

Shelly A. Biesel

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Ecological Anthropology, Certificate in Women and Gender Studies, University of Georgia, May 2023
Dissertation Title: Confronting Legacies of Loss: Negotiating Intergenerational Inequalities in Afro-Brazilian Traditional Communities
Co-advisors: Donald R. Nelson (Anthropology) & Nik Heynen (Geography)
- M.A.** Social and Behavioral Anthropology, University of Louisville, May 2014.
Thesis Title: Natures and Wars: Neoliberal Discourse and the Contested Future of East Kentucky
Advisor: Dr. Lisa Markowitz
- B.A.** Social and Behavioral Anthropology and Studio Art, University of Louisville, May 2009.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental anthropology, climate change, development, well-being, identity (race, class, gender, indigeneity), environmental justice, social inequality, disinformation, historical political ecology, rural communities, ethnography, oral history, digital humanities, photovoice

APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-2025 Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow, National Park Service & American Conservation Experience

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2022 Seigerman, Cydney, Kyle S. McKay, Raul Basilio, **Shelly Biesel**, Jonathan Hallemeier, Andressa Vianna Mansur, Candice Piercy, Sebastian Rowan, Bruno Ubiali, Elissa Yeates and Donald Nelson. "Operationalizing Equity for Integrated Water Resources Management." Manuscript under review in the *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1111/1752-1688.13086>
- 2021 **Biesel, Shelly Annette**. "When Disinformation Makes Sense: Contextualizing the War on Coal in Appalachian Kentucky" *Economic Anthropology* 8(1)7-21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.12194>
- 2021 Jennifer L. Rice, Amy Trauger, Coleman Allums, Rachelle Berry, **Shelly Biesel**, Briana Bivens, Sara Black, Christina Crespo, Aspen Kemmerlin, Chelsea Wesnofske & The Athena Co-Learning Collective. "Rehumanizing the graduate seminar by embracing ambiguity: The Athena Co-Learning Collective." *Gender, Place & Culture*, 28:4, 564-575. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2020.1727861>
- 2018 Issa Ibrahim Berchin, Mihaela Sima, Maurício Andrade de Lima, **Shelly Biesel**, Leandro Piazza dos Santos, Renata Vilma Ferreira, José Baltazar Salgueirinho Osório de Andrade and Flávio Ceci. "The importance of international conferences on sustainable development as higher

education institutions' strategies to promote sustainability: a case study in Brazil." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 171:756-772. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2017.10.042>

Under Review and in Preparation

Biesel, Shelly A. and Elaine Salgado Mendonça. "Continual Loss: Racial Land Tenure and Territorial Expropriation in Pernambuco." Manuscript under review in the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*.

Biesel, Shelly A. "Muda da Maré: Environmental change, ecological grief, and the women fishers of Pernambuco." Manuscript in preparation for *Environment and Society*.

Book Chapters

2019 **Biesel, Shelly A.** & Nelson, Donald R. 2019. A Importância da Ética para a Gestão da Água (The Importance of Ethics for Water Management). In *Gestão Adaptativa do Risco Climático de Seca*. (Adaptive Management from Climatic Risk of Drought). Fortaleza: Federal University of Ceará Press.

Public Scholarship

2023 **Biesel, Shelly Annette.** "Planning for Ghosts," (accepted and forthcoming) *Theorizing the Contemporary* blog by Cultural Anthropology.

2022 **Biesel, Shelly Annette.** "Muda da Maré (Change of the Tides): Environmental Change, Ecological Grief, and the Fishers and Marisqueiras of Pernambuco. *Engagement: A Blog Published by the Anthropology and Environment Society*, <https://aesengagement.wordpress.com/2022/04/14/mude-da-mare-environmental-change-ecological-grief-and-the-fishers-and-marisqueiras-of-pernambuco/>

2020 **Biesel, Shelly Annette.** "Radical media challenges rural stereotypes." *Anthropology News website*, February 24, 2020. DOI: 10.1111/AN.1357, <https://www.anthropology-news.org/articles/radical-media-challenges-rural-stereotypes/>

2018 Jennifer L. Rice, Amy Trauger, Coleman Allums, Rachelle Berry, **Shelly Biesel**, Briana Bivens, Sara Black, Christina Crespo, Aspen Kemmerlin, and Chelsea Wesnofske. "A femifesto for teaching and learning." *Antipode Online*. <https://antipodeonline.org/2018/11/27/a-femifesto-for-teaching-and-learning-radical-geography/>.

2015 **Biesel, Shelly A.** "New federal budget bill no 'win' for Kentucky." *The Courier Journal*, January 22, 2015. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/01/22/new-federal-budget-bill-win-kentucky/22156957/>.

Editor Reviewed Magazines

2013 **Biesel, Shelly**, & Chris Sims. (2013). "Garden with Neighbors: Louisville's Potential to Promote Food Security through Community Gardening." *Sustain* 27:39-48.

Reports

2021 **Biesel, Shelly A.** Nature Based Solutions in Policy and Planning: An Overview of Methods,

Findings, and Suggestions for Future Study. Report Prepared for the Network for Engineering with Nature, University of Georgia.

- 2019 **Biesel, Shelly A.** The Brazil Natural Resource Governance Initiative: Scoping Report for the Latin American and Caribbean Institute, University of Georgia.

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Finalist, Rappaport Prize, Anthropology and Environment Society
2020 Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (38,000)
2019 University of Georgia Graduate School Dean's Award for Arts and Humanities (5,000)
2019 University of Georgia Willson Center Graduate Research Award (1,250)
2018 University of Georgia Latin American and Caribbean Institute, Graduate Field Research Award (1,000)
2017 Department of Education, Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (7,000)
2016 Society for Economic Anthropology, Rhoda Halperin Memorial Award (2,000)
2016 Department of Education, Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (7,000)
2015-2017 University of Georgia Department of Diversity Initiatives, Graduate Recruitment Opportunity (GRO) for First Generation College Students (4 semesters)
2014 University of Louisville, Graduate Student Union Travel Award (\$300)
2004-2009 University of Louisville, Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (8 Semesters)

INVITED TALKS

- 2016 **Biesel, Shelly.** Justiça Ambiental: Conceitos e Desafios Atuais (Environmental Justice: Concepts and Contemporary Challenges). Talk given at the Universidade Federal do Ceará in Ceará, Brazil.
2023 **Biesel, Shelly.** Embodying Pollution: Negotiating gendered responsibilities and toxic pollutants in fishing communities of Pernambuco, Brazil. Talk for the University of Bergen, Norway.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Research Papers Presented

- 2023 **Biesel, Shelly.** Continual Loss, Racial Land Tenure and Territorial Expropriation in Pernambuco, Brazil. Presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.
2021 **Biesel, Shelly.** Muda da Maré (change of the tides): Environmental change, ecological grief, and the fishers and marisqueiras of Pernambuco. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.
2021 Seigerman, Cydney, **Biesel, Shelly.**, Nelson, Donald R., Mckay, Kyle and Candice Piercy. The Use of Nature-Based Solutions to Address Inequities within Water Resources Projects. Presented at the 2021 Virtual Society for Applied Anthropology Conference.
2019 **Biesel, Shelly.** Sugarocracy: Colonial socio-ecological legacies and contemporary intersectional marginalization in Northeast Brazil. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada.
2018 **Biesel, Shelly.** (Re)adapting to Water Precarity: Climate Change and Shifting Livelihood Strategies in Brazil's Semiarid Sertão. Paper presented at the Society for Economic Anthropological annual conference in Phoenix, AZ.

- 2017 **Biesel, Shelly.** Taking a hard look in the mirror: decolonizing our institutions/ourselves. Discussant paper presented at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual meeting in Washington, D.C.
- 2014 **Biesel, Shelly** and Payne, D. Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction and Public Health. Paper presented at the 2014 Eastern Unconventional Oil and Gas Symposium (EUOGS), Lexington, KY
- 2014 **Biesel, Shelly.** Hope and Uncertainty in East Kentucky: Imagining a Future With and Without Coal. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Appalachian Studies Association, Huntington, WV.
- 2014 **Biesel, Shelly.** Natures and Wars: Neoliberal Discourse and the Contested Future of East Kentucky. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2013 **Biesel, Shelly.** “No Profit in Reclamation”: A Multiscale Analysis of SMCRA’s Environmental Impact. Paper presented at the Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) annual conference, Lexington, KY.
- 2013 **Biesel, Shelly** and Sims, Chris. Gardening with Neighbors: Community Gardening and Food Security in West Louisville. Paper presented at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in Nashville, TN *and* the Coalition for Urban and Metropolitan Universities conferences in Louisville, KY.

Sessions Organized

- 2019 Graduate Student Mental Health Crisis: Challenges and Solutions. Roundtable at the 2019 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Co-organized with Miriam Dike (UK).
- 2017 Taking a hard look in the mirror: decolonizing our institutions/ourselves. Panel at the 2017 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Co-organized with Christina Crespo (UGA).

Moderator/Chair

- 2021 Indigenous healing, land struggles, and (re)visions of Latin American futures. (Bilingual moderator and chair). Third International Symposium on Indigenous Languages and Cultures (ILCLA). Athens, GA.

Conferences Organized

- 2016 Annual Meeting for the Society for Economic Anthropology. Theme: Risk and Resilience: Cultures, Societies and Systems. Co-organized with Don Nelson, Bram Tucker and Ashley Block.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Georgia

Doctoral Researcher, Department of Anthropology, Athens, GA, Aug 2015-present.

2021-2022 Digital Projects Coordinator for the Brazil Natural Resource Governance Initiative

collaborated with an international team of scholars on a digital humanities project (titled: [Lungs of the Earth?](#)) that highlights interdisciplinary perspectives on Brazil's pressing socio-ecological challenges.

- 2019-2021 Conducted ethnographic research (participant observation, interviewing, oral history and archival research at the Labor Court Archives in Pernambuco); in May 2021. Mentored and trained an Brazilian undergraduate researchers in qualitative methods.
- 2018-2019 Collaborated with UGA's Latin American and Caribbean Institute in developing a [Brazil Natural Resource Governance Initiative](#) on campus to promote international scholar and student collaboration. Compiled a scoping report of best practices for US-Brazil university collaboration.
- 2019 Conducted historic-archival research for my dissertation project at the George A. Smathers Latin American and Caribbean Collection at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida.
- 2018 Conducted pre-dissertation research in Pernambuco, Northeast Brazil, establishing necessary research connections, visiting field site and archives that will be utilized for dissertation research. Conducted preliminary interviews with community organizations.
- 2016 Conducted research in Ceará, Northeast Brazil assessing how rural farming communities are affected by long-term drought caused by climate change.

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Engineering, Athens, GA, Jan 2021-Aug 2021.

Worked on an interdisciplinary team—the Network for Engineering with Nature (NEWN) which includes the US Army Corps and UGA's Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems (IRIS)— to analyze federal archives and legislative histories to understand the evolution of nature-based infrastructure in policy and planning.

Graduate Research Assistant, Humans and Environmental Change Laboratory (HECLab), Department of Anthropology, Athens, GA, Aug 2015-May 2017

- 2015-2018 Collaborated with interdisciplinary project team (ADAPTA) at the Federal University of Ceará to assess how water ethics inform water adaptation in semi-arid regions affected by climate change. Trained undergraduate researchers to use MAXQDA and Dedoose for qualitative data analysis.
- 2015-2016 Worked with an interdisciplinary team conducting archival data collection and qualitative analysis for a Critical Zone Observatory (CZO) project examining long-term impacts of intensive agricultural practices in Sumter National Forest, South Carolina.

Research Intern, Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentável. Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, SC, Brazil. June-July 2016

Collaborated with the research team Grupo de Pesquisa em Eficiência Energética e Sustentabilidade-GREENS (Research Group in Energy Efficiency and Sustainability) researching the broad implications of university sustainability initiatives in Brazil and beyond. Translated research into English for publication.

University of Louisville

Master's Researcher, Department of Anthropology, Louisville, KY, January 2012-May 2014

Designed and led ethnographic analyses regarding environmental justice and social equity such as food insecurity in West Louisville, and coal mining in Appalachian Kentucky. Facilitated qualitative, participatory/collaborative research with a diverse range of informants, collecting oral histories, conducting structured and semi-structured

interviews, and leading focus group discussions. Used qualitative data analysis (NVivo) software to identify recurring trends and themes in my research. Summarized and conveyed research findings to broad audiences at national and local conferences and events.

Graduate Assistant to the Provost's Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Louisville, KY, August 2012-May 2013

Collaborated in developing various media campaigns to encourage student participation in the Gray Street Farmer's Market, Community Supported Agriculture and the Earn-A-Bike programs. Helped organize, market and table sustainability-related campus events such as National Food Day, Sustainability Week, and Campus Conservation Nationals. Assisted UofL and local community college to organize the Campus Community Partnerships for Sustainability Conference.

SPECIALIZED RESEARCH TRAINING

2019 STEPS Centre Pathways to Sustainability Workshop, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, May 13th-23rd.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Georgia

Instructor of Record, Division of Academic Enhancement, Athens, GA
Transformative Learning Strategies (3 Sections, Spring 2023)

Instructor of Record, Department of Anthropology, Athens, GA
How the World Really Works: Anthropologies of Consumption and Globalization (Spring 2022)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Athens, GA, August 2017-Dec 2022
Multicultural Healthcare (Fall 2022)
Introduction to Anthropology (Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
Water Worlds (Spring 2018)
Graduate Student Professional Seminar (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

University of Louisville

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Anthropology, Louisville, KY, Aug 2014-Dec 2014
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2014)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Louisville, KY, Jan 2012-May 2014
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

Selected Pedagogical Workshops and Training

- 2021 Reflective Structured Dialogue (RSD) Workshop. Facilitated by Ray Rawles and Rob Branch, (University of Georgia), Sept. 11th.
- 2021 Considering the Whole Self in Teaching and Learning: Mental and Physical Well-being in the Classroom. Facilitated by Abby Schroering and Adam Massmann, March 12th and 26th.

- 2021 Trauma-Responsive Teaching. Facilitated by Amber Giffin (University of Tennessee, Knoxville). Feb. 16th.
- 2019 Creating an Inclusive Classroom to Effectively Engage Diverse Students. Facilitated by Dominique A. Quarles (University of Georgia), Sept. 30th.
- 2017 LGBTQ+ Safe Space Training, Led by Rashad Small (UGA LGBTQ Resource Center), Nov. 4th.

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2021 Environmental Justice in Kentucky. Guest Lecture for Environmental Justice undergraduate seminar. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.
- 2019 Pre-dissertation Research in Pernambuco, Brazil. Talk for the Graduate Student Professional Seminar. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.
- 2018 Re-Adapting to Water Precarity: Climate Change and Shifting Livelihood Strategies in Brazil's Semi-arid Sertão. Talk given to the Water Worlds undergraduate seminar. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.
- 2017 Decolonial Thought in Social Scientific Scholarship. Talk for the Humans and Environmental Change Lab (HECLab). Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.
- 2015 Engaging Media for a Public Anthropology. Talk given for the Graduate Student Professional Seminar, with Walker Depuy. Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia.

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2017-present Undergraduate Mentor, UGA Anthropology Department
- 2021-present Digital Projects Coordinator, [Brazil Natural Resource Governance Initiative](#)
- 2021 Volunteer Translator, Third International Symposium on Indigenous Languages and Cultures (UGA)
- 2019 Volunteer, Rivers Alive! River cleanup crew
- 2019 Volunteer, Women and Girls in Georgia Conference (UGA)
- 2019 Volunteer, Gender, the Body and Fieldwork across Disciplines Symposium (UGA)
- 2019 Designer, Brazil Natural Resource Governance Initiative website
- 2017-2019 President, Anthropology Graduate Student Organization (AGSO)
- 2017 Designer, Humans and Environmental Change Lab website
- 2018-2019 Co-organizer, World Anthropology Day Annual Campus Event
- 2015-2016 Secretary, Anthropology Graduate Student Organization (AGSO)

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Digital humanities
 Qualitative data analysis (MaxQDA, Dedoose NVivo)
 Web design (Wordpress, Squarespace, Weebly)
 Video and image editing (Vimeo, AdobeSpark)
 ArcGIS story mapping

RELEVANT NON-ACADEMIC WORK

Outreach Coordinator and Policy Consultant, Kentucky Environmental Foundation (KEF), Louisville & Berea, KY, June 2014-August 2015

Evaluated the impact of chemical weapons stockpile disposal and fracking development in rural areas of Kentucky; synthesized research into presentations for public and professional audiences. Organized and strengthened grassroots advocacy efforts to promote renewable energy, air quality,

and sustainable business practices.

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Portuguese (excellent reading, speaking, and writing)

Spanish (basic comprehension and reading only)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA)

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)

Anthropology and Environment Society (A&E)

Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA)

(Reference information below)

REFERENCE INFORMATION

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