01-01---Communities of (Folklore) Practice: Emergent Voices in Folklore Research

Sponsored by the Chicano and Chicana Section, the Folklore Latino, the Latinoamericano, the y Caribeño Section.

Drawing together a body of emerging folklorist, ethnomusicologists and critical cultural studies scholars, this panel hosts a conversation that focuses on the significance of new voices in anthropological folklore scholarship of the hemispheric Americas. Presentations engage with documentary and analytical fieldwork practices in what Américo Paredes has called Greater Mexico—including East Austin, El Paso, and Arlington, Texas, Latinx Appalachia, and Mexico proper—through diverse narratives of contested belonging.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

01-03---Traditions Recentering around Time at the Peripheries of Modernity

Since various groups are excluded from privileged narratives of modernity in terms of location, economy, history, etc., they might be perceived as peripheral. However, peripheral groups often contest notions of centrality using seemingly ephemeral resources as time and temporality (i.e. subjective experience of time); we call these strategies “re-centralization.” This panel considers ethnic, religious, and indigenous communities in Russia and India living on the margins of the highly centralized modern states or religious institutions. We focus on the appeals of these communities to an imagined past or future, recentering them in grand historical narratives of “major” national or religious traditions.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

02-01---Forum: Social Action Workshop

Sponsored by the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee, the American Folklore Society, the Politics, the Folklore, the and Social Justice Section.

An interactive workshop on combating bias through engaged scholarship and activism. Three Tulsa-based community activists from diverse communities will share their insights and experiences. Questions we'll address through presentation and small-group work include: How to be an ally when working in communities not our own; How to listen effectively and share our skills to help communities achieve their goals and amplify their priorities and knowledge. Folklore, as a field, has a strong activist tradition. We must build on this history to address urgent needs of our day.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

02-03---What Do Memes Mean?

Lynne McNeill argues that internet memes give viewers a sense of being “in the know” about current internet culture and that their promoting a sense of belonging is usually (although not always) more important than conveying a concrete message. We take up the alternative possibility, that the referential function of memes may be as important as the phatic. Exploring the "STOP making fun of...", "Distracted Boyfriend," and "#SharpieGate" meme sets, we suggest the range of other genres and interpretive means that viewers invoke to “glean” (in Barre Toelken’s term) a specific, culturally informed message from memes.
This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

02-04---Recentering Peripheries in Mediterranean Communities

Sponsored by the Mediterranean Studies Section.

Cultural collaboration has long been the currency of Mediterranean communities. To the extent that a unified Mediterranean culture exists, it is characterized by its peripheral nature, rimming a vast sea and persevering in the shadow of empire—a continuous, fluid transaction that has forged languages, customs, beliefs, foodways, and traditional arts that are intricately connected. And yet, the impulse to assert fiercely local interests contests hegemonic forces that continue to ensnare communities in marginalized states of otherness. Diverse topics explored in this session relate to recentering peripheries in our Mediterranean spheres, including aesthetics in the language of Tunisian riddles, music as a means for reconstructing narratives of southern Italian identity, and collaborative projects to develop community-based tourism in Sardinia.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

03-01---Forum: Authors Meet Critics: Latinx Authors Recentering the Periphery

Sponsored by the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee, the Chicano and Chicana Section, the Folklore Latino, the Latinoamericano, the y Caribeño Section.

This forum will focus on the recent publications of three Latinx folklorists: Norma Elia Cantú, Rachel Valentina González, and Solimar Otero. This panel highlights the recent contributions of Latinx folkloristics to the wider field of folklore with a special focus on how each of these works recenter knowledge production and provide alternative ways of engaging and producing knowledge in our field in order to take folklore out of the periphery of academic discourse into the center of epistemological creation.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

03-02---Social and Cultural Implications and Metaphor of Covid-19 and Plague

Sponsored by the Transnational Asia/Pacific Section.

This panel examines social and cultural implications and metaphor of Covid-19 and plague from interdisciplinary perspectives including sociology, folklore studies and media studies. The first two panelists draw on China’s experience of and response to the outbreak of Covid-19 to study the implications of this crisis and the lessons we have learned from it. The final panelist analyzes how “plague movie” as a cultural metaphor helps audiences overcome anxiety, reflect on modernity, comfort souls, and rebuild spiritual homes. The overall goal of our research is to help us build a better and stronger society “A.C.”—After Corona.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

03-04---Forum: New Directions in Folklore and Historic Preservation

Sponsored by the Folklore and Historic Preservation Section, the New Directions in Folklore Section.

To launch the Folklore and Historic Preservation interest section, this year’s New Directions Forum is focusing on
the future of preservation. As historic places face threats from development, gentrification, and layered inequities, folklorists can make important contributions to issues involving changing cultural landscapes, intangible cultural heritage, and more humanist approaches to historic preservation. The forum presents six projects that address intersections of folklore and historic preservation. Ultimately, we hope to facilitate conversation on how folklorists can better collaborate with colleagues and shape the preservation movement of the future.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

03-05---Being in Heaven, Going through Madness, and Ending in Hell: Peripheral Perspectives and Places in Medieval and Early Modern Literature

Sponsored by the Medieval and Early Modern Folklore Section.

This panel takes the audience on a journey through peripheral spaces, both literal and metaphorical, in early British literature. The panel’s four papers are arranged to move from Medieval to Early Modern texts, and from the literal place of Heaven, though metaphorical spaces of madness, and ending in the mobile place of Hell on Earth. This journey from Heaven to Hell tells us much about perspectives on peripheral spaces in the Medieval and Early Modern period, and how those perspectives, intentionally or not, continue to influence our own world and sense of self.

9/2920 Withdrawal; one paper has withdrawn, so remaining time may be used for discussion.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

04-01---Forum: Motivation, Impact, and Community-Focused Training in Public Folklore Work

In the fall of 2019, the American Folklife Center partnered with Brooklyn Arts Council’s folk arts program to develop and deliver a nation-wide survey about community-focused training connected to folklife. Seeking input from folklorists and other cultural workers in public cultural organizations offering training in a wide range of skills and activities supporting the broad concept of folklife, this survey established baseline data for understanding how training activity fits into the national infrastructure around folklife and traditional arts in the public sector. During this roundtable discussion, panelists will discuss training opportunities and activities offered to community members by public folklife organizations. With an overview of findings from the national survey conducted by the American Folklife Center and the Brooklyn Arts Council as background, panelists will offer short descriptions and reflections on training they’ve facilitated. The panel will then shift into a facilitated conversation about motivations and impact underlying community-focused training. Following this conversation, the panel will invite discussion from the audience to provide an opportunity for broader examination of trends and patterns and potential future directions across the national landscape of public folklore work.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

04-04---#MeToo in Fairyland: Abuse and (Un)Tellability in Fairy Tale and Folk Narrative

Despite their penchant for formulaic happy endings, many fairy tales detail acts of violence and trauma, leaving protagonists invisibly scarred and temporarily voiceless. These events seem fantastical, yet trauma is a human phenomenon that researchers in many fields are trying to understand. In the wake of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, the ability of women to speak the truth of their trauma has become recognized as critical to combating epidemic-scale incidents of sexual assault in contemporary society. This panel will examine the literary, neurological,
and structural functions of silence and speaking after trauma in fairy tales and folk narratives.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

**04-06---Forum: Local Learning Workshop at AFS: Teaching Challenging Histories**

Sponsored by the Folklore and Education Section, the Local Learning.

This summer, more than 45 teachers took part in a Local Learning and Oklahoma State University workshop, "Teaching and Learning the Narratives, Spaces, and Legacies of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre." Discover how these teachers are engaging with challenging history in their classrooms since the workshop. Identify how folklore tools can inform antiracist programs and outreach. Finally, participate in hands-on activities to replicate in your virtual programming, online classrooms (including higher education), or with your own learners at home.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

**05-01---Forum: A Decolonizing Workshop: Reclaiming and Re-Envisioning Intellectual Space in Folklore Practice**

Sponsored by the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee, the AFS Working Group on Curriculum Opportunities.

This forum session offers a facilitated interactive roundtable discussion that:

1. explores the work of reclaiming voices and theories of color within the field.
2. begins to examine the work of reenvisioning a decolonized and racially equitable folkloristics and praxis which centers the cultural knowledges of people of color.

This discussion will inform efforts of the Curriculum Opportunities Team to think about the challenges of working with constructions of race, ethnicity and colonialism within the field; investigate new ideas and ways of thinking generated by tackling these areas; and listen to what folklorists need to understand about this topic.

Note: This workshop has an itinerary that requires participation from the beginning, so participants must join at 2:00 pm. The workshop will not be accessible after 2:10.

This live event will not be recorded. This is a 2-hour session.

**05-03---Forum: The Work We Do: Texas Non-Profit Folk and Traditional Arts Programming**

Texas Folklife is the National Endowment for the Arts state-designated folk and traditional arts organization of Texas. As a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1984, Texas Folklife continues its legacy of preserving and presenting the folk and traditional arts of Texas, while also exploring new avenues and outlets for folk arts programming. The proposed forum explores recent public folklore programming efforts and corresponding issues they address, including a widely applicable folklore and media training project, a longstanding statewide youth accordion contest, the first-ever statewide folk arts convening, and initiatives to support the next generation of folk arts practitioners.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

**05-04---Forum: Engaging with Discomfort: A Death Café on the Intersections between Folklore & Death**

This forum first addresses death's problematic place in the shifting American deathscape and the
contributions folkloristics can have in death studies and work. Folkloristics is uniquely equipped to examine this dynamism because it provides a unique framework for acknowledging and responding to the ways death remains meaningful to people across shifting spatial and temporal contexts. Important to this conversation is the recent emergence of “Death Cafés”—a complex phenomenon of casual and supportive gatherings hosted by people who wish to normalize and engage in speaking of death and dying in their everyday lives. The panelists will then model an actual Death Café to create meaningful discussions about death as a folklife most often hidden in full view, “lodged in the various ways we have of discovering and expressing who we are and how we fit into the world” (Hufford, 1991).

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

06-01---Forum: Climate Change, Migration, and a Case for Cultural Leadership

With forced migration due to climate change and other destabilizing forces, communities will be challenged to maintain traditions and cultural cohesion. Folklore methodologies offer strategies and models to support and sustain communities facing relocation and re-homing. This forum will explore efforts to bring cultural leaders into the community resilience dialog, the effect of gentrification related to sea-level rise, and strategies for working with displaced populations. We will consider the role of the folklorist, the education and training needed for the next generation, and how folklore strategies transfer, or not, to other kinds of displaced populations and communities.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

06-03---Forum: Publicizing Folklore: A 21st Century Approach to Staying Relevant in a World of Limited Attention

Sponsored by the American Folklore Society.

The best work in the world will change no minds, impact no people, and illuminate no great ideas if it is not heard, seen, or experienced. Yet in this rapidly changing media landscape, folklore research and programming risks being drowned out, ignored, or left behind if we proceed with business as usual. This panel brings together folklorists working in television, film, digital, print, and social media who have been working to bring the work of the American Folklore Society, its members, and the field of folklore to the public. Panelists will focus on strategies for how individual folklorists, program directors and the Society can engage journalists, media outlets, and the public in understanding and appreciating the work of folklore in the 21st century.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

06-05---Forum: The Return: Rethinking Historical Recordings in Collaboration with Source Communities

For the past two decades the Association for Cultural Equity–Alan Lomax Archive has been returning historical recordings to their source communities in Europe, the Caribbean, and in the South and Northern Midwest. The return of documentation and associated ethnographic field research generates emic metadata and involves collaborative initiatives to develop local archives, create educational materials, and stimulate revitalization of local traditions. This forum will assess and explore these collaborative methods, discussing approaches to facilitate ownership of materials collected by outside scholars, methodologies for eliciting metadata, curriculum development, collaborative archival practices and spurs to reviving traditions through the repatriation process.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31
07-04---Algorithmic Centers and Peripheries in Folklore Information Systems

Sponsored by the Archives and Libraries Section.

In *Algorithms of Oppression*, Safiya Noble uncovers biases behind seemingly neutral search engines. Folklorists, too, have long struggled with the problems of classifying our subject in ways that honor emic perspectives in tools and indexes that organize and provide access to the overlooked. Computational research tools promise new ways to tackle these issues and recenter the periphery, but only if we acknowledge the all-too-human biases that may lie behind the algorithms. Panelists will explore these issues with respect to library catalogs, online folklore archives, the *MLA International Bibliography*, and the AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

07-05---Forum: Reflections on Building, Sustaining, Transitioning, and Disbanding Community Engagement Initiatives

This roundtable facilitates a discussion about the ways that emerging and long-term community partnerships are built, sustained, transitioned, and disbanded through university-community engagement initiatives. This session will be led by community collaborators from the Ohio Field School initiative at the OSU Center for Folklore Studies. We will explore the opportunities and challenges that emerge when developing deeply collaborative relationships that are established within the context of projects that must serve wider constituencies. Participants will share examples of continuity initiatives and ad-hoc innovations established in order to maintain existing relationships while also fulfilling a mission of wider service from a land-grant university.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

07-06---Reflections on Historical Trauma and Expressive Culture: *La Casa al Lado del Camino*, G. Benito Córdova, and *La Nación Genízara*

The subject of captivity and indigenous slavery in northern New Mexico has long devolved into a tri-cultural myth that romanticizes the blending of cultures and is silent on issues resulting from colonialism. Drawing on expressive culture in the form of local literary and ethnographical publications as well as local performativity, the presentations address the intimate ways in which captives, or more often their descendants, began to embody a mixed-race identity. Most important, perhaps, Spanish became the lingua franca that helped define a Nación Genízara via musical forms and rhetoric, which persist alongside local forms of racism and social neglect.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

08-01---Forum: Author Meets Critics: Tom Mould’s *Overthrowing the Queen: Telling Stories of Welfare in America* (Indiana University Press)

Sponsored by the Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section, the Indiana University Press, the Politics, the Folklore, the and Social Justice Section.

This forum considers this recent publication exploring legends of fraud and abuse related to the American social welfare system while bringing to light personal stories of hardship and hope told by aid recipients themselves. The book proposes new approaches to the study of legend and explores effective ways to advocate for social justice.
through storytelling. A panel of folklorists with expertise in narrative, legend, politics and social justice will assess the book with the author responding to their comments.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

09-01---Gentrification, Displacement, and Resistance: Re/Claiming Space through Folklife and Art

Sponsored by the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee.

This panel seeks to help folklorists understand, respond to, and mitigate the socioeconomic and cultural issues arising from gentrification. Folklorists across the country are working in areas that are in the process of gentrifying, and sometimes, our efforts at highlighting the cultural value of spaces either accelerates or combats this process. How can we reconcile our efforts with the socioeconomic and cultural needs of community members? This panel will begin with a theoretical analysis of the root causes of gentrification and then move into individual case studies, spanning geographic locations, revealing how communities use folklife-oriented work to tackle these issues.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

09-03---Upsetting Knowledge Regimes

Sponsored by the Folklore and Science Section.

This panel explores epistemological assumptions and consequences, both within and outside our academic field. Investigating popular histories of home canning, heritage discourse in China, Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) creation stories, and college graduation mortarboards, we attend to the social power attributed to influential cultural narratives, including "the scientific method," "FDA Approved," and "the American Dream," and in epidemiological metaphors such as "cultural carrier." Our papers grapple with the binaries implicitly invoked in claims to expertise and suggest how these rhetorics and practices of knowing shape imagined threats and can inform practical interventions, including educational models, research approaches, and heritage practice.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

09-05---Talking With Our Mouths Full: Foodways Narratives and What They Tell Us

Sponsored by the Foodways Section.

This panel explores narratives told about foodways, both first person and second hand. It asks whether food narratives function differently from narratives around other subjects, given its sensory and aesthetic character, and whether food's simultaneous universality and particularity make such narratives more inclusive or complicate them in any way? Can food tell us things that other cultural forms do not? Is it useful to approach food narratives as a genre of its own? Panelists explore these questions by looking at narratives about or emerging from family holiday traditions, ritual recipes, popular media, medieval literature, and the Coronavirus pandemic.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31

09-06---Stories as Sustenance: Adaptations of Mo'olelo Across Time

How does storytelling help to build and gather communities? How does storytelling help to build and gather
Indigenous communities? This interdisciplinary panel examines place-based iterations of mo'olelo (Native Hawaiian story, history)—a capacious and emic narrative tradition that does not adhere to Euro-American history/myth/legend/tale distinctions—and explores what it could mean to honor mo'olelo over time, across generations, and through various mediums. The focus of the panel is on the Māui mo'olelo, which is known throughout Oceania, and its adaptations in Hawai'i. This panel enables us to think of various ways to imagine possible futures, alliances, and relationships.

This event will be recorded for asynchronous access through December 31