

Riley Ravary, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Cultural Anthropology. University of Florida. 2022.

Certificate in African Studies. Concentration in Tropical Conservation & Development.

M.A. Cultural Anthropology. University of Florida. 2016.

B.S. Anthropology. Michigan State University. 2014.

Specialization in Museum Studies & African Studies.

B.S. Zoology. Michigan State University. 2014.

Specialization in Ecology, Evolution, & Organismal Biology.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH & CURATION

Research Engagement Program Lead— *Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, University of Michigan*

2023 – Current

Lead of the [CIGLR Research Engagement program](#), which seeks to ensure research products address the needs of Great Lakes natural resource management decision-makers, rights/title holders, & stakeholders by designing collaborative research initiatives that bridge the gap between scientists & stakeholder groups. The Research Engagement team are social science researcher-practitioners involved in 10 funded and 4 proposed interdisciplinary projects. Our current work relates to water level forecasting and modeling, capacity building and decision making support, ecological forecasting and monitoring, and ice modeling. As Program Lead, I:

- Supervise and coordinate a team of 3 Research Engagement Specialists in their collaborative work with multiple research teams at CIGLR & NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab (GLERL).
- Oversee the design & implementation of social science research, engagement activities, research product co-design within CIGLR's Research Engagement portfolio.
- Identify & build trusting, mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders & rights holders.
- Assess end-user information needs & decision-making processes, eventually translating these needs into product conceptual designs.
- Evaluate the usability of research product prototypes.
- Track & evaluate the use & impact of CIGLR science in decision making.
- Help identify opportunities to align NOAA research with the strategic priorities & goals of various government agencies & organizations involved in the co-design process.
- Develop & implement strategies to enhance CIGLR's engagement with underrepresented populations, Regional Consortium members, & other NOAA-funded programs in the Great Lakes to optimize collective strengths & fill critical needs.
- Lead the preparation of grant proposals, reports, & co-author peer-reviewed publications for the Research Engagement team.

- Collaborate with researcher-practitioners working in the fields of social sciences and engagement to identify opportunities & broaden impact.
- Represent project teams on various committees, advisory groups, & at scientific conferences.

Research Engagement Specialist Intermediate— *Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, University of Michigan*

2022 - 2023

Lead of the CIGLR Research Engagement program, which seeks to ensure research products address the needs of Great Lakes natural resource management decision-makers, rights/title holders, & stakeholders by designing collaborative research initiatives that bridge the gap between scientists & stakeholder groups.

Ethnographic Researcher— *University of Florida*

2016-2022

Environmental social science researcher with 6+ years of experience conducting ethnographic research on citizen-state-environment interactions in resource-dependent, indigenous, agricultural communities living in & around protected areas. Principal investigator for an international project involving federal funding, coordination with multiple government agencies, 10 mos. data collection, research assistant training & management, data analysis, & dissemination of findings to interdisciplinary scholars, government & technical officials & public.

Curatorial Assistant— *University of Florida*

2017

Worked closely with library staff as a Curatorial Assistant conducting research on the Bob Campbell Papers for University of Florida Smathers Libraries Dept. of Special & Area Studies Collections. Research was utilized for the [online](#) & library exhibit, “Bob Campbell’s photographs of Dian Fossey’s Karisoke Research Center, 1968-1972.”

Archival Researcher— *University of Florida*

2015-2016

Conducted archival research on the Ian Parker Collection Relating to East African Wildlife Conservation, University of Florida, Special & Area Studies Collections.

Collections Assistant & Great Lakes Folk Festival Marketplace Coordinator— *Michigan State University*

2012-2014

Worked with Museum Collections staff to manage historical & cultural collections & complete tasks associated with public education & dissemination. Also assisted in the organization & promotion of the Great Lakes Folk Festival.

Zoological Researcher— *Michigan State University*

2012

Conducted zoological field research on ectoparasitism in incubating birds & gained experience related to researching vertebrate biodiversity, ecology, & evolution.

TEACHING & MENTORING

Lead Teaching Assistant— *University of Florida*

2019 – 2022

Teaching Assistant for Center for African Studies & Center for Precollegiate Education & Training Global Health Institute (2019, 2020, 2021, & 2022 programs). Worked with the Global Health Institute team to co-develop an innovative interdisciplinary program in global health appropriate for high school & entering college students interested in STEM.

Teaching Associate— *University of Florida*

2017–2021 (Term Based)

Teaching Associate (Instructor on Record) for University of Florida Dept. of Anthropology. Courses taught include Environment & Cultural Behavior, Intro to Cultural Anthropology, Global Health Culture, & Capstone in Anthropology.

Teaching Assistant— *University of Florida*

2016–2020 (Term Based)

Teaching Assistant for University of Florida Dept. of Anthropology. Courses taught include What is the Good Life & Language & Culture.

Mentor— *University of Florida*

2017–2018

Mentor for students in University of Florida Dept. of Anthropology & Center for African Studies. Advised an Undergraduate Student University Scholars Research Project & Independent Study (Fall 2017–Spring 2018). Advised the Center for African Studies Undergraduate Ambassadors Program (Fall 2017–Spring 2018).

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Communications Coordinator— *University of Florida*

2017–2018 & 2019–2022

Led Center for African Studies communications, global outreach & public engagement.

Webmaster— *University of Florida*

2015–2020

Managed Dept. of Anthropology official website & social media accounts.

Consultant— *University of Florida*

2019

Worked with the Director for University of Florida Center for African Studies as a consultant in the partnership renewal between Makerere University, Uganda & University of Florida.

RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Environmental & political anthropology
- Environmental justice & environmental science for society
- Methods including co-production, co-design, ethnography, & qualitative approaches

- Environmental governance, institutions (rules) & community-level impacts
- Political economy of governance & political ecology
- Governmental organizations & the state apparatus
- Environmental protection, conservation, natural resource management & protected areas

RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2025- “Great Lakes Marine Biodiversity Observation Network,” July 2025-Current. Supervised research engagement specialist conducting engagement and social science activities for project, supported research administration & collaborative efforts with project team. Research engagement team facilitated the co-design of lakescapes classification framework & engaged with End-User Advisory Group to identify user needs & product usability.
- 2023- “Resourcing Michigan’s Coastal Resilience Managers,” July 2023-Current. Supervised research engagement specialist conducting engagement and social science activities for Michigan Sea Grant project, supported research administration & collaborative efforts with project team. Work will include engagement of coastal resilience managers in capacity building and the co-design of an online toolkit for decision support.
- 2023- “Improved Ice Modeling for the Great Lakes and the Arctic Ocean,” July 2023-Current. Engaged key stakeholders, rights holders, and potential end users in social science research and co-design to help establish a basis for developing a public-facing Arctic sea ice forecast system product that meets user needs. Work will include an inventory of potential users, stakeholders, and rights/title holders, followed by a user needs assessment.
- 2023- “Great Lakes Omics,” July 2023-Current. Supervised research engagement specialist conducting engagement and social science activities for project, supported research administration & collaborative efforts with project team. Research engagement team facilitated the co-design of the Great Lakes Atlas of Multi-omics Research (GLAMR), engaged with end users through user needs and usability assessments, and translated research to key stakeholder groups.
- 2022- “Development of Next Generation Prediction System for Great Lakes Water Levels & Lake Management Decisions,” October 2022-September 2027. Engaged key stakeholders in social science research and co-design to help establish a basis for developing a forecast system that both addresses requirements for water management decisions & complements existing tools & developments underway. Utilized data to identify an appropriate transition pathway from research to operations for products & co-design a decision support tool for the developed forecast.
- 2022- “Great Lakes Oil Spill Research to Support the Great Lakes National Center of Expertise,” December 2022 – Current. Engaged stakeholders in social science research and the co-design of a research & development info sharing portal / website for research projects & published academic reports. This will serve as a one-stop-shop, interactive database for oil spill related research papers & products, particularly information related to oil spills under ice & in freshwater environments.
- 2022-2023 “Stakeholder Co-Design of User-Interfaces for Newly Developed CoastWatch Remote Sensing Products & Website Redesign,” October 2022-June 2023. Engaged stakeholders in social science research and co-design of user-interfaces for remote sensing products & updates to the Great Lakes CoastWatch node website overall. Supported ongoing efforts to engage stakeholders in the transition of water surface temperature (SST) contour data plots from Michigan Sea Grant into the updated Great Lakes CoastWatch node website.
- 2022-2024 “Balancing Water Needs Amidst Climate Change: Mono Lake as a Case Study for Communities & Watersheds in the U.S.” October 2022-October 2024. Supervised

research engagement specialist conducting engagement and social science activities for project, supported research administration & collaborative efforts with project team. Research engagement team translated the active science on water balance in the Mono Lake watershed & engaged with stakeholders.

- 2022- Current. “Decision Support Tools for Harmful Algal Blooms (DST-HABs),” October 2022 – Current. Supervised research engagement specialist conducting engagement and social science activities for project, supported research administration & collaborative efforts with project team. Research engagement team facilitated the co-design of HABs modeling & data-products & engaged with end-users to identify user needs & product usability.
- 2022-2024 “Assessment of Stakeholder & Researcher Needs for Modeling Products in Saginaw Bay (SEA DYN).” October 2022-February 2024. Supervised research engagement specialist conducting engagement activities for project, supported research administration & collaborative efforts with project team. Research engagement team supported efforts to identify, connect with, & consult stakeholders to identify potential need for & applications of nutrient modeling products in Saginaw Bay.
- 2018-2019 Dissertation Field Research, University of Florida, May 2018-January 2019. Conducted eight months of ethnographic fieldwork in the Kapchorwa District of Uganda’s Mount Elgon National Park, researching transboundary conservation governance & its impact on local communities living near the park.
- 2017 Archival Research, University of Florida, May-August 2017. Utilized University of Florida’s Bob Campbell Papers archival collection in assisting in the curation of an exhibit on Bob Campbell’s photographic works featuring Dian Fossey.
- 2016 Pre-Dissertation Field Research, University of Florida, June 2016. Interviewed community members & conducted ethnographic research regarding community relationships with Mount Elgon National Park in Sipi & Bududa, Uganda
- 2015-2016 Archival Research, University of Florida, May 2015-September 2016. Utilized University of Florida’s archival collections in researching the Ian Parker Collection Relating to East African Wildlife for M.A. related work
- 2012 Zoological Field Research, Michigan State University, May-June 2012. Researched ectoparasitism in incubating birds found in Semuliki National Park, Kibale National Park, & Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda.

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Contributing Author and Co-Project Lead, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Action Plan IV. “Building Inclusive Career Pathways to Great Lakes Stewardship.” Submitted grant, \$250,000 requested.
- 2023 Contributing Author and Co-PI, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Action Plan III. “Decision Support Tools to Link Nutrient Controls to Harmful Algal Bloom Development, Toxin Production, & Demise (DST-HABs).” Submitted grant, \$2,900,000 requested.
- 2020 Southeastern Regional Seminar on African Studies (SERSAS) Graduate Student Paper Award.
- 2019 Graduate Student Travel Award, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida.
- 2019 Graduate Travel Award, Department of Anthropology & Land Use & Environmental Change Institute, University of Florida.
- 2016-2019 Graduate Student Travel Award, Center for African Studies, University of Florida.
- 2018-2019 Principal Investigator, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award. May 2018-January 2019.

- 2018 Principal Investigator, Lewis & Clark Fund for Exploration & Field Research Grant, American Philosophical Society.
- 2018 Principal Investigator, Polly & Paul Doughty Research Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2018 Principal Investigator, Office for Global Research Engagement Research Abroad for Doctoral Students Award, International Center, University of Florida.
- 2014-2018 Graduate Student Fellowship Top Off Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2016 Co-Investigator, James C. Waggoner Jr. Grants-in-Aid, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2016 Co-Investigator, Tropical Conservation & Development Program Research Grant, University of Florida.
- 2016 Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad for Intensive Swahili in Arusha, Tanzania, Michigan State University.
- 2016 Graduate Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2014-2016 U.S. Department of Education Title VI Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship in Advanced Kiswahili, Center for African Studies, University of Florida.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Day, Christopher, Moreto, William & **Riley Ravary**. “Ranger / Soldier: Patterns of Militarizing Conservation in Uganda.” *Journal of East African Studies*. DOI: [10.1080/17531055.2023.2235660](https://doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2023.2235660).
- 2022 **Ravary, Riley**. [*The Forest for the Trees: State Logics & Environmental Protection in Uganda*](#). Doctoral dissertation, University of Florida. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses database.
- 2013 Michigan State University. *Africa in Pictures: The Half That Has Not Been Told*. Lansing: Capital Imaging, Print. (Photo published)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, & WORKSHOPS

- 2024 “Shaping Futures through Co-Design: Considering the role of engagement in Great Lakes technology development.” Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 2024.
- 2024 “Application of the NOAA Service Delivery Framework and Social Science Methods to Inform R2O Transition Planning.” Paper presented at the NOAA Social Coast Forum Biannual Meeting, February 2024.
- 2023 “Fostering Regional and Binational Coordination through Co-Design: Research engagement in Great Lakes water level forecast development.” Poster presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, December 2023.
- 2023 “Understanding & Predicting Water Level Fluctuations.” Invited panel presenter at the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Strengthening Coastal Communities Resilience in the Great Lakes Challenge Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, June 2023.
- 2023 “Collaborating on Subseasonal to Annual Water Level Forecasting in the Great Lakes.” Workshop co-organizer, hosted by the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research & Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, Virtual, May 2023.
- 2022 “[*The Forest for the Trees: State Logics & Environmental Protection in Uganda*](#),” Paper presented at the Tropical Conservation & Development Program Tropilunch Seminar Series, Virtual, University of Florida, April 2022.

- 2021 "The Resource State: Re-examining the Idea of the State Through Environmental Protection," Paper presented at the Anthropology & Conservation Conference, Royal Anthropological Institute, Virtual, October 2021.
- 2020 "Evergreen: Territorialization & Boundary Governance at a Transboundary Protected Area," Paper presented at the Center for African Studies, Institutions & the State in Africa Working Group, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, January 2020.
- 2020 "Disorder as a Political Instrument in Protected Area Governance." Paper presented at the Southeastern Regional Seminar on African Studies (SERSAS) & Southeast Africanist Network (SEAN) Annual Joint Meeting, Gainesville, FL, February 2020.
- 2019 "Evergreen: Establishing Lines of Exclusion through Boundary (Re)Making in a TBPA." Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Association for Africanist Anthropology, Vancouver, CA, November 2019.
- 2019 "Disorder as a Political Instrument in Transboundary Protected Area Governance." Paper presented at the Duck Family Graduate Workshop in Environmental Politics & Governance, Center for Environmental Politics, University of Washington, Seattle, May 2019.
- 2019 "Is it Worth It? Environmental Protection, Resource Collection, & Risk at Mount Elgon National Park in Uganda," Poster presented at the Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2019.
- 2018 "Sustaining Environmental Governance Across Scales: Can Governance Be Sustainable?," Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 2018. Accepted paper (Unable to attend).
- 2018 Session Organizer. "Can Governance Be Sustainable?: Using Ethnography to Unpack Sustainable Governance in Practice." Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 2018. Accepted session. (Unable to attend).
- 2017 Panel Chair. "Parks, Boundaries, & Poachers," African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2017.
- 2017 "The Notion of Protection in Transboundary Protected Areas," Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2017.
- 2016 Panel Chair. "Colonial Conservation Science & Counter-perspectives," African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 2016.
- 2016 "Community-Based Conservation in Colonial Kenya: Implications of the Galana Game Management Scheme," Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 2016.
- 2016 "Impacts of Transboundary Protected Area Governance on Gender at Mount Elgon National Park," Paper presented at the Social Change & Development in Africa Working Group, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, November 2016.
- 2016 "Community-Based Conservation in Colonial Kenya: Implications of the Galana Game Management Scheme," Department of Anthropology Colloquia, University of Florida, April 2016.

SKILLS, MEMBERSHIPS, & SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- 2023- American Geophysical Union, Member.
- 2022- Great Lakes Young Professionals Network, Member.

- 2016–2022 Makerere University, Affiliate. In the Department of Forestry, Biodiversity & Tourism, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, School of Forestry, Environmental & Geographical Sciences with Professor Abwoli Y. Banana.
- 2018–2022 American Anthropological Association, Student Member. Section membership: Society for Cultural Anthropology (2019–2022); Association for Political & Legal Anthropology (2019–2022); Association for Africanist Anthropology (2018–2022); Anthropology & Environment Society (2018–2022); Society for Economic Anthropology (2018–2019); & Society for Applied Anthropology (2017–2018).
- 2020–2021 African Studies Association, Student Member.
- 2013–2019 African Studies Association, Student Member.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023 Proposal Peer Reviewer, “Mobilizing Change through Engaged Scholarship” Conference, Engagement Scholarship Consortium.
- 2019–2022 Co-Founding Committee Member, Institutions & the State in Africa Working Group, Center for African Studies, University of Florida.
- 2019–2021 Member, Women in Anthropology Group, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2015–2021 Editorial Committee Member, African Studies Quarterly, Center for African Studies, University of Florida.
- 2019–2020 Climate & Culture Subcommittee Member, Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Working Group, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2017–2020 Co-Founding Member, Ethnographic Writing Group, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2017–2018 Steering Committee Member, Tropical Conservation & Development Program, University of Florida.
- 2016–2018 Committee Member, Social Change & Development in Africa Working Group, Center for African Studies, University of Florida.
- 2015–2016 Executive Board Member, Florida Anthropological Student Association, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2015 Annual Marvin Harris Lecture Coordinator, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.

LANGUAGES

English. Native speaker.

French. Some comprehension. Formal training (2 years) in middle & high school.

Kiswahili. Formally trained at Michigan State University, University of Florida, & MS-TCDC (Tanzania).
Fulbright-Hays GPA & Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellow.

Kupsabiny. Some comprehension.

Spanish. Some comprehension. Formal training (2 years) in high school.