

Jesse Adam Fivecoate
Curriculum Vitae

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Education

2023	<p>Ph.D. Folklore and Ethnomusicology with minor in Anthropology, Indiana University</p> <p>Title: “Haunted Histories: A Historical-Ethnographic Study of Supernatural Narratives, Social Memory, and Social Forgetting in Ireland and Northern Ireland”</p> <p>Committee: Diane E. Goldstein (co-chair), Ray Cashman (co-chair), Solimar Otero, and Marvin Sterling (Anthropology)</p> <p><i>Awarded the Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation given by the American Conference for Irish Studies</i></p>
2014	<p>M.A. Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University</p>
2012	<p>B.S. Applied Cultural Anthropology, Ball State University</p>

Research Interests

- Cultural narratives and their impact on human behavior
- Conspiracy theory; legend
- Social memory studies
- Disaster studies; violent geographies
- Politics of belief; supernatural studies
- Nationalism
- Vernacular historiography and oral literature in Ireland & Northern Ireland post 1798
- Discourse analysis, ethnography, historical anthropology, and ethnographic archives
- Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States

Professional Employment

2024–25	<p>Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</p>
2024	<p>Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Elon University</p>
2016–23	<p>Instructor, Lifelong Learning. Indiana University, Bloomington</p>
2013–21	<p>Associate Instructor, Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology. Indiana University, Bloomington</p>
2019–21	<p>Media Digitization Coordinator (Project Manager), “Digitizing Hidden Archival Collections in Folklore Studies.” American Folklore Society project funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)</p>
2020	<p>Instructor, College of Arts & Sciences. Indiana University, Bloomington.</p>
2019	<p>Graduate Assistant, Society for Ethnomusicology</p>

2019	Reviews Assistant , <i>Journal of Folklore Research Reviews</i>
2016-17	Graduate Assistant , American Folklore Society
2013-16	Graduate Student Worker , Center for Folklore Archives Research, Indiana University, Bloomington
2011	Intern , National Folklore Collection, University College Dublin, Ireland

Teaching

2024-25	Department of American Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Folklore/English 310 Fairy Tales : Spring 2025 Folklore/Anthropology 424 Festival, Ritual, and Public Culture : Spring 2025 (graduate and undergraduate) Folklore 900 Directed Studies (graduate) Folklore/English/Anthropology 202 Everyday Cultures: Folklore in America : Fall 2024
2024	Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Elon University Anthropology 3860 Topics in Anthropology: Urban Legends : Fall (4 cr.)
2020	College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University COLL-X311 Experimental Topics: “Current Conspiracy Theories” : Winter Intersession (2 cr.)
2013-21	Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University Folklore 101 Introduction to Folklore : Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2020; Spring 2021 Folklore 141 Urban Legends : Fall 2015; Fall 2019 Folklore 256 The Supernatural and Folklore : Spring 2015; Spring 2016; Spring 2020 Folklore 252 Urban Legends : Fall 2014 Folklore 121 World Arts and Cultures : Spring 2014 Folklore 131 Introduction to American Folklore : Fall 2013
2016-23	Lifelong Learning, Indiana University Violent Geographies : Spring 2021 Haunted Indiana University : Fall 2020, Fall 2021 The Art of Conflict in Northern Ireland : Spring 2020 Vampires in Folklore and Culture: Social Aspects of the Monstrous : Fall 2019 Folklore and Disaster : Spring 2017, Spring 2023 The Unquiet Dead: Folklore, the Supernatural, and Death : Fall 2016
2015-16	Graduate Assistant (grader), Indiana University FOLK 101 Introduction to Folklore : Summer 2015, 2016

Publications

Books (refereed)

2025 **Jesse A. Fivecoate** and Andrea Kitta, eds. *Whispers in the Echo Chamber: Folklore and the Role of Conspiracy Theory in Contemporary Society*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

2021 **Jesse A. Fivecoate**, Kristina Downs, and Meredith A.E. McGriff, eds. *Advancing Folkloristics*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
Reviewed in: *Journal of American Folklore*, *Journal of Folklore and Education*, and *Choice*

Special Journal Issues (refereed)

(in press) Andrea Kitta, **Jesse A. Fivecoate**, and Ian Brodie, eds. *Journal of Folklore Research* special issue “Conspiracy Thinking in Tumultuous Times.”

Articles (refereed)

(in press) Jesse A. Fivecoate. “Action-Oriented Response: Toward an Understanding of Ostension Beyond Narrative.” In *Journal of Folklore Research* special issue “Conspiracy Thinking in Tumultuous Times.” Andrea Kitta, Jesse A. Fivecoate, and Ian Brodie special editors.

Chapters (refereed)

(in progress) Jesse A. Fivecoate. “Conspiracy Theories Today.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Anthropology and Folklore*, eds. Ziying You and Mintzi Martinez-Rivera. Routledge (under contract). Expected publication date Fall 2027.

(in progress) Jesse A. Fivecoate. “Parody, Parity, Parrot-y: Conspiracy Theories Strike Back.” Invited chapter for the volume *Jokes, Legends, and the Generic Turn*, edited by Ian Brodie, Eric A. Eliason, and Greg Kelley. University of Wisconsin Press (under contract). Expected publication date Fall 2026.

(under review) Jesse A. Fivecoate. “In the Public Eye: Conspiracy Theory, Belief, and the Responsibility of Folklorists.” Invited chapter for the volume *Folklore and the Public Square: Traditional Culture and Contemporary Social Issues*, edited by Tom Mould and Andrea Kitta. Utah State University Press (under contract). Expected publication date Fall 2025.

2025 **Jesse A. Fivecoate** and Andrea Kitta. “Conspiracy Theory: A Folkloristic Introduction.” In *Whispers in the Echo Chamber: Folklore and the Role of Conspiracy Theory in Contemporary Society*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. January 2025.

2021 **Jesse A. Fivecoate**, Kristina Downs, and Meredith A.E. McGriff. “Envisioning a Future Folkloristics.” In *Advancing Folkloristics*, Pp. 1–8. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

2021 **Jesse A. Fivecoate**, Kristina Downs, and Meredith A.E. McGriff. “The Politics of Trivialization.” In *Advancing Folkloristics*, Pp. 59–76. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

2020 **Jesse A. Fivecoate**, Kristina Downs, and Meredith A.E. McGriff. “The Future out of the Past: The Conference on the Future of American Folkloristics.” In *The History of North American Folkloristics*, Pp. 280–287. Patricia Sawin and Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt, eds. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Book Reviews

2020. *Forgetful Remembrance: Social Forgetting and Vernacular Historiography of a Rebellion in Ulster* by Guy Beiner. *Journal of American Folklore* 133(530): 491–494.

Invited Talks

2020 “Haunting Histories: Remembering and Forgetting the Troubles in Northern Ireland.” Invited public lecture sponsored by the Ball State University Department of Anthropology. March 10.

Conference Presentations

2024 “The Fields of Palestine”: Performance of Solidarity with Palestinians in Ireland and Northern Ireland.” Presented at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Saturday, November 9.

2023 “Kitty Litter Rumors and Political Consequences.” Presented as part of the “Digital Fruits, Conservative Roots: Contextualizing Right-Wing Folklore Online” forum at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. November 3.

2023 “Parody, Parity, and Parrot-y: Conspiracy Theories Strike Back.” Presented as part of the “It’s Funny Because It Might Be True: Jokes, Legends, and the Blurred Genre Turn” forum at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. November 2.

2022 “Laughing with Conspiracy Theories: Humor and Parody in a Serious Genre.” Presented at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma. October 15.

2021 “Emplacing Stories of Conflict: The Relationship between Narrative, Violence, and Space.” Presented at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. October 22.

2021 “Legacy of the Troubles: The Role of Heritage in Northern Irish Ghostlore.” Presented at the Heritage Out of Control: Inheriting Waste, Spirits, and Energies Workshop, organized by the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Ethnic and Religious Diversity research group “Empires of Memory.” Virtual. May 19.

2020 “The Politics of Ghosts and the Ghosts of Politics in Ireland and Northern Ireland.” Presented at the American Folklore Society annual meeting (virtual). October 14.

2019 “Haunting Histories: Ghost Tourism and the Troubles of Northern Ireland.” Presented at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. October 18.

2019 “Untellability and Ghost Narratives of the Northern Ireland “Troubles.” Presented at the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. June 28.

2017 “Pizzagate: Fake News and Its Ostensive Consequences.” Presented at the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research annual meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana. June 8.

2017 “Troubled Lands: The Production of Violent Geographies in Irish Ghost Narratives.” Presented at the American Conference for Irish Studies annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. March 30.

2016 “Folklore and the State: Unfinished Stories of Political Folklore.” Presented at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Miami, Florida. October 22.

2015 “Northern Ireland and Palestine Stand with Ferguson: Traditions of Oppression and Solidarity.” Presented at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Long Beach, California. October 16.

2015 “From Palestine to Ferguson and Back: Traditions of Oppression and Solidarity.” Presented at the Indiana University/ Ohio State University Joint Conference in Folklore and Ethnomusicology. April 10.

Guest Lectures

Ball State University

2020 “Interpreting the Cultural Source Hypothesis and Experiential Source Hypothesis.” Anthropology 451: Witchcraft, Magic, and Religion. March 10.

Indiana University

2019 “Pizzagate: Rumor, Conspiracy Theory, and the Role of Ostension.” Folklore 141: Urban Legends.

2018 “Contemporary Ghost Legends.” F101: Introduction to Folklore.

2017 “Murals and Memorial Wall Art Traditions in Northern Ireland.” F121: World Arts and Cultures.

2016 “Engaging History and Science through Ghost Hunting.” F256: Folklore and the Supernatural.

2015 “Following the Folklore: Legends and Mass Media.” Folklore 141: Urban Legends.

2015 “Examining Irish Identities Through Murals in Northern Ireland.” Folklore 101 (online): Introduction to Folklore.

2015 “Ghost Hunters IRL and on TV in the United States.” Folklore 256: The Supernatural and Folklore.

2014 “Studying the Terror that Comes in the Night: A Look at a Supernatural Assault Tradition.” Folklore 252: Urban Legends.

2014 “Irish Identities Through Murals and Memorial Wall Art in Northern Ireland.” Folklore 121: World Arts and Cultures.

2014 “Ghost Hunters in the United States: Explorations of the Paranormal, Science, and Community.” Folklore 131: Introduction to American Folklore.

Museum Exhibitions

2011 “Little People, Big World: Anthropomorphic Nature Spirits Across the Globe.” Anthropology Museum, Ball State University. With Anna Kalk.

2010 “The Betwixt and Between: Return of the Dead. A Look at Liminal Holidays around the World.” Anthropology display case, Burkhart Building, Ball State University. With Kendra McFarland and Mindy Ward.

Grants and Awards

2024 Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation awarded by the American Conference for Irish Studies.

2021 Conference Travel Grant awarded by the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC). May 13–15, 2021 (virtual, declined).

2019 Dr. David Buchan Student Essay Prize for the paper “Untellability and Ghost Narratives of the Northern Ireland “Troubles” presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. June 28.

2018 Dorson Dissertation Research Award from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University for travel to Ireland and Northern Ireland to conduct ethnographic and archival fieldwork for dissertation research.

2018 Henry H. Glassie Award for excellence in teaching from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University.

2017 Travel Award from the College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington. For the paper, “Troubled Lands: The Production of Violent Geographies in Irish Ghost Narratives” presented at the American Conference for Irish Studies, Kansas City, Missouri. March 30.

2017 Past Presidents’ Prize for Outstanding Paper Presented at the National Meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies for the paper “Troubled Lands: The Production of Violent Geographies in Irish Ghost Narratives” presented at the American Conference for Irish Studies, Kansas City, Missouri. March 30.

2017 Dr. David Buchan Student Essay Prize for the paper “Pizzagate: Fake News and Its Ostensive Consequences” presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. June 8.

2016 Chair’s Recognition Award for outstanding contributions to graduate student life from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University.

2016 Folklore Fellowship awarded for academic excellence from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University.

2016 Student Service Award from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University.

2015 Chair’s Recognition Award for outstanding contributions to graduate student life from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University.

2015 Travel Stipend awarded by the American Folklore Society to present at the annual meeting in Long Beach, California.

Other Media

Photography

2018 7 photographs published in *Legend Tripping: A Contemporary Legend Casebook (International Society for Contemporary Legend Research)*, edited by Lynne S. McNeil and Elizabeth Tucker. Logan: Utah State University Press. Pp. 11; 33–50.

Podcasts

2020–22 *Crimelore*. Co-host with Kristina Downs. <https://crimelorepod.com/>
2017–18 *Encounters*. Co-host with Eleanor Hasken. <https://encounterscast.com/encounters>

Public Scholarship

2021 *Soundlore: Folklore and Ethnomusicology*, episode “A Labor of Love: Advancing Folkloristics.” October 29, 2021.

2021 Interview for *WEHT* (Evansville, IN), “Why do people believe in conspiracies?” <https://www.tristatehomepage.com/news/national-world/why-do-people-believe-in-conspiracies/>

2020 *New Directions in Folklore Podcast*, panel member of roundtable on episode on folklore and COVID-19 (not released).

2018 Interview on doctoral research for 98.5 LMFM radio station, Drogheda, Ireland. September 11, 2018.

2018 Newspaper article for the *Crossmaglen Examiner* detailing local supernatural stories and the sociocultural work they do. Published August 28, 2018.

2017 *The Monster Guys Podcast*, episode 53: “Illuminati, Conspiracy Theories & Secret Societies.” <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/dc-mcgannon/the-monster-guys-podcast/e/52245460?autoplay=true>

Professional Service

American Folklore Society

2017– **Convener** of Politics, Folklore and Social Justice Section
2014–16 **Co-convener** of Graduate Students and Young Professionals Section

Indiana University

2017 **Conference Chair**, Conference on the Future of American Folkloristics. Bloomington, Indiana, May 18–20

2017 **Planning Committee**, Series on Queer Bodies in the Field. Sponsored by Indiana University’s Institute of Advanced Study

2015 **Organizer** of a three-part workshop on Personal Experience Narratives led by Professor Diane E. Goldstein, Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology

2015-16 **Vice President** of the Folklore Student Association

2014-16 **Professional Development Coordinator** for the Folklore Student Association

2013-16 **Faculty Liaison** for the Folklore Student Association and the Ethnomusicology Student Association

Editorial Work

Article Reviewer

Folklore
Humanities
Irish Studies Review
M/C Journal

Trickster Press and *Folklore Forum*

2015–16 Editor-in-Chief
2014–16 Book Review Editor
2012–15 Editorial Team Member

Professional Affiliations

American Anthropological Association
Society for Cultural Anthropology
Society for the Anthropology of Europe
American Conference for Irish Studies
American Folklore Society
Folklore of Ireland Society
International Society for Contemporary Legend Research