

Curriculum Vitae

Micah Ling
she / her / hers

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Education

- 2025 PhD, Folklore & Ethnomusicology, Indiana University
 Minor, Museums and Material Culture
 Dissertation: “Dressing Tradition: Visual Culture, Performance, and
 Historical Imagination in American Old-Time Music”
- 2019 M.A., Folklore & Ethnomusicology, Indiana University
 Concentration in Public Practice
- 2012 B.A., Art History & Visual Culture, Michigan State University
 Minor, Museum Studies
- 2012 B.A., Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University
 Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

Research Interests

Material culture	Queer folklife	Scandinavia	Public folklore
Dress and adornment	Historical imagination	The Upper Midwest	Museums and archives
Traditional musics	Nostalgia and memory	Appalachia	Festivals
Cultural heritage			

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2025 “It Costs a Lot of Money to Look This Cheap: Dolly Parton, Maximalism,
and Western Wear Dress,” Indiana University, ANTH-A 200: The
Anthropology of Dolly Parton, guest lecture
- Spring 2025 “Music and Material Culture, Dress and Old-Time Music,” University of
North Carolina, Chapel Hill, AMST 489: Writing Material Culture, invited
speaker
- Fall 2024 “Memory Textiles and Collective Artmaking,” Michigan State University,
UGS 200H: Socially Engaged Art as Research, invited speaker
- Spring 2024 “Transcription, Subjectivity, and Sound Archives,” Michigan State
University, RCAH 235: Adapt, Transcribe, Transduce, Translate, invited
speaker
- Fall 2023 “Public Folklore and/as Academic Research,” Michigan State University,
RCAH 316: Creative Heritage Work, guest lecture

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- Summer 2021 Associate Instructor, F101: Introduction to Folklore, Indiana University
Primary Instructor: Dr. Robert Dobler
- Spring 2020 “Festivals, Old-Time Music, and Identity,” F121: World Arts and Cultures,
guest lecture
- Spring 2020 Associate Instructor, F121: World Arts and Cultures, Indiana University
Primary Instructor: Dr. Pravina Shukla
- Fall 2019 “Quilts in Contemporary Practice,” Indiana University, F131: Folklore in the
United States, guest lecture
- Fall 2019 Associate Instructor, F131: Folklore in the United States, Indiana University
Primary Instructor: Dr. Pravina Shukla
- Fall 2019 “Textile Survey of Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County, China,” Indiana
University, S220: Introductions to Fibers, guest lecture

Professional Employment

- 2025-present Associate Director, Michigan Traditional Arts Program, University Outreach
and Engagement, Michigan State University
- 2025-present Curator, Michigan Traditional Arts Research Collections, Michigan State
University Museum
- 2022-present English Language Translation Consultant and Editor, Mystetskyi Arsenal
Museum, Kyiv, Ukraine
- 2014-2025 Public Programs Coordinator, Michigan Traditional Arts Program, Michigan
State University
- 2021-2022 Outreach Consultant, Creativity in the Time of COVID-19 Project, Michigan
State University
- 2021 Graduate Assistant, Archives of Traditional Music, Indiana University
- 2020-2021 Graduate Assistant, American Folklore Society, Indiana University
- 2019 Graduate Researcher, Sage Historic Costume Collection, Indiana University
- 2018 Summer Research Fellow, U.S.-China Folklore and Intangible Cultural Heritage
Research Initiative, Guangxi, China

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- 2017-2019 Graduate Assistant, Traditional Arts Indiana
- 2016-2021 Cello and Vocal Instructor, Earful of Fiddle Music and Dance Camp
- 2012- 2017 Cultural Collections Specialist, Michigan State University Museum

Public Programs

- 2014-present Coordinator, Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program
- 2014-present Coordinator, Michigan Heritage Awards
- 2019 Coordinator, Indiana Heritage Fellowships
- 2017-2019 Coordinator, Traditional Arts Indiana Apprenticeship Program
- 2017 Co-organizer, Queer Traditions Summit, Michigan State University
- 2016 Programming Consultant, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Folk Arts Peer Sessions
- 2014-2018 Cultural Programming and Narrative Stage Coordinator, Great Lakes Folk Festival

Exhibitions

- 2025 Co-curator, *Quilting Memory: The Fabric of Oklahoma's Federal Labor*, Michigan State University Union
- 2022 Exhibition Translation Consultant, *Futuromarennia: Ukraine and the Avant-Garde*, KUMU Art Museum, Tallinn, Estonia
- 2021 Graduate Assistant, *Art of the Character: Highlights from the Glenn Close Costume Collection*, Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University
- 2018 Exhibition Assistant, *Sisters of the Cloth: This is Our Story*, Mathers Museum of World Cultures, Indiana University
- 2017-2018 Co-curator, *Indiana Masters of Traditional Arts*, Indiana State Fair Grounds
- 2016 Collections Specialist, *Up Cloche: Fashion, Feminism, Modernity*, Michigan State University Museum

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- 2015 Collections Specialist, *Quilts of Southwest China*, Michigan State University Museum
- 2013 Curator, *Handle with Care: Ceramics from the MSU Museum Collection*, Cowles House Library, Michigan State University
- 2010 Curatorial Assistant, *Cabinets of Curiosity*, Michigan State University Museum

Presentations and Lectures

- 2026 “From Carhartt to Wrangler: A Brief History of Workwear in American Music,” Historical Society of Michigan, invited talk
- 2026 “Visual, Narrative, and Creative Methods in Community Engaged Research,” Community Engaged Research Learning Community, Michigan State University, 2026.
- 2025 “Michigan Fiddling Traditions,” Great Lakes Music Camp, West Olive, MI, invited keynote
- 2025 “Clad in the Working Class: Blue-Collar Style and American Folk Music,” Our Daily Work / Our Daily Lives Lecture Series, Michigan State University, invited talk
- 2025 “Midwest Old Time Music History and Collections,” Twin Town Old Time Music Festival, Minneapolis, MN, invited panelist
- 2024 “Advocating for Our Field in Changing Times: ‘Big A, little a’ advocacy Workshop, American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, co-facilitator
- 2024 “Gillian Welch, Performance, and Visual Culture in Americana Music,” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, panel chair
- 2024 “Folk Fashion,” Folk Alliance Region Midwest, Lisle, IL, workshop leader
- 2024 “Old Time Music: Present-Future-Past,” Folk Alliance Region Midwest, Lisle, IL, forum panelist
- 2024 “Governmental Advocacy and Funding in the Traditional Arts,” Folklore Exchange, Mid Atlantic Arts, invited talk
- 2024 “Ethical Collecting, Equity, and the Use of Recorded Sound,” Great Lakes Music Camp, West Olive, MI, invited talk

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- 2024 “Sources and Resources: Using Sound Archives to Build Repertoire,” Wheatland Traditional Arts Weekend, Remus, MI, invited talk
- 2024 “Collecting the Collectors: Conducting Oral Histories,” Wheatland Traditional Arts Weekend, Remus, MI, invited talk
- 2023 “Cut-offs and Cottagecore Mean Girls: Queer Gender Performance in American Old-Time Music,” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, panel chair
- 2022 “Apprenticeships and More: Methods for Transmitting Traditional Knowledge,” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Tulsa, OK, forum chair
- 2022 “Building Access to the Michigan Traditional Arts Program Folklife Research Collections,” Midwest Folklorists and Cultural Workers Alliance, invited talk
- 2022 “Designing and Implementing a Heritage Awards Program: The Michigan Heritage Awards,” Texas Folklife Network, invited speaker
- 2021 “Quarantine Happy Hour: Visual Aesthetics of a Virtual Concert Series,” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, virtual meeting
- 2020 “Romancing the Tune: Old-time Music Documentation, Performance, and Historical Imagination,” IU/OSU Folklore Conference, Columbus, OH
- 2019 “Mijiu and Mai Wup: Trilingual Fieldwork and an Indigo Dyeing Method,” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD,
- 2018 “Practicing the Forms We Study,” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY, forum panelist
- 2017 “Queer Traditions,” Lansing Capital Pride Festival, invited speaker
- 2015 “The History of the Great Lakes Quilt Center,” Crooked Tree Arts Center, guest lecture

Publications

Articles

“Treaty Fish Co. Sustains Anishinaabe Traditions and Community Spirit.” *Arts Midwest Creativity News Desk*, September 5, 2024. [<https://artsmidwest.org/stories/treaty-fish-co-sustains-anishinaabe-traditions-and-community-spirit/>]

“‘In Small Things’ Deeply Known: ‘Round’ Approaches to the Folkloristic Study of Quilts and Their Makers,” *Western Folklore* 85, no. 3 (Summer 2025).

Book Reviews

Shopland, Norena. 2020. *A History of Women in Men's Clothes: From Cross-Dressing to Empowerment*. Reviewed in *The Journal of Dress History* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2022): pp. 118-122.

Film Reviews

Collins, Pat. 2019. *Henry Glassie: Field Work*. Reviewed in *Journal of American Folklore* 134, no. 532 (Spring 2021): pp. 238-239.

Awards, Grants, and Residencies

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| 2022 | Archie Green Student Travel Award, American Folklore Society (\$500) |
| 2022-2023 | College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship, Indiana University (\$22,000 + benefits) |
| 2022 | Network for Global Civic Engagement Project Grant, Michigan State University Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (\$10,000) |
| 2021-2022 | College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Pathways Fellowship, Indiana University (\$20,000 + benefits) |
| 2021 | Student Service Award, Indiana University (\$200) |
| 2019 | Student Travel Award, Indiana University (\$700) |
| 2019 | Folklore Fellowship Award, Indiana University (\$1000) |
| 2018 | Leftwich & Higgenbotham Award for Old-Time Music and Dance Research, Indiana University (\$1000) |
| 2017 | First-Year Fellowship, Indiana University (\$3000) |
| 2013 | Artist-in-Residence, Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology |
| 2009, 2021 | Elyce Fishman Scholarship, Wheatland Music Organization |

Affiliated Societies and Associations

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| 2023-present | Earful of Fiddle Music and Dance Camp, board member |
| 2023-present | Alluvion Artist Council, board member |
| 2020-2023 | Costume Society of America |
| 2020-2022 | Association of Dress Historians |

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2020-present	Midwest Folklorists and Cultural Workers Alliance
2017-present	American Folklore Society
2015-2018	Grand River Folk Arts Society
2013-2021	Earthwork Music Collective

Services to the Field

2025	Grant review panelist, National Endowment for the Arts
2025	Grant review panelist, Arts Midwest
2024	Benjamin A. Botkin Prize review committee member, Public Programs Section, American Folklore Society
2024-present	Executive Board Member, Cultural Advocacy Network of Michigan
2024	Folk and traditional arts apprenticeship program review panelist, West Virginia Folklife Program, West Virginia Humanities
2022-present	Member, Community of Practice: Peer Group for Folk Arts and Education
2022, 2023, 2026	Folk and traditional arts grant review panelist, Wisconsin Arts Board
2022	Folk and traditional arts grant review panelist, Mississippi Arts Commission
2020-2024	Co-convener, Nordic-Baltic Section, American Folklore Society
2020-2022, 2026-present	Steering committee, Midwest Folklorists and Cultural Workers Alliance
2020-2022	Co-convener, Women's Section, American Folklore Society
2020-2021	Faculty liaison, Folklore Student Association, Indiana University
2019	Grants and apprenticeship program consultant, Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance
2016-2018	Member, Wheatland Music Organization Archives Committee