

KELSEY MERRECK WAGNER

A La Carte Avenue, Siem Reap, Cambodia | wagnerkm1@appstate.edu
+855 97 500 8703 | kelseymerreckwagner.com

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Community-based natural resource management, cultural dimensions of conservation, postcolonial studies, corruption, biosemiotics, visual communication, arts-based education, creative activism, political ecology, *Elephas maximus*, Appalachia, Southeast Asia, Cambodia, Thailand

EDUCATION

Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)

M.A., Appalachian Studies: Sustainability, Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies, May 2018, 3.95 GPA

Focus: community-based natural resource management in environmental conservation

Certificate in Non-Profit Administration

Advisor: Dr. William Schumann

Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI)

B.A. Studio Art, Gwen Frostic School of Art, June 2013

Minors in Business and Communication

Degree awarded with distinction, focused on print-making and creative activism

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fauna in Focus, (Siem Reap, Cambodia)

Fauna in Focus is an international NGO building a new generation of conservation leaders and nature lovers through advanced wildlife science and environmental education programs including Cambodia's first Nature Discovery Center, community training, the Wildlife Club, and conservation documentaries and media.

Exhibitions Designer and Educator, September 2018-present

- Artist and designer, Birds of Cambodia station
- Artist and designer, Tree of Life station
- Artist and designer, Threats to the Mekong station
- Project coordinator, Trash Art Competition
- Educator, designed and implemented ecological coursework for Wildlife Club and community training

Black Mountain College Semester Project, (Boone, NC)

The Black Mountain College Project is an interdisciplinary collaboration across Appalachian State University departments and community partners to recognize the and continue the legacy of experimental education.

Project Manager, August 2017-August 2018

Research Associate January - July 2017

Research Assistant August - December 2016

- Investigator, Black Mountain College Semester Project, North Carolina Humanities Council (\$20,000), PI: William Schumann
- Co-chair, project working group, grant writer on five grant proposals
- Design team, developed digital timeline of Black Mountain College
- Analyzed archival holdings in regional collections for artifacts
- Identified over seventy pieces of art and thirty archival documents for public exhibitions in two partnering museums.

Turchin Center for Visual Arts, (Boone, NC)

Curatorial Assistant, May 2017-August 2018

Curatorial Intern, August 2016-May 2017

- Attended curatorial review meetings, negotiated artwork acquisition, assisted with installation/de-installation of 30+ exhibits a year
- Linked science and art through emphasis on social and environmental justice in exhibits and collaborations with multiple departments on campus and the community

The English Business (Sevilla, Spain)

English Teacher, January-July 2015

- Formulated lesson plans and taught 4 levels of English from elementary school to 'business English'

Boys and Girls Club of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

Arts Education and Volunteer Coordinator, 2014-2015

- Recruited volunteers, managed placement and engagement opportunities, facilitated Big Brothers Big Sisters programming
- Designed and implemented a symbiotic arts/recycling program based on sustainability and creativity
- Planned and facilitated cultural expression workshops and events that eased the tensions between diverse group of youth
- Awarded grant funding for field trips in Illinois and Indiana

La Meridiana International School of Ceramics (Certaldo, Italy)

Studio Assistant, 2013

- Facilitated classes with master potters, prepared/maintained studio spaces, provided English translation, apprenticed in campus kitchen with cook in Slow Food movement

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo, MI)

Youth Development Professional, 2011-2013

- Designed and implemented arts programming in printmaking, sculpture, painting/drawing, and art history
- Awarded grant through Western Michigan University to buy sketchbooks and canvases for 40 youth, culminating in a month-long exhibit at WMU

**FIELD
EXPERIENCE**

New River Conservancy, (West Jefferson, NC)

Assessing Riparian Health and Land Use on the New River of Ashe County, NC, Appalachian Teaching Project Grant, Appalachian Regional Commission. 2017

Research Assistant

PI: William Schumann

New River Community Partnership, Appalachian Teaching Project Grant, Appalachian Regional Commission. 2016

Research Assistant

PI: Tom Hansell

- Created geographically correct 32-foot 'river of trash' in gallery utilizing items from over 15 river clean-ups along the New River, 6-month exhibit "Collective Vigilance: Speaking for the New River" visualized ecological disaster and encouraged civic engagement and environmental stewardship
- Mediated a network of eight community partners working in similar or complementary sectors, created webpage for computer gallery to allow

visitors to find opportunities to donate and volunteer, invited partners to exhibit opening and celebrations to enhance networks

- Designed presentation poster and presented grant-funded research in December 2016 and 2017 through Appalachian Regional Commission's Appalachian Teaching Project, Washington D.C.
- Completed five miles of water quality monitoring along New River, organized GIS data and subsequent research for dissemination, completed surveys at two state park locations concerning attitudes towards conservation and recreational development

Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand: (December 2016, 2017) oral history and eco-voluntourism ethnographies

Italy: (2013-2014) field research on organic farms and sustainability via World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms

PUBLICATIONS

Kline, C., Heemstra, H. & **Wagner, K.** (in progress). Where are the animals within the Sustainable Development Goals? To be submitted to *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* (special issue). 2018.

Kline, C., Benjamin, S., & **Wagner, K.** (in progress). Tourism as a demand reduction strategy for pangolin trafficking: Inspiring an ethic of care among college students. To be submitted to *Journal of Ecotourism or Journal of Teaching in Travel and Tourism*. 2018.

Kline, C., Rusher, C., & **Wagner, K.** (in progress). Vignettes/ Minding Animals paper. To be submitted to *Annals of Tourism Research*. 2018.

Ledford, K., **Wagner, K.**, et al. (in progress). Interview with Martin Price. To be submitted to *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. 2019.

Wagner, K. Interview with Jan Davidson on Sustainability and Craft Schools. *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Burriss, T., Engle, K. and **K. Wagner**. Comparative Mountain Studies: Appalachian and Carpathian Cultural Ecologies. Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Cincinnati, OH., 2018

Ballard, S., Murray, S., Schumann, W., **K. Wagner**. Organizing a Black Mountain College Semester: From Grant-writing to Harvesting Bamboo for Geodesic Domes. Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Cincinnati, OH, 2018

Wagner, K. et al. Assessing Riparian Health and Land Use on the New River of Ashe County, NC. Appalachian Regional Commission, Appalachian Teaching Project, Washington, D.C., 2017

Wagner, K. Uniquely Appalachian: The Black Mountain College Project Scholars and Scones, Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, Blowing Rock, NC, 2017

Wagner, K. Using Art for Conservation: Sustainable Creativity Appalachian/Carpathians International Conference, Yaremche, Ukraine, 2017

Hansell, T. Redding, M., **K. Wagner**. Collective Vigilance: Speaking for the New River. New River Symposium, Radford, VA, 2017

Wagner, K. On Track to Empowerment: The Kentucky Guild Craft Train. Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Blacksburg, VA, 2017

Eubanks, S., Miller, C. and **K. Wagner.** River Voices: Arts and Development in the Upper New River Valley. Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Blacksburg, VA, 2017

Wagner, K. From Thailand to Tennessee: Community-based Elephant Conservation. Student Research Day Conference, Boone, NC, 2017

Wagner, K. et al. New River Community Partnership. Appalachian Teaching Project, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C., 2016

EXHIBITS | [The Elephantine in the Anthropocene](#): A Global Timeline of Human-Elephant Relations, Turchin Center, Boone, NC, 2018

Creative Democracy: The Legacy of Black Mountain College, Turchin Center, Boone, NC (**co-curator**), 2018
<https://tcva.appstate.edu/exhibitions/2148>

From Bangkok to Boone, Looking Glass Gallery, Boone, NC, 2017
<http://www.kelseymerreckwagner.com/art.html>

Collective Vigilance: Speaking for The New River, Turchin Center, Boone, NC (**co-curator**), 2017 <https://tcva.appstate.edu/exhibitions/1988>

Chicago Local Artists Show, Uptown, Chicago, IL, 2015

Everything but the Kitchen Sink, Chicago, IL, 2015

Annual Print Show, DeVries Gallery, Kalamazoo, MI, 2014

SACI Spring Semester Show, Florence, Italy, 2013

All in House, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, Kalamazoo, MI, 2013

Art Prize, Grand Rapids, MI, 2013

Annual Student Show, DeVries Gallery, Kalamazoo, MI, 2013

Lost and Found, Vine Center Neighborhood Gallery, Kalamazoo, MI, 2013

Re/Trans, Frostic School of Art, Kalamazoo, MI, 2013

Print | Works, DeVries Gallery, Kalamazoo, MI, 2013

Space and Everything, Frostic School of Art, Kalamazoo, MI, 2012

Women in Art, DeVries Gallery, Kalamazoo, MI, 2012

WMU Student Art Show, DeVries Gallery, Kalamazoo, MI, 2012

**AWARDS,
HONORS,
SCHOLARSHIPS**

ASU SAFE Grant, **\$200**, 2018
ASU GSAS Travel Grant, **\$500**, 2018
Cratis Williams Fellowship, ASU **\$1,500**, 2018
OSR Grant for International Conference Presentation, ASU, **\$300**, 2017
ASU Do Unto Others Fellowship Award, **\$700**, 2017
ASU Graduate School Senate International Research Grant, **\$250**, 2017
ASU OSR Grant for International Conference Presentation, **\$300**, 2017
ASU Ed Cabbell Scholarship, **\$500**, 2017
ASU OSR Travel Grant, **\$200**, 2017
William C. Friday Fellowship, **\$500**, 2016
ASU Out of State Tuition Waiver, 2016-2017
ASU Graduate Research Assistant, **\$7,000**, 2016-2017
Vermont Studio Center Artist Grant, **\$1500**, 2014
Penland Work Study Scholarship **\$3000**, 2013
Penland Partial Summer Course Scholarship **\$900**, 2013
Robert and Eleanor DeVries Professional Immersion Fund, **\$1,000**, 2013
WMU Frostic School of Art Scholars Award, **\$300**, 2013
WMU Foundation Scholarship, **\$500**, 2013
WMU Frostic School of Art Study Abroad Scholarship, **\$3,000**, 2013
WMU Friends of the Richmond Center Undergraduate Award, **\$500**, 2012
WMU Frostic School of Art Enrichment Grant, **\$1,000**, 2012
WMU Frostic School of Art Scholarship, **\$500**, 2012
WMU Art Department Award, **\$300**, 2012
WMU CFA DT Scholarship, **\$200**, 2012
WMU Western Edge Scholarship, **\$1,000**, 2010
Western Michigan University Dean's List, 2009-2013
WMU Presidential Scholarship **\$14,000**, 2009

AFFILIATIONS

2018 Society for Applied Anthropology
2017 Society for Conservation Biology
2017 Appalachian Studies Association
2016 Blue Ridge Fiber Arts Guild
2009 Western Michigan University Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Fraternity

**RESEARCH
SKILLS**

Archival methods, Camera/film documentary methods, Fundraising, Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS), Grant writing, HTML coding, Oral history interviews, Riparian buffer repair, Visual Modelling, Water quality monitoring

LANGUAGES

English, proficient Spanish, conversational Khmer