

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

Doctor of Philosophy, Geography

Expected May 2023

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Advisors: Dr. Banu Gökarıksel; Dr. Christian Lentz

Master of Arts, Geography

May 2020

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Master's thesis: Unsettling Authenticity, Queering Landscape: The Role of Nature at Three State Historic Sites in Durham, North Carolina

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

Public history and memory; cultural geography and landscape; U.S. South and North Carolina; political ecology; performance

Awards and Fellowships

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship: *August 2020-May 2023:* Prestigious three-year national fellowship that supports outstanding graduate students toward their doctorates in NSF-supported fields of study

Humanities for the Public Good Professional Pathway Award: *April 2020:* Mellon Foundation award that offers UNC graduate students in the humanistic social sciences and humanities the opportunity to conduct applied research with cultural institutions

Center for Study of the American South Summer Research Grant: *April 2020:* UNC grant that supports summer graduate research related to the U.S. South

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

AAG 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+

Selected Professional Experiences

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

May 2014-September 2014

Block Island, R.I.

- 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; served as textual editor and produced original content for 2019-2020 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
English Teaching Assistant, Colegio Decroly

September 2016-June 2017

Bryn Mawr College Writing Center
Peer Writing Tutor

September 2012-May 2015

Bryn Mawr College
Undergraduate Spanish Teaching Assistant, multiple instructors

September 2014-December 2014