

## Mary T. Biggs

mbiggs22@live.unc.edu

UNC Department of Geography, Carolina Hall, Campus Box 3220, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

www.marytbiggs.com

(865) 851-5745

### Education

---

#### **Master of Arts, Geography**

*Expected April 2020*

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Master's research:* Historicizing Nature, Naturalizing History: Authenticity, Performance, and Public Landscapes at Three North Carolina State Historic Sites

*Advisors:* Dr. Banu Gökarıksel; Dr. Christian Lentz

#### **Bachelor of Arts, Spanish**

*May 2015*

*Summa cum laude*

Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

*Senior thesis:* La muerte fecunda del indígena: Las ventriloquias del teatro latinoamericano del siglo XIX/The Fertile Death of the Indigenous: Ventriloquisms of 19th-Century Latin American Theater

*Advisors:* Dr. Martín Gaspar; Dr. Rosi Song

### Research Interests

---

Cultural geography and landscape studies; U.S. South and North Carolina; political ecology; heritage and memory studies; performance studies; public history

### Awards and Fellowships

---

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Horizon Award:** *December 2019:* University award that recognizes graduate students whose research holds extremely high potential for making a significant contribution to the educational, economic, physical, social or cultural well-being of North Carolina citizens

**Stephen Birdsall Graduate Summer Fellowship:** *May 2019:* Departmental funding in support of Master's thesis research

**Cultural Geography Specialty Group Master's Research Award:** *March 2019:* National award granted to one current Master's student from the Cultural Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers in support of Master's thesis research

**Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship:** *September 2016-June 2017:* Competitive international fellowship that places U.S. students in English classrooms as cultural ambassadors and global learners

**European Fellowship:** *May 2015:* Top award given to a Bryn Mawr graduating senior based on exceptional grades and faculty nominations

**Janice Bond Award for Excellence in Writing in a Foreign Language:** *May 2015:* Given by Bryn Mawr College in recognition of outstanding senior thesis written in a foreign language

**Senior Latin American Studies Award:** *May 2015:* Given by the Pan-American Association of Philadelphia in recognition of outstanding undergraduate work in Latin American studies

### Conference and Public Presentations

---

**Stagville State Historic Site Fall Homeschool Day 2019:** *October 18, 2019:* Shared information on Stagville's history, Stagville's landscape, and 19th century food with 800+ homeschooled students between the ages of 5 and 15

**American Association of Geographers 2019:** *April 8, 2019:* Presented initial research from Master's thesis, entitled *Immersive Memory: Landscapes of Living History Museums in Durham, North Carolina*, on a 4-person panel entitled *Normative Natures*

**RecX 2018:** *May 30, 2018:* Presented on the USDA Forest Service Resource Assistants Program at a national conference for outdoor recreation professionals; live-stream and in-person audience of 500+

**National 2018 USDA Forest Service Volunteers & Service Conference:** *February 4, 2018:* Presented on the USDA Forest Service Resource Assistants Program at national conference for Forest Service professionals

---

### Selected Professional Experience

---

**Chair, Alumni Network, MobilizeGreen** *September 2018-present (part-time)*  
**Chapel Hill, N.C.**

- Develop and implement professional development and continuing education for MobilizeGreen, an organization that places diverse youth in environmental internships
- Work closely with program leadership to foster national alumni community of 500+ diverse former interns
- Analyze program and alumni data to shape communication plan and collaborative programming

**Resource Assistants Program Liaison, USDA Forest Service** *August 2017-August 2018 (full time)*  
**Washington, D.C.** *August 2016-August 2017 (part-time)*  
*February 2016-August 2016 (full time)*

- Developed a national diversity internship program in partnership with private and Federal stakeholders
- Created resources for 100+ Resource Assistants and Forest Service supervisors, including monthly webinars, policy guidance, newsletters, and professional development opportunities
- Managed and interpreted national program data to effectively communicate accomplishments and goals
- Served as point of contact for two national working groups: one on engaging the public on agency lands, one on environmental justice
- Allocated and tracked \$7.5 million to youth and veteran projects that provided 2,100 employment opportunities over two years

**English Teaching Assistant, Fulbright Commission** *September 2016-June 2017*  
**Madrid, Spain**

- Developed and implemented English language and American literature and culture curriculum for 74 students, ages 11-19, including original pedagogy on U.S. culture and social movements
- Investigated urban agriculture in Madrid through original research, personal interviews, and participant observation

**Education and Development Intern, City Blossoms** *January 2016-May 2016*  
**Washington, D.C.**

- Acted as staff liaison for one of the organization's 11 urban gardens, which included developing and implementing collaborative gardening, environmental, and nutrition curriculum for 50+ diverse high school students and creating long-term plans for the school garden
- Spearheaded maintenance and development research for the organization; researched and established plans for future site improvement at each of the urban garden, including mapping each site and interviewing staff and volunteers

**Education and Stewardship Liaison, The Nature Conservancy** *May 2015-September 2015*  
**Block Island, R.I.** *May 2014-September 2014*

- Developed and implemented public education tours for community members and tourists on Rhode Island ecosystems, Block Island history, and Nature Conservancy mission
- Coordinated and led youth and community volunteers in maintenance of the island's 28-mile trail system
- Worked closely with participants in the Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future, a Nature Conservancy internship program
- Spearheaded a sign restoration project that involved mapping over 35 sign locations and working with volunteers and staff to repair or install effective signs as needed.

**Public Interpreter, Southeast Lighthouse Foundation  
Block Island, R.I.**

*May 2014-September 2014*

- Led public interpretive tours of one of Block Island's historic lighthouses for 12,000+ visitors of all ages and backgrounds
- Answered questions and provided materials in lighthouse museum

**Professional Memberships and Service**

---

**Memory Studies Association**

*January 2020-present*

**UNC-CH Feminist Geography Collective**

*September 2019-present*

Conducting original archival research on UNC-CH's landscape and land use through time

**UNC-CH Geography Department Information Committee**

*October 2018-present*

Write, analyze, and organize content for new departmental website and other public promotional materials; produced original content and layouts for 2018-2019 UNC Geography Department newsletter

**American Association of Geographers**

*September 2018-present*

*Specialty Groups:* Cultural Geography; Landscape Specialty Group; Study of the American South; Cultural & Political Ecology; Graduate; Ethics, Justice, and Human Rights; Indigenous Peoples

**Bryn Mawr College Alumni Association**

*May 2015- present*

**Formal Instruction Experience**

---

**GEOG 370 Introduction to Geographic Information**

*January 2020-May 2020*

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dr. Ferdouz Cochran

**GEOG 110 Blue Planet**

*August 2019-December 2019*

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dr. Diego Riveros-Irregui

*August 2018-December 2018*

**GEOG 232 Food, Agriculture, and Society**

*January 2019-May 2019*

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dr. Christian Lentz

**Fulbright Commission**

*September 2016-June 2017*

English Teaching Assistant, Colegio Decroly

**Bryn Mawr College Writing Center**

*September 2012-May 2015*

Peer Writing Tutor

**Bryn Mawr College**

*September 2014-December 2014*

Undergraduate Spanish Teaching Assistant, multiple instructors