Lynne S. McNeill

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Biography

Dr. Lynne S. McNeill is an associate professor of folklore in the English Department at Utah State University. She serves as the Chair of the Folklore Program, and her research interests include legend, belief, fandom, and digital culture. She is the author of the popular textbook Folklore Rules (2013), and is the co-editor of Slender Man is Coming: Creepypasta and Contemporary Legends on the Internet (2018) and Legend Tripping: A Contemporary Legend Casebook (2018). Her work has also been published in several flagship journals, including The Journal of American Folklore, Western Folklore, Contemporary Legend, and numerous edited collections. Dr. McNeill serves on the boards of the Western States Folklore Society and the Folklore Society of Utah, and is reviews editor for the journal Contemporary Legend. She has made several appearances on national television and radio programs, and she is currently working on a book project, Real Virtuality: Serial Collaboration and the Small Worldview, that addresses the intersection between offline folk culture and online networks.

Education

PhD, Folklore

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada. 2009. Dissertation: "Serial Collaboration: Small World Activities and the Global Community" (Passed with distinction; nominated for the CAGS Distinguished Dissertation Award)

MA, American Studies / Folklore

Utah State University, Logan, UT. 2002. Thesis: "The Waving Ones: Cats in Folklore"

BA, Interdisciplinary Studies / Folklore

University of California, Berkeley, CA. 1999.

Thesis: "Word and Image: Vladimir Propp and Illustrations of *Little Red Riding Hood*"

Academic Positions

2019 – Chair, Folklore ProgramPresent Utah State University

2016 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of English Utah State University
2014 – present	Co-Director and Co-Founder, Digital Folklore Project Utah State University
2011 – 2016	Instructor and Director of Online Development, Folklore Program Utah State University
2009 – 2011	Online adjunct instructor, Folklore Program Utah State University
2006 – 2009	Lecturer, Department of English Utah State University

RESEARCH

Books Published

- 2020 Eliason, Eric, Carol Edison, and Lynne S. McNeill, eds. *This Is The Plate: Utah Foodways.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.
- 2018 Blank, Trevor and Lynne S. McNeill, eds. *Slender Man Is Coming: Creepypasta and Contemporary Legends on the Internet*. Logan: Utah State University Press.
- 2018 McNeill, Lynne S., and Elizabeth Tucker, eds. *Legend Tripping: A Contemporary Legend Casebook* Logan: Utah State University Press.
- 2014 Kinkead, Joyce, Evelyn Funda, and Lynne S. McNeill. *Farm: A Multi-Modal Reader*. SouthLake, TX: Fountain Head Press. [Second ed. published in 2016]
- 2013 McNeill, Lynne S. *Folklore Rules*. Logan: Utah State University Press.

Books, In Progress

McNeill, Lynne S. Real Virtuality: Serial Collaboration and the Small Worldview. In progress.

Journal Publications Published (blind-refereed)

2019 McNeill, Lynne S. "Today's Innovation": The Importance and Implication of *Gleaning* in Digital Folklore. *Folklore Fellows Communications* 316: 92-109.

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- 2018 McNeill, Lynne S. "My friend posted it and that's good enough for me!": Source Perception in Online Information Sharing. *Journal of American Folklore* 131(522): 493-499.
- 2015 Blank, Trevor, and Lynne S. McNeill. Boiling Over: Creepypasta, Slender Man, and the New Face of Fear in Folklore. *Contemporary Legend* 3(5): 1-13.
- 2015 McNeill, Lynne S. "The Internet Is Weird": Folkloristics in the Digital Age. *Folklore Fellows' Network* 47: 12-13, 16-17.
- 2007 McNeill, Lynne S. Portable Places: Serial Collaboration and the Creation of a New Sense of Place. *Western Folklore* 66 (3-4): 281-300.
- 2006 McNeill, Lynne S. Contemporary Ghost Hunting and the Relationship between Proof and Experience. *Contemporary Legend NS* 9: 96-110. [Reprinted in 2018 in McNeill and Tucker, *Legend-Tripping: A Contemporary Legend Casebook*]
- 2004 McNeill, Lynne S. "I Knew It Would Be A Real Bonding Experience": Utah State University's English Department Pig Party as an Annual Rite of Passage. *Culture & Tradition* 26: 69-85.
- 2004 McNeill, Lynne S. "Traces of Coming and Going": The Contemporary Creation of Inuksuit on the Avalon Peninsula" *Material History Review* 60: 48-57.

Book Chapters Published (blind-refereed)

- 2021 McNeill, Lynne S. Writing Textbooks. In *What Folklorists Do: Professional Possibilities in Folklore Studies*. Ed. Timothy Lloyd. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Currently available for pre-order.
- 2020 McNeill, Lynne S. Memorial University's Folklore Program: Outsiders and Insiders. In *Folklore in the United States and Canada: An Institutional History*, eds. Rosemary Levy-Zumwalt and Patricia Sawin. Bloomington, Indiana University Press,142-152.
- 2020 McNeill, Lynne S. Classifying #BlackLivesMatter: Genre and Form in Digital Folklore. In *Folklore and Social Media*, eds. Trevor J. Blank and Andrew Peck. Logan: Utah State University Press, 179-188.
- 2020 McNeill, Lynne S., Trevor J. Blank, and Andrea Kitta. Talking Folklore: Getting Others to Take the Discipline Seriously while Remaining a Serious Folklorist. In *Advancing Folkloristics*, eds. Jesse Fivecoat and Elinor Haskin. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 202-216.
- 2018 McNeill, Lynne S. Blood and Glitter: Fairy Tales on Tumblr. In *The Routledge Companion to Fairy-Tale Cultures and Media*, eds. Pauline Greenhill, Naomi Hamer,

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- Jill Rudy, and Lauren Bosc. Routledge, 376-388.
- 2015 McNeill, Lynne S. Twihards, Buffistas, and Vampire Fanlore. In *Putting the Supernatural in its Place: Folklore, the Hypermodern, and the Ethereal,* ed. Jeannie Thomas. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 126-145.
- 2013 McNeill, Lynne S. And the Greatest of These Is Tradition: The Folklorist's Toolbox in the Twenty-First Century. In *Tradition in the 21st Century*, ed. Robert Glenn Howard and Trevor J. Blank. Logan: USU Press, 174-185.
- 2012 McNeill, Lynne S. Enhancing Locality by Enacting the Small World Theory. In *Folk Culture in the Digital Age* ed. Trevor J. Blank. Logan: USU Press, 85-97.
- 2009 McNeill, Lynne S. The End of the Internet: A Folk Response to the Provision of Infinite Choice. In *Folklore and the Internet* ed. Trevor J. Blank. Logan: USU Press, 80-97.
- 2007 McNeill, Lynne S. The Waving Ones: The Experiential Source Hypothesis and Beliefs About Cats. In *What Are The Animals To Us?* Eds. David Scofield Wilson and David Aftandilian. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 5-19.

Journal Issues Edited

2015 Blank, Trevor, and Lynne S. McNeill, eds. Special Issue: The Slender Man. *Contemporary Legend* 3(5).

Honors and Awards

- 2019 Researcher of the year, English Department, USU
- 2019 Recipient, Brian McConnell Prize, Int'l Society for Contemporary Legend Research
- 2016 Nominee, Woman of the Year, Early Career Award, USU
- 2015 Invited faculty, Folklore Fellows Summer School, Seili, Finland
- 2015 Invited Presenter, TEDxUSU
- 2015 Most Valuable Professor, Questia/Cengage
- 2015 Department Service Award, English Department, USU
- 2014 Nominee, Giraffe Award, College of CHaSS, Utah State University
- 2010 Canadian Assoc. of Graduate Schools Distinguished Dissertation Award, Nominee
- 2008 Mortar Board Society "Top Prof" award, Utah State University
- 2007 Invited Member, AFS Graduate Student Working Group,
- 2004 First Runner-Up, Golden Gumbo Award, Dr. Bill Ellis
- 2004 Honorable Mention, Elli Köngäs-Maranda Prize, American Folklore Society

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2002	Graduate Fellowship, 4 years, Folklore Department, Memorial University of Nfld.
2002	Graduate/Alumni/Professional Sister of the Year, Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority
2001	Phi Kappa Phi academic honor society
2001	Research Assistant of the Year, English Department, Utah State University
2000	Graduate Instructor of the Year, English Department, Utah State University
2000	Mabel C. Carson award, English Department, Utah State University
1999	Moyle Q. Rice award, English Department, Utah State University
1998	Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship, University of California, Berkeley
Conference Presentations (blind-refereed)	
2018	Digital Archives roundtable discussion American Folklore Society, Buffalo, NY
2017	Professional Development Workshop: Communicating about the Field American Folklore Society, Minneapolis, MN
2017	Memes of Resistance, Election Reflections, and Voices from Drug Court: Social Justice, Ethical Cataloging, and Digital Humanities at Utah State University. American Folklore Society, Minneapolis, MN
2017	Fake News: Who Is The Digital "Source"? (Panel chair) American Folklore Society, Minneapolis, MN
2017	Fake News, Folk News, and Contemporary Legends: Information and Belief in the Age of #AlternateFacts International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, Lafayette, LA
2017	Folklore Cheerleaders and Academic A\$\$holes: Getting Others to Take Folklore Seriously while Remaining a Serious Folklorist Future of American Folkloristics, Bloomington IN
2016	Eat, Drink, and be Merry, for Tomorrow We may be in Utah American Folklore Society / International Society for Folk Narrative Research Miami, FL
2016	Memorial University's Folklore Program: Outsiders and Insiders Western States Folklore Society, Berkeley, CA
2015	The Digital Folklore Project, forum (Panel chair) American Folklore Society, Long Beach, CA

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2015	Classifying #BlackLivesMatter: Genre and Form in Digital Folklore Seminar on Digital Folklore Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu, Estonia
2014	It Happened To Me: Motivating the Shift from Third- to First-Person Perspective in Legends and PENs Western States Folklore Society, Logan, UT
2012	From Creepy Cats to Bumbling Bigfoot: The Experience-Centered Approach as a Bridge to Folklore Studies. American Folklore Society, New Orleans, LA
2012	Digital Culture Offline: "One does not just present a meme to the class!" American Folklore Society, New Orleans, LA
2011	"It Isn't So Much Magic as Psychology": Adolescent Hypnosis Games as Vernacular Psychotherapy American Folklore Society, Bloomington, IN
2010	Forum: Teaching Digital Culture (Panel Chair) American Folklore Society, Nashville, TN
2009	Acting Out the Small World Theory: The Promotion of Enhanced Locality through Webbased Collaboration American Folklore Society, Boise, ID
2008	Common Goods: Serial Collaboration and the Spirit of Anti-Commercialism American Folklore Society, Louisville, KY
2007	The End of the Internet: A Folk Response to the Provision of Infinite Choice (Panel Chair) American Folklore Society, Quebec City, Canada
2006	Amish Friendship Bread: Temporary Ownership and the Lasting Connection (Panel Chair) American Folklore Society, Milwaukee, WI
2005	Roaming Gnomes, GeoCaching, and BookCrossing: Globalized Communities and Sequential Collaborative Creation (Panel Chair) American Folklore Society, Atlanta, GA
2005	Roaming Gnomes, Travel Bugs and Inuksuit: Globalized Communities and Sequential Collaborative Creation Folklore Studies Association of Canada, Church Point, NS
2004	Ghost Hunting and the Relationship Between Proof and Experience American Folklore Society, Salt Lake City, UT

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2003	Ten Seconds of Cleanliness: A Study of Food Rescue Customs American Folklore Society, Albuquerque, NM
2003	"Will the Real Charles Shaw Please Stand Up?": The Legend Cycle of "Two Buck Chuck" International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, Corner Brook, NF, Canada
2002	Crazy Cats Ladies and Kitten-Killing Men American Folklore Society, Rochester, NY
2002	Students Mentoring Students: A Generational Perspective on Writing Program Administration Council of Writing Program Administrators, Park City, UT
2001	The Waving Ones: An Examination of Narratives and Beliefs About Cats Nature in Legend and Story, Davis, CA
2001	Crazy Cat Ladies and Kitten-Killing Men: Gender Issues in Feline-Focused Narratives International Society for Contemporary Legend Research, San Antonio
2001	Crazy Cat Ladies and Kitten-Killing Men California Folklore Society, Los Angeles, CA
2000	The Waving Ones: Cats in Legend and Belief American Folklore Society, Columbus, OH
2000	The Experiential Source Hypothesis and Liminality in Narratives and Beliefs about Cats (Panel Chair) California Folklore Society, Berkeley, CA
2000	A Structural Analysis of Illustrations of Little Red Riding Hood Intermountain Paper and Poster Symposium, Logan, UT
2000	Word and Image: Vladimir Propp and Illustrations of "Little Red Riding Hood" Folklore Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

TEACHING

Student Advising

Chair, MA Thesis Committees (21)

2021 Maggie Mercil, TBD

2021 Frances Avery, TBD

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- 2021 Maygan Barker, TBD
- 2020 Natalie Christensen, TBD
- 2020 Jack Daly, TBD
- 2020 Camille Sleight-Price, "Challenge Accepted: Defining Identity Through Death and Bravery"
- 2019 Daisy Ahlstone, "Thylacine Dreams: The Vernacular Resurrection of an Extinct Marsupial"
- 2019 Richard Blake, "Shall I Sing You A Ghost Story?: The Nature and Purpose of Ghost Songs in Maritime Communities of Northern New England and Atlantic Canada"
- 2019 Michelle Jones, "There Should be No Tolerance for Intolerance: Internal Antagonism in Online Fan Communities"
- 2019 Rachel Ross, "Called to Serve?: The Latter-day Saint Woman's Decision in the Post-Choice Generation"
- 2018 Gemma Koontz, "Death Ends a Life, Not a Relationship: The Embodied Mourning and Memorializing of Pets Through Material Culture"
- 2018 Amelia Matthews-Pett, "Full-On Toy Story: Exploring the Belief in Object Sentience in Western Culture"
- 2017 Deanna Allred, "I Heard but I Didn't Hear" (memoir)
- 2017 Geneva Harline, "Allowing the Untellable to Visit: Investigating Digital Folklore, PTSD, and Stigma"
- 2017 Kylie Schroeder, "Constraints of Haunted Heritage Tourism in Logan, Utah"
- 2016 David Giles, "The Magic of the Magic Kingdom: Folklore and Fan Culture is Disneyland"
- 2016 Wes VanDeWater, "The Bat and the Spider: A Folkloristic Analysis of Comic Book Narratives"
- 2015 Naomie Barnes, "Killer Fandoms Crime-Tripping & Identity in the True Crime Community
- 2015 Lori Lee, "Navigating the Outdoor Recreation Folk Group: A Functional Analysis of Personal Narrative"
- 2014 Sandra Atwood, "Understanding Myth and Myth as Understanding: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Mytho-Logic Narration"
- 2014 Liz Wilson, "The Relevance of Culture in Politics: The Application of Cultural Studies Using the Strategic Culture Method"
- 2013 Bernadene Ryan, "Life Change Narratives: When the Road Diverges"

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Member, MA Thesis Committees (32)

Anna Christiansen Brittany Stephenson Crystal Stevens Dee Ansbergs Jennifer Heartel Jennifer Scucci Jennifer Mansfield Krystal Shegrud Liz Leavitt Magen Olsen Mandy Hoggard Matt Bishop Matt Hall Matt Stockett Megan Egbert Michael Hatch

Steven Merrill

Michela Schulthies Michelle Bogdan Olga Cassaretti Rosa Thornley Scott White Shelley Halling Trisha Haber **Emily James** Whitney King Brian Bowler Julianne D'Amico Michael Brown CJ Guadarrama Bethany Hanks John Honey Bacon Nivison

Member, PhD Dissertation Committees (3)

- 2019 Sherena Huntsman, "Changing Access: Building a Culture of Accessibility Within Normalized Technical Communication Practices," Technical Communication and Rhetoric, English Department, Utah State University
- 2019 Joanna Zatierro, "Cowboy Musical Culture of the American West," Musicology, University of Texas at Austin
- 2020 Andrew Hillen, "Extending Ethos in Digital Rhetorics," Technical Communication and Rhetoric, Utah State University

Courses Designed and Taught

Folk Art and Material Culture, ENGL/HIST 6760 and 4700 (graduate and undergraduate)

Folklore and the Internet, ENGL/HIST 6770 and ENGL/HIST/ANTH 3070 (graduate and undergraduate)

Folklore Theory and Methods, ENGL/HIST 6700 (graduate)

Oral History and Fieldwork, ENGL/HIST 6720 (graduate)

Folk Narrative, ENGL/HIST 6740 and 5700 (graduate and undergraduate)

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Fife Folklore Workshop, ENGL/HIST 6750 (graduate and undergraduate)

Introduction to Folklore, ENGL/HIST/ANTH 2210 (undergraduate)

Perspectives in Folklore, ENGL/HIST/ANTH/RELS 3710 (undergraduate, topics: contemporary legends, fairy tales, digital culture)

Survey of American Folklore, ENGL/HIST 2720 (undergraduate)

Invited Lectures

2018	Facticity Utah State University
2017	Slender Man is Coming Center for Women and Gender, USU
2015	Ghosts and Monsters Anthropology Museum Speaker Series, USU
2015	Online Communities and Creativity Folklore Fellows Summer School University of Turku, Finland
2015	Keynote: Folklore Online Utah Library Association
2012	Convocation Speaker: Urban Legends and the Digital Age Snow College, Utah
2011	The Brothers Grimm Anthropology Museum Speaker Series, USU
2011	Folklore and History Professional panel, Folklore Society of Utah
2011	"Bowling Alone" as Team Sport: Helping Students Engage in an Online Classroom National webinar, Speaking About Composition, Pearson Online Professional Development, two presentations, March and October
2007	Ghost Hunters Fife Folklore Workshop

SERVICE

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Professional Service

Editorial Work

Editorial Advisory Committee, Journal of Folklore and Education, 2021-present

Book Review Editor, Contemporary Legend, 2008 - present

Reviews Editor, New Directions in Folklore, 2009 – 2012

Reviews Editor, Cultural Analysis, University of California at Berkeley, 2003 – 2004

Editorial Assistant, Western Folklore, Utah State University, 2002 – 2003

Manuscript Reviewing

Manuscript Reviewer, special issue, Journal of American Folklore, 2014

Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Folklore Research, 2013, 2015

Manuscript Reviewer, Contemporary Legend, 2012

Manuscript Reviewer, Western Folklore, 2009, 2015

Board Memberships

President, Western Folklore, 2021 – present

Board Member, New Directions in Folklore, 2015 – present

Editorial Board Member, Contemporary Legend, 2015 – present

Board Member, Western States Folklore Society, 2014 – 2021

Treasurer, Folklore Society of Utah, 2011 – 2020

Secretary/Treasurer, Folklore Society of Utah, 2007 – 2009

Other

Invited mentor, Folklore Fellows Summer School, Seili, Finland, 2015

Co-Planner, 25th annual meeting of ISCLR, 2007

Planning Committee, California Folklore Society, 2002

University Service

Organizer, DHU3 Digital Humanities Conference, 2018

Founding member, DH@USU Digital Humanities working group, 2017 – present

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GrTS, invited speaker, Research and Graduate Studies, 2016
University Studies Depth and Breadth committee, 2007 – 2009, Utah State University
Integrity Matters Week Information Committee, 2001, Utah State University
Co-Founder, Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority Professional Women's Chapter, 2000
Graduate Student Senator, Executive Council, 1999 – 2001, Utah State University

College Service

Tanner Talks Digital Humanities Planning Committee, 2018 - present
Co-founder and organizer, "Check Out This Video" film festival, CHaSS, 2017-2018
Faculty Advisor and co-founder, USU Folklore Club, 2007-present, Utah State University

Department Service

General Education committee, 2020 – present

Scholarship committee, 2020 – present

Chair, Folklore Program, 2019 – present

Digital Humanities Course Development Committee, 2018 – 2020

Committee member for English Department's Statement of "Commitment to Diversity," 2017

Coordinator, Fife Folklore Workshop, Utah State University, 2009 – present

Assistant Director of the Writing Program, Utah State University, 2000 – 2001

Assistant Administrator, Statewide Assessment Committee, 20002 – 2001, Utah State University

Planning Committee, Fife Folklore Conference, 1999 – 2002, Utah State University

Past Service

Mary Griffiths Bursary Committee, 2004 – 2005, Memorial University of Nfld.

Space Allocation Manager, 2004 – 2005, Folklore Department, Memorial University of Nfld.

Vice President Internal, Graduate Students' Union, Memorial Univ. of Nfld., 2003 – 2004

Editorial Board, *Culture and Tradition*, Memorial University of Nfld., 2003 – 2005

Academic Council, School of Graduate Studies, 2003 – 2005, Memorial University of Nfld.

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Graduate Review Committee, 2002 – 2005, Folklore Department, Memorial University of NF. Photo Editor, *Transmissions*, 2003 – 2004, Folklore Department, Memorial University of Nfld. Intern, Fife Folklore Archives, Utah State University, 2000 – 2001

Outreach and Media Appearances

National and International Television and Radio

2021	"The World According to Jeff Goldblum: Monsters" NatGeo, 1 episode, on-screen exper-
2021	"Paranormal Caught on Camera, season 4" Travel Channel, on-screen expert
2020	"The UnXplained with William Shatner" History Channel, 3 episodes, on-screen expert
2020	"Paranormal Caught on Camera, season 3" Travel Channel, on-screen expert
2019	"Paranormal Caught on Camera, season 2" Travel Channel, on-screen expert
2018	"In Search of Monsters," Travel Channel, on-screen consulting folklorist
2018	"Chasing Fear," Travel Channel unaired 1 hour pilot, host/lead
2015	"Folklore Doesn't Meme What You Think It Memes," TEDxUSU, 23 October
2015	"Putting the Supernatural in its Place," Access Utah, UPR, airdate 20 October
2014	"Marfa Lights," Something Out there, Marfa Public Radio, airdate 25 May
2014	"The Devil and Rock Music," RadioWest, KUER, airdate 6 May
2014	"Folk Culture Online," RadioWest, KUER, airdate 20 March
2013	"More Untold Stories," Finding Bigfoot, Animal Planet, airdate 17 February
2012	"Doubting Bigfoot," RadioWest, KUER, Folklorist, airdate 10 December
2012	"Utah Hauntings," RadioWest, KUER, Folklorist, airdate 30 October
2012	"Holy Cow It's Bigfoot," Finding Bigfoot, Animal Planet, airdate 11 March
2010	Food Network Challenge, Food Network, Urban Legend Expert, airdate 31 October

Local and Community Media

- 2018 "Digital Trend of the Year," Access Utah, UPR airdate 10 January
- 2017 "Memento Mori," Access Utah, UPR airdate 25 October
- 2017 "Folklore and Fake News," Access Utah, UPR airdate 3 January
- 2016 "Fandom and Ownership," Access Utah, UPR airdate 26 July

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"The Perfect Language," Access Utah, UPR, airdate 7 April
"Fractured Fairy Tales," Access Utah, UPR, airdate 13 August
"Folklore with USU's Lynne McNeill," Access Utah, UPR, airdate 6 January

Print and Online

2021	Guest speaker, Folklore, podcast, UK
2020	Den of Geek's livestream with the case of PCOC
2020	Brian Cano's videocast
2020	Strange Uncles Podcast
2020	Blurry Photos Podcast
2019	FILL IN MISSING
2018	"Slender Man Is Still Making People Uneasy—But Now for New Reasons," <i>Vulture</i> , interviewee, published 7 August
2018	"Folklore Studies," Yes College! Podcast, Episode 35, interviewee, release date 19 June
2018	"The Beckey Effect," The Alpinist, issue 61, interviewee
2017	"LOL and the World LOLs With You," Phi Kappa Phi Forum Winter issue, guest author
2017	"Folklore: To Define or Not To Define: Why is This a Question?" <i>Folklore Thursday</i> , guest blogger, published 28 September
2017	"Memes Are the New Jump Rope Songs," Slate, interviewee, published 4 September

Professional Memberships

American Folklore Society

Western States Folklore Society

International Society for Contemporary Legend Research

New Directions in Folklore

Folklore Society of Utah

Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore

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