University Newark
- 2024 FCP Merit Raises Committee: American Studies, Rutgers University
- 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

Board Service

- 2018 – 2024 New Jersey Folk Festival Inc: Ex Officio Member
- 2017 – 2024 New York Folklore Society: 2021-2023: President; 2023-2024 VP, 2017-2020: Board Member
- 2016-2018 Backbone Ridge History Group: Board Member

Peer Review and Grant Panel Service

- 2023 Cider Con, Conference of the American Cider Association, Research Poster Session, Referee
- 2019 *Digest, A Journal of Foodways and Culture*, Referee

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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

OTHER PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, and ARTISTIC PRACTICE

- 2022 Blog Post: “Foraged Fruit” in *From the Field*, New York Folklore Blog. <https://nyfolklore.org/from-the-field-foraged-fruit/>
- 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.

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND QUOTATIONS

- 2025 Interviewed in **2025 Winter Holiday Special from CBS News Radio**:
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/cbs-news-network-specials/id1524962402>
or <https://open.spotify.com/search/CBS%20Network%20Special%20Winter/podcastAndEpisodes>
- 2024 Interviewed in **First Stop News** Christmas Episode: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI8mfuvi43A>
- 2024 Quoted in: **Reader’s Digest** “What’s a Christmas Spider—and Why Might You Want One on Your Tree?”:
<https://www.rd.com/article/christmas-spider/>
- 2023 Quoted in: **National Geographic**: “What does Santa have to do with ... psychedelic mushrooms?”
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/santa-claus-magic-mushroom-legend>
- 2022 Quoted in: **CNN**: “Winter solstice 2022: Shortest day of the year is long on pagan rituals”
<http://www.cnn.com/travel/article/winter-solstice-2022-wxc-scnc-trnd/index.html>
- 2022 Quoted in: **Martha Stewart** “Not Sure When to Take Down Your Christmas Tree? Use the History of This Ritual as a Guide” <https://www.marthastewart.com/8178133/when-take-down-christmas-tree>
- 2020 Podcast Guest: **Gastropod**. “The Big Apple Episode” November 20, 2020.
<https://gastropod.com/the-big-apple-episode/>
- 2019 Quoted in: **Rutgers Today**: “The Surprising History of Christmas Traditions.”
<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/surprising-history-christmas-traditions>.
- 2014 Radio Guest: **WFIU Public Radio: *Earth Eats*** with Annie Corrigan
<http://indianapublicmedia.org/eartheats/vassailing-backyard-chicken-tips-mushrooms-wine/>
<http://indianapublicmedia.org/eartheats/magic-cider-art-coffee-roasting-season-paw-paws/>
<http://indianapublicmedia.org/eartheats/claudia-roden-mistletoe-loves-apple-trees-fireroast-duck/>