

Allyson LaForge

American Studies Program
Boston University
alaforge@bu.edu

226 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215
603-769-1280

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025 – 2027 Abbott Lowell Cummings Postdoctoral Fellow in American Material Culture
American Studies Program, Boston University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. American Studies, Brown University, 2025
Dissertation: “Materializing Futurity: Networks of Native Women’s Organizing in the Northeast”

M.A. Public Humanities, Brown University, 2020
Practicum: Curatorial Assistantship, Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, ME

B.A. History and French, Mount Holyoke College, 2016
Thesis: “Burl Bowls and Birchbark Baskets: Decolonizing Indigenous Material Culture in the Native Northeast”
**Summa cum laude* in History

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Native American and Indigenous studies, material culture studies, early American history, environmental history, literary history, Indigenous feminisms and land-based knowledge, community-engaged methodologies, and public and digital humanities

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

2026 “‘We Are Building for Our Children’: Crafting Intertribal Activism in Southern New England,” *Native American and Indigenous Studies*.

2023 “Tracing Material Culture Histories: A Miniature Mokuk within Networks of Indigenous Resistance,” *Commonplace: the journal of early American life*, <https://commonplace.online/article/tracing-material-culture-histories/>.

Solicited **Allyson LaForge**, Kimberly Toney, and Lorén Spears, “Stories from the Dawnland: Recentring Indigenous Perspectives on 1776,” *Early American Literature* (solicited for special issue on the meaning of 1776 to early American literatures in 2026).

Under Review “History in Knot and Burl: Colonial Memory, Indigenous Presence, and Wampanoag Futures in the Southern Dawnland,” *The New England Quarterly*.

In Process Lydia Curliss and **Allyson LaForge**, “Modeling Reciprocity: Rebalancing Indigenous Public History Work,” for submission to *Public Humanities*.

In Process “Wabanaki ‘Wonder Works’: Reading Tomah Joseph’s Birchbark Wikhikon,” for submission to *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth Century Americanists*.

Book Chapters

- 2023 Istifaa O. Ahmed, Maggie Unverzagt Goddard, **Allyson LaForge**, and Aura M. Ochoa, "Recasting Columbus: Local Contestations Against the Monumentalization of Settler Colonialism," in *Fallen Monuments and Contested Memorials*, ed. Juilee Decker (Routledge, 2023).
- In Process "Protecting "Our Living Lands": Margaret Blackbird Boyd's Literary and Quillwork Activism," for an edited volume on quillwork by Heather Howard, Marsha MacDowell and Kurt Dewhurst.
- In Process "A Canoe's Voyage: Quillwork Diplomacy, Odawa Belonging, and Pathways for Return," for an edited volume on Native American belongings by Emily C. Burns.

Exhibitions

- 2023 – 2025 Curator, *Restor(y)ing Indigenous Collections*, Mystic Seaport Museum
- 2016 Curator, *Converging Cultures: Native America and the Early Tourist Market*, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum
- 2015 Co-Curator, *Artifacts of Interaction: Repurposing Trade Items in English and Wampanoag Culture*, Plimoth Patuxet

Reports

- 2025 D. Rae Gould, Heather Law Pezzarossi, and **Allyson LaForge**, "An Investigation of Indigenous Presence in the Kittatuck (Blackstone River) Valley," National Park Service.

Digital Publications

- 2025 "Revitalizing Indigenous Material Culture 1927-1939," Tomaquag Museum Belongings Blog,
<https://www.tomaquagmuseum.org/belongingsblog/2025/2/10/from-the-archives-indigenous-material-culture-in-the-1930s-and-1940s-1>.
- 2019 Co-Curator, *Pathways into the Native Northeast*, John Carter Brown Library
- 2019 Co-Curator, *Online Landscape Tours*, Little Compton Historical Society
- 2016 Contributor, *Our Beloved Kin: Remapping a New History of King Philip's War*, directed by Dr. Lisa Brooks
- In Process "Re-Mapping Patuxet: Wampanoag Place, Memory, and the Colonial Archive," with Kimberly Toney, Brad Lopes, Kimberly Nusco, and Dr. Christine DeLucia.

Bibliography Entries

- 2019 Steven Lubar and **Allyson LaForge**, "Curatorship," *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*, Oxford University Press.

Podcasts

- 2025 Marina Mecham, Kasha Appleton, Andrew Needham, Bathsheba Demuth, **Allyson LaForge**, and Mariko Whitenack, “Unsettling Forest Histories—Panel Debrief from the 2025 OAH Conference on American History,” *Journal of American History* Podcast, <https://www.oah.org/podcasts/jah-podcast/>.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2025 Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize (Honorable Mention), Pembroke Center, Brown University
- 2024 Inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award, Tomaquag Museum
- 2019 Helen Hornbeck Tanner Student Conference Paper Award, American Society for Ethnohistory
- 2016 Phi Beta Kappa, Mount Holyoke College
- 2016 Evelyn Church Wilbur Prize in American History, Mount Holyoke College
- 2015 Claire Grossman Memorial Prize in American History, Mount Holyoke College

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**External**

- 2027 Daythal L. Kendall Short-Term Research Fellow, American Philosophical Society
- 2026 David Jaffee Fellowship in Visual and Material Culture, American Antiquarian Society
- 2025 – 2026 Mellon Foundation Native American Scholars Initiative (NASI) Postdoctoral Fellowship, American Philosophical Society (Awarded but Declined)
- 2024 Research Grant, Decorative Arts Trust
- 2023 – 2024 Interdisciplinary Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library
- 2023 Skinner Fellowship in History, Mount Holyoke College
- 2022 Jacob M. Price Week-Long Fellowship, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan
- 2022 Skinner Fellowship in History, Mount Holyoke College
- 2017 Elizabeth Fuller Fellowship, Historic Deerfield

Internal

- 2025 Virginia Sapiro Academic Enhancement Grant, Boston University
- 2024 – 2025 Brown-Tomaquag Fellowship, *Stolen Relations: Recovering Stories of Indigenous Enslavement in the Americas*, Brown University
- 2024 Royce Graduate Student Research Award in Community-Engaged Research, Swearer Center, Brown University
- 2024 International Travel Award, Brown University
- 2023 Brown-Tomaquag Summer Fellowship, *Stolen Relations: Recovering Stories of Indigenous Enslavement in the Americas*, Brown University

- 2023 Joukowsky Summer Research Award, Brown University
- 2023 International Travel Award, Brown University
- 2022 Engaged Research Mini-Grant, Swearer Center, Brown University
- 2022 Graduate Research, Training and Travel Award, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society, Brown University
- 2021 – 2022 Graduate Mellon Fellowship, *Reimagining New England Histories: Historical Injustice, Sovereignty and Freedom*, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University
- 2021 Research Travel Grant, Graduate Student Council, Brown University
- 2021 Salomon Curricular Mini-Grant, Brown University

CONFERENCES

Panels and Roundtables Organized

- 2027 *Indigenous Material Texts and Protocols of Return*, Society of Early Americanists, Chicago, IL
- 2026 *Building Indigenous Digital Humanities*, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Temuco, Chile
- 2025 *Cultural Heritage Futures for Indigenous Southern New England: Knowledge Networks as Resistance*, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2025 *Unsettling Forest Histories*, Organization of American Historians, Chicago, IL
- 2023 *15th Anniversary of Brooks' Common Pot: Continuing the Recovery of Native Space in the Northeast*, American Society for Environmental History, Boston, MA
- 2022 *Settler Colonial Entanglements*, Organization of American Historians, Boston, MA

Papers Presented

- 2025 “Reciprocity as Method: Upholding Institutional Obligations to Tribal Nations,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2025 “Birchbark Histories of the Book: Placing Wikhikon as Passamaquoddy Publishing,” Society of Early Americanists, Notre Dame, IN
- 2025 “Birchbark Resistance within Wabanaki Homelands, 1835-1895,” Organization of American Historians, Chicago, IL
- 2024 “Indigenous Futurisms and the Collaborative Routes of Odawa Material Culture,” American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 “‘We do not want to leave our Native Country’: Margaret Boyd’s Material Culture and the Maintenance of Odawa Land,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, Bodø, Norway
- 2024 “How Odawa Land, Nations, and Material Belongings Create Indigenous

- Futurity,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative Symposium, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2023 “Doing Community-Engaged Research: The Tomaquag Museum’s Collections Inventory,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative Symposium, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2023 “Tracing Material Culture Histories: An Anishinaabe Miniature *Mokuk* within Networks of Indigenous Resistance,” Objects, Pathways, and Afterlives: Tracing Material Cultures in Early America Symposium, The Huntington, San Marino, CA
- 2023 “Restor(y)ing Indigenous Collections: The Activist History of Native Northeast Baskets,” American Society for Environmental History, Boston, MA
- 2022 “Contesting Colonial Memory: The Wampanoag Elm Burl Bowl and Indigenous Survivance,” American Studies Association, New Orleans, LA
- 2022 “Materializing Futurity: 20th Century Native Organizing in the Northeast,” Organization of American Historians, Boston, MA
- 2019 “Wabanaki 'Wonder Works': Tomah Joseph's Birchbark Art and the Dissemination of Indigenous Modernity,” American Society for Ethnohistory, State College, PA
- 2018 “Pathways into the Native Northeast: Digital Story Maps and Indigenous Knowledge,” American Studies Graduate Student Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI

Roundtable Participation

- 2027 Presenter, *Indigenous Material Texts and Protocols of Return*, Society of Early Americanists, Chicago, IL
- 2026 Presenter, *Indigenous Studies and Innovations in the Classroom in Hawai‘i and Turtle Island*, American Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2026 Presenter, *The Art of Tomah Joseph, Passamaquoddy*, Association of Historians of American Art, Colby College, Waterville, ME
- 2026 Presenter, *Building Indigenous Digital Humanities*, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Temuco, Chile

Chair

- 2025 Chair, *Cultural Heritage Futures for Indigenous Southern New England: Knowledge Networks as Resistance*, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2022 Chair and Discussant, *Work: Practices of Making/Unmaking*, Seeding Relations: Beyond Settler Colonial and Racialized Ecologies, Mahindra Humanities Center Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University (Virtual)

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 “Re-Mapping Patuxet: Wampanoag Place, Memory, and the Colonial Archive,” with Kimberly Toney, Brad Lopes, and Dr. Christine DeLucia, Center for Digital Scholarship, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2025 “A Canoe’s Voyage: Margaret Blackbird Boyd’s Fight for Odawa Land Rights,” with Eric Hemenway, Harbor Springs Area Historical Society, Harbor Springs, MI
- 2025 “An Investigation of Indigenous Presence in the Kittatuck (Blackstone River) Valley,” with Dr. Rae Gould and Dr. Heather Law Pezzarossi, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Justice (Virtual)
- 2025 “An Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and Kittatuck Valley,” with Dr. Rae Gould and Dr. Heather Law Pezzarossi, Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark, National Park Service, Pawtucket, RI
- 2024 “From Waganakising to Vienna and Amherst: Tracing the Collaborative Routes of Odawa Material Culture,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2023 “Baskets as Traditional Ecological Knowledge,” *Reimagining New England Histories: Historical Injustice, Sovereignty, and Freedom* (Virtual)
- 2022 “Facilitating Connections Across Collections,” Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, CT

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- 2023 “Archival Voices,” John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities Lecture Series, Brown University
- 2022 – 2024 Graduate Disability Studies Workshop, Graduate Community Fellows Program, Brown University
- 2022 “Seeding Relations: Beyond Settler Colonial and Racialized Ecologies,” Mahindra Humanities Center Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University
- 2020 American Studies Graduate Student Conference, Brown University
- 2019 – 2020 “Settler Colonial Entanglements,” Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Workshop, Brown University

TEACHING**Boston University****Instructor**

Materializing Indigenous History

CAS AM/AH 367

American Studies Program, Boston University

Fall 2026, Fall 2025

Placing Public History: Memory, Monumentalization, and the Built Environment

CAS AM 567

American Studies Program, Boston University

Spring 2026

Brown University

Instructor

Introduction to Public Humanities

PHUM 2650

With Dr. Steven Lubar and Dr. Linford Fisher

Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University

Spring 2025

Whose Land? Tracing History and Memory in the Native Northeast

AMST 0192F

Department of American Studies, Brown University

Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant

Anti-Trafficking Savior Complex: Saints, Sinners, and Modern-Day Slavery

AMST 1600

Dr. Elena Shih, Department of American Studies, Brown University

Fall 2020

Archaeology of Death

ANTH 1623

Dr. Patricia Rubertone, Department of Anthropology, Brown University

Spring 2020

Introduction to American Indian Studies

ETHN 1200K

Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Department of Ethnic Studies, Brown University

Fall 2019

Research Assistant

Methods in Public Humanities

AMST 2540

Dr. Steven Lubar, Department of American Studies, Brown University

Fall 2020

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2023 Collections Intern Supervisor, Tomaquag Museum
2019 – 2025 Volunteer Collections Manager, Tomaquag Museum
2019 Curatorial Assistantship, Abbe Museum
2016 Summer Fellowship, Historic Deerfield
2015 – 2017 Assistant to the NAGPRA Coordinator, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum
2015 Curatorial Internship, Plimoth Patuxet
2014 Curatorial Internship, Museums of Old York

SERVICE

2026 – 2027 Advisory Committee Member, Indigenous Studies Panel Stream, Society of Early Americanists
2025 – 2028 Committee Member, Early Career Scholars Committee and Mentorship Program, Massachusetts Historical Society
2022 – 2024 Graduate Community Fellowship in Disability Studies, Brown University
2020 – 2021 Graduate Council Representative, Department of American Studies, Brown University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Environmental History
American Studies Association
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
Organization of American Historians
Society of Early Americanists

LANGUAGES

English
French