

X'ulteen / L'aakaw Éesh Kyle Allan Wark

Contact Information

Work: Researcher (July 2017 to present)
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Education

- 2014 MA in Cultural Anthropology, University of Alaska Anchorage. Thesis: Yéil kaawashòo, "*Raven was drinking*": *An Ethnotoxicology of Alcohol among the Tlingit*.
- 2007 St. John's College (SJC), Santa Fe, NM – MA in Eastern Classics.
- 2003 SJC, Santa Fe, NM – Liberal arts BA in Western Classics.

Topical and Area Interests

Topical Interests: Alaska Native cultures especially the Tlingit (*pre- & colonial history, historic trauma, decolonization*), medical anthropology (*Alaska Native perspectives on health and wellbeing*) Indigenous research methodologies (*Indigenous epistemology & ontology, values, community-based participatory research*), autoethnography (*reflexive & advocacy-based anthropology*), ethnohistory (*recapturing unrecorded history through historical sources*), ethnotoxicology (*cross-cultural views of substance use & abuse*), anthropology of religion (*Alaska Native spirituality, world religions*), ethnopsychology (*cross-cultural views of the mind & body*), linguistic anthropology (*sociolinguistics, Tlingit language*). **Area Interests:** Alaska especially Southeast and Southcentral Alaska

Teaching Experience

- 2004-2005 Teaching internship in Juneau Douglas High School, secondary mathematics.
- 2005 Instructor for the math component of Sealaska Heritage Institute's 1st Latseen Summer Camp; was asked to interview Tlingit elder David Katzeek regarding how to apply the "Strong Man" (a.k.a., *Latseen*) story to the lives of the campers, and present a write-up of that interview to the students as part of the course.
- 2009-2011 Four teaching assistant (TA) positions in introductory anthropology courses; the UAA anthropology program requires the TA to give one lecture per semester.

2012-2017 Guest lecturer on Alaska Native history & culture at approximately 10 undergraduate and four graduate classes at UAA and Alaska Pacific University, as well as leading two Tlingit language circles for First Alaskans Institute's summer internship program, and other public speaking engagements addressing Alaska Native history & culture.

2018-2019 Hired as adjunct professor to teach an online course of Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 202) for Kodiak College in Kodiak, AK for the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters.

Field Work

2010 Graduate research assistant performing archival research for legal firm working on subsistence case relating to salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska.

2010-2011 Graduate research assistant transcribing interviews, including Tlingit and limited Haida transcriptions, for professor Steve Langdon's research project regarding the customary and traditional trade of subsistence products in Southeast Alaska.

2011-2012 Research practicum for professor Marie Lowe, Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at UAA, for a project studying the outcomes of scholarship programs offered by Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations in Western Alaska; my responsibilities included developing "regional profiles" compiled from state and federal databases, participating in and transcribing recordings of focus group interviews, collaboratively designing and conducting telephone surveys, conducting field visits to Western Alaska as part of a research team, and analyzing the data collected in these activities, which involved both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods. In Summer 2012, transitioned from graduate assistant to part-time research professional within ISER.

2012 As a research professional at ISER, prepared a representative literature review, compiled ancillary primary and secondary data, and conducted phone interviews for a telecommunications research project sponsored by the Alaska Broadband Taskforce and conducted by professor Heather Hudson, then director of ISER, studying the impacts of a new broadband Internet infrastructure development in Southwest Alaska recently constructed as part of GCI's TERRA project; the lit review was subsequently utilized by the Taskforce and its other contractors in their own research efforts, and made available for public use on ISER's web site.

2014-2017 Co-Principal Investigator for the CHIRP³ grant (Collaboratively Harnessing Indigenous Research Principles, Protocols, and Practices), in partnership with the University of Kansas (KU) Center for Indigenous Research, Science & Technology (C-FIRST); contributed to grant design and implementation, co-hosted Indigenous research workshops, collaboratively analyzed data, wrote up preliminary findings.

2017-present As a researcher at Southcentral Foundation (SCF), have contributed to grant writing and implementation, assisted with cultural adaptation of research projects, co-hosted focus groups and community engagement activities, conducted interviews, collaboratively analyzed qualitative and quantitative data, prepared grant reports, and disseminated findings through scientific conferences and peer reviewed publications.

Other Professional Experience

- 2013 Invited participant in the WIS²DOM (Weaving Indigenous & Sustainability Science: Diversifying Our Methods) workshop, held February 13-16 at The Evergreen State College, and hosted by the C-FIRST department at KU.
- 2015 Invited participant in the Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities (MARC) 2015 Convening, held November 9-10 in Philadelphia, PA, and co-funded by the Health Foundation of Philadelphia, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The California Endowment; MARC is a network of 14 communities, organizations, and statewide networks working to spread awareness of and reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and promote resilient communities.
- 2016 Invited participant in the Fulbright Arctic Initiative's *Consensus Seminar on Community Health & Wellness in the Arctic*, held January 11-12 at Dartmouth College, co-hosted by the Institute of Arctic Studies at Dartmouth, and the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research (ICHR) in Yellowknife, NT, Canada.
- 2016 Invited participant in the National Science Foundation's *Arctic Horizons* workshop, *Arctic Social Sciences in the 21st Century: Indigenous Scholarship in the North: Decolonizing Methods, Models and Practices in Social Science Research*, held March 23-25 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Papers and Presentations: Invited and Volunteered

- 2006 "Living History, the Land with Two Faces, being a story of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, and the Hoonah Tlingit," paper presented at the annual meeting of Alaska Anthropological Association (AAA), Kodiak.
- 2009 "We only have one world: Social and Spiritual Life among the Tlingit," paper presented at the International Society for Shamanistic Research (ISSR), May 29, Anchorage, Alaska, and for professor Phyllis Fast's 200-level *Natives of Alaska* class once per semester from Fall 2009 to Spring 2012.
- 2010 "The Copper Age on the Northwest Coast: Early Indigenous Metalworking," paper presented at the annual meeting of the AAA, Anchorage; at the 26th annual UAA Student Showcase competition in 2010; and for professor Steve Langdon's 400-level *Northwest Coast Cultures* class in Spring 2012.
- 2011 "The Devil doesn't have all the good music: Music and poetry in religion," paper presented at the annual meeting of the AAA, Fairbanks.

- 2012 “*Yéil kaawashoo*, ‘Raven was drinking’: An Ethnohistory of Alcohol among the Tlingit,” graduate paper presented as part of the Smithsonian Spotlight series for the Arctic Studies Center (housed in the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center), March 1, 2012. This graduate research paper was developed into my Master’s thesis.
- 2014 Co-presenter for plenary session titled “Authoring Ourselves: Creating Transformative Narratives” at the Aspen Institute’s 2nd annual ThinkXChange, held October 7 in Aspen, CO.
- 2014 Co-host for the Anchorage listening session on civil rights issues in Alaska Native education conducted by the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHIAIANE), held at the First Alaskans Institute’s annual Elders & Youth Conference, October 21.
- 2015 Presentation on historic trauma for the MARC 2015 Convening held November 9-10 in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016 Presentation on Indigenous conceptions of health & welling, historic trauma, and decolonization for the Fulbright Arctic Initiative’s *Consensus Seminar on Community Health & Wellness in the Arctic*, held January 11-12 at Dartmouth College.
- 2016 Co-presenter for “Historical Trauma and Alcohol/Drug Abuse” presentation given at the Anchorage Police Department’s Alaska Synthetic Cannabinoids (SC) Summit held January 28-29.
- 2016 Invited for two radio interviews on historic trauma for the Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN) program *Line One: Your Health Connection*, titled “Historic Trauma” and “‘The Way Home’ – Healing from Historical Trauma,” which aired February 4 and 23, respectively.
- 2016 Invited co-panelist for UAA Anthropology Department’s graduate ethics panel, held February 19.
- 2016 “Collaboratively Harnessing Indigenous Research Principles, Protocols, and Practices (CHIRP3)” presented at the 43rd annual Alaska Anthropological Association annual meeting held March 2-5 at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp.
- 2016 “Lessons in Latseen: an Overview of *Yéil kaawashoo*, “Raven was Drinking”: An Ethnotoxicology of Alcohol among the Tlingit” plenary presentation given April 8th for the UAA Faculty Showcase, the theme of which was “Strength and Resiliency in a Changing World.”

- 2016 “Breaking open the shells: How traditional Tlingit perspectives on illness can inform culturally relevant alcohol treatment” presented April 15 at the 4th annual University of Alaska’s Alaska Native Studies Conference, hosted at UAA.
- 2016 Presentation of traditional storytelling at *Keex’ Kwáan Culture Camp* held in Kake, AK, June 18-23.
- 2016 “Historic Trauma – Addictions & Culture” presented on Oct. 10 at *Charting the Course to Recovery and Reform: Navigating Behavioral Health Opportunities and Adversity* hosted by the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and Advisory Board on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (ABADA), held October 10-11 at The Egan Center, Anchorage, AK.
- 2016 Clan spokesman for *Tookka Hít koo.éex’* (funerary feast) honoring my grandmother *Lingít Aaní Kinaak / Kaashkwaaní / Kiintoo* Adeline St. Clair, held October 25 in Hoonah, AK; at the ceremony, I was invested with my second Tlingit name, *X'ulteen*, for my service to the clan.
- 2017 Invited co-panelist for UAA Anthropology Department’s graduate thesis writing workshop, held January 26.
- 2017 Invited co-panelist for radio interview on historic trauma for APRN’s *Hometown Alaska* program, for the show titled “ACES: How to reshuffle when the cards are stacked against children,” which aired February 1st.
- 2017 Beans, J, Woodbury, R, **Wark, K**, and Hiratsuka, V. *Alaska Native and American Indian Perspectives on Precision Medicine in a Tribal Context*. Alaska Native Health Research Conference. October 18, 2017. Anchorage, Alaska.
- 2018 Avey, JP, & **Wark, K**. *Adapting a Relationship Awareness Intervention for Committed AN/Al Couples: theory, techniques, and research protections*. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Brown Bag Presentation. February 20, 2018. Anchorage, AK.
- 2018 Jansen, K., Dirks, L., Wark, K. *Alcohol-related Research in an Alaska Native and American Indian Healthcare System*. Paper presented at the 44th Annual School on Addictions & Behavioral Health. May 7-9, 2018, Anchorage, AK.
- 2018 Beans, J.A., Woodbury, R.B., **Wark, K.A.**, Hiratsuka, V.Y. *Alaska Native and American Indian Perspectives on Precision Medicine in a Tribal Context*. University of Alaska Biomedical Research Conference. May 18, 2018. Anchorage, Alaska.
- 2018 Beans, J, Woodbury RB, **Wark, K**, & Hiratsuka, V. *Alaska Native and American Indian Perspectives on Precision Medicine in a Tribal Context*. 17th International Congress on Circumpolar Health. August 12-15, 2018. Copenhagen, Denmark.

- 2018 Avey, J.P., **Wark, K.**, Donadio, J., Outten, B., and Andrews, P. *Adapting a Relationship Awareness Intervention for Committed AN/Al Couples*. 6th Biennial Alaska Maternal Child Health & Immunization Conference. September 26-28, 2018. Anchorage, AK.
- 2018 Avey, J.P., **Wark, K.**, Ambrosio, J., Smith, J., Cheung, K., and Hirst, M. *Integrating & Aligning Social Determinants of Health in Electronic Health Records to Improve Maternal-child Health & Whole-person Care*. 6th Biennial Alaska Maternal Child Health & Immunization Conference. September 26-28, 2018. Anchorage, AK.
- 2022 “Piloting a Cultural Resilience Scale for Alaska Native Peoples” presented March 3rd at the 49th Annual Meeting, Alaska Anthropological Association, Feb 28 – March 4. Virtual.
- 2022 Invited co-panelist for the Virtual Career Insights Forum, held March 3rd at the 49th Annual Meeting, Alaska Anthropological Association, Feb 28 – March 4. Virtual.
- 2022 **Wark, K.**, Dillard, D. *Exploring the Exercise of Indigenous Food Sovereignty in Southcentral Alaska*. American Anthropological Association Meeting. Nov. 9-13, 2022. Seattle, WA.

Award

- 2010 Edwin S. Hall, Jr. Student Paper Competition, awarded at the annual meeting of the AAA in Anchorage for a graduate paper titled “The Copper Age on the Northwest Coast: Early Indigenous Metalworking.”

Publications

- 2010 “Tlingit and European Interactions along the Spiritual Front.” *Shaman* 18(1-2), pp. 151-186. Budapest, Hungary: International Society for Shamanistic Research.
- 2013 “Haa Shuka, ‘Our Ancestors / Our Way of Life’” *First Alaskans*, 11(4), pp. 28-33. Anchorage, AK: First Alaskans Institute.
- 2014 “They ripped out our tongues: Language loss, historic trauma and HB 216” *Alaska Dispatch News*, op-ed, published online April 1, 2014.
- 2014 Yéil Kaawashòo, “*Raven was Drinking*”: *An Ethnotoxicology of Alcohol among the Tlingit*. Master’s thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska Anchorage. Published online by ProQuest.
- 2014 “The Perils of Culturally Appropriative Halloween Costumes” *Indian Country Today Media Network*, op-ed, published online October 31, 2014.

- 2020 Reedy J, Orr R, Spicer P, ... **Wark, K.**, et al. *Deliberative democracy and historical perspectives on American Indian/Alaska native political decision-making practices*. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications. 2020;7(1).
- 2020 Beans JA, Woodbury RB, **Wark KA**, Hiratsuka VY, Spicer P. *Perspectives on Precision Medicine in a Tribally Managed Primary Care Setting*. AJOB Empirical Bioethics. 2020:1-11.
- 2020 Woodbury RB, Beans JA, **Wark KA**, Spicer P, Hiratsuka VY. *Community Perspectives on Communicating About Precision Medicine in an Alaska Native Tribal Health Care System*. Frontiers in Communication. 2020;5.
- 2021 **Wark K**, Cheung K, Wolter E, Avey JP. *Engaging stakeholders in integrating social determinants of health into electronic health records: a scoping review*. International journal of circumpolar health. 2021;80(1):1943983.
- 2022 **Wark K**, Woodbury RB, LaBrie S, Trainor J, Freeman M, Avey JP. *Engaging Stakeholders in Social Determinants of Health Quality Improvement Efforts*. Perm J. 2022 Dec 19;26(4):28-38. doi: 10.7812/TPP/22.035. Epub 2022 Sep 26. PMID: 36154895; PMCID: PMC9761288.

Professional Service

- 2010-2011 Elected graduate student representative for UAA anthropology department faculty meetings.
- 2012-2017 Key staff contact for the Alaska branch of the US Census Bureau's Census Information Center (CIC) network.
- 2013 Mentor & field supervisor for UAA Masters of Social Work (MSW) student, Heather Gatti, from September to December.
- 2014 Culture Committee coordinator for the Anchorage Realizing Indigenous Student Excellence (ARISE) community impact project funded by the Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), the United Way of Anchorage, and Anchorage School District; was responsible for identifying outcomes & indicators of Alaska Native student cultural competencies.
- 2014 Peer reviewer for anthropological article submitted to *Sibirica: Interdisciplinary Journal of Siberian Studies*.
- 2014-2015 Mentor & field supervisor for UAF Bachelors of Social Work (BSW) student, Molly 'Pepsi' Jacobson, from September 2014 to May 2015.
- 2016 Peer reviewer for two grant applications, one each through the North Pacific Fisheries Research Board and the National Science Foundation.

2016-2017 Member of the CIC Race/Ethnicity working group.

2016-present Member of the UAA Anthropology Department graduate advisory board since January 2016.

2016-present Member of the UAA Advisory Council on Alaska Native Education & Research since November 2016.

Professional Organization Memberships

Alaska Anthropological Association, American Indigenous Research Association