

NOAH R. DENNISON

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EDUCATION

The Ohio State University, Department of Anthropology
281 West Lane Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210
PhD Student & Graduate Teaching Assistant

2024 – 2029

Franklin University, Department of Psychology & Social Sciences
201 South Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215
Bachelor of Science, Summa Cum Laude (GPA: 4.00)

2021 – 2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025 –

Specters of Coal: Haunted Cultural Landscapes in the Coalfields of Southern West Virginia

Doctoral Dissertation, The Ohio State University, Advisor: Dr. Anna Willow

- Currently in development; pre-dissertation fieldwork began June 2025
- Examines themes of abandonment, grief, loss, identity, belonging, and place attachment in a region which has been rapidly degraded by mountaintop removal mining and other forms of extractive industry
- Critically analyzes the role of mountaintop removal mining practices in changes to residents' relationships to landscape, labor, economy, and environment through collaborative, engaged ethnography

2023 –

From Social Potential to Ecological Resilience: Panarchy and Imaginaries in the Kelp Forests of the Salish Sea

Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Franklin University, Advisor: Dr. Marnie Shaffer

- Designed and conducted an ethnographic study including semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and extensive, multidisciplinary literature review
- Coded and analyzed qualitative data using MaxQDA and applied social-ecological systems theory, resilience theory & Panarchy to the northwest Washington conservation community to better understand the likelihood of success in restoring and conserving Salish kelp populations

Neighborhood Necropolitics: Housing Precarity, Homelessness, and the Integrated Spectacle in Bellingham, Washington

Social Sciences Capstone, Franklin University, Advisor: Dr. Annie Lee

- Designed and conducted a quantitative comparative analysis of several factors contributing to homelessness and housing precarity on a national scale

- Interviewed City Councilmembers as well as both housed and unhoused community members about housing concerns in Bellingham, Washington
- Analyzed the nexus of potential factors and localized Bellingham's housing & homelessness crisis through the lens of Mbembe's 'necropolitics'

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Summer 2026 –

ANTHROP2202: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Online)

Instructor of Record, The Ohio State University

Faculty Course Coordinator: Dr. Jeffrey H. Cohen

Spring & Autumn 2026 –

ANTHROP2202: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Instructor of Record, The Ohio State University

Faculty Course Coordinator: Dr. Jeffrey H. Cohen

Autumn 2025 –

ANTHROP2200: Introduction to Biological Anthropology

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Lab Instructor, The Ohio State University

Lecturer/Faculty of Record: Dr. Mark Hubbe & Dr. Jeffrey Peterson

MENTORSHIP

Spring & Summer 2026

Benjamin Piper – OSU Anthropology Undergraduate

Led a collaborative ethnographic project collecting qualitative data on local affective regimes surrounding Abandoned Mine Lands & other abandoned sites throughout southern West Virginia

PUBLICATIONS

Dennison, Noah R. (Under review). "Measuring Abandonment: A County-level Analysis of Relationships Between Requested AMLER Funding and Premature Mortality in West Virginia." *Environmental Justice*.

Dennison, Noah R. (2026). "Saving Sylvester: Community Responses to Coal Contamination." *Litter: An Eco Journal*. Ecological Design Collective.
<https://community.ecodesigncollective.org/saving-sylvester-community-responses-to-coal-contamination/>.

Dennison, Noah R. (2025). "Review of Esther Sánchez-Pardo & María Porras Sánchez (eds.). 2024. *Myth and environmentalism: Arts of resilience for a damaged planet*." *Journal of Political Ecology* 32(1).
<https://journals.librarypublishing.arizona.edu/jpe/article/id/7109/>.

CREATIVE AND PUBLIC-FACING WORK

Dennison, Noah R. (2026). "Picturing Abandonment: Sites/Sights of Decline in the Coalfields of Southern West Virginia." Display of field photography as part of *This is Anthropology*, an art installation at Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. April 9 – 16.

GUEST LECTURES & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 –

Appalachian Abjection: Affective Responses to Mountaintop Removal Mining in Southern West Virginia (Podium presentation, 4/11/2026)

Anthropologists & Sociologists of Kentucky: 57th Annual Meeting; Danville, Kentucky

A Conversation about Coal Mining in West Virginia: Stories from the Front Lines of the Fight Against Climate Change (forthcoming)

Earth Matters on Stage: Ecodrama Playwrights' Festival and Symposium; Columbus, Ohio; **Co-presented** in conversation with Junior Walk of Coal River Mountain Watch

2025 –

Specters of Coal: Haunted Cultural Landscapes in West Virginian Mining Towns

(Podium presentation, 11/21/25)

American Anthropological Association Annual Conference; New Orleans, Louisiana

From Social Potential to Ecological Resilience: Panarchy and Imaginaries in the Kelp Forests of the Salish Sea (Poster presentation, 3/27/25)

Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference; Portland, Oregon

2024 –

Said: Orientalism and Post-Colonialism (Guest lecture, 11/19/24)

The Ohio State University, Department of Anthropology, ANTHROP4525: *History of Anthropological Theory*

Inviting Instructor: Andrew Mitchel, MA

The Maiden of Deception Pass: Intersecting Folklore and Ecology (Guest lecture, 10/24/24)

The Ohio State University, Department of Anthropology, ANTHROP7720: *Teaching in Anthropology*

Inviting Professor: Dr. Joy McCorriston

Kelp & Culture: Eco-Grief and Productive Nostalgia in Social-Ecological Systems (Guest lecture, 1/31/24)

University of Washington, Department of Anthropology, ANTH479B: *Advanced Topics in Medical Anthropology: "How Does Climate Change Feel?"*

Inviting Professor: Dr. Paula Saravia

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Larsen Student Research Fund (\$450)	2026
Elizabeth A. Salt Travel Award (\$1000)	2026
Larsen Student Research Fund (\$800)	2025
Elizabeth A. Salt Travel Award (\$500)	2025
Graduate Access Fellowship, The Ohio State University	2024 – 2025
Academic & Leadership Scholarship, Franklin University	2022 – 2023
JM Smucker Company Undergraduate Scholarship, OFIC	2022 – 2023
Glenn H. Williams Scholarship, Franklin University	2021 – 2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

President's List, Franklin University	2021 – 2023
Global Citizenship Award, Franklin University	2022
Communication & Critical Theory Award, Franklin University	2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

OSU Anthropology Sociolinguistics Lab	2025 – Present
Ecological Design Collective (EDC)	2025 – Present
OSU Graduate Students of Anthropology Association (GSAA)	2024 – Present
OSU Social-Ecological Systems (SES) Workgroup	2024 – Present
American Anthropological Association	2023 – Present
Anthropology & Environment Society	2023 – Present
Society for Cultural Anthropology	2023 – Present
Society for Economic Anthropology	2023 – Present
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA)	2023 – 2025

SERVICE

OSU Graduate Students of Anthropology Association (GSAA)

President (Elected); Columbus, Ohio; May 2026 to present

GSAA Speakers Committee

Committee Member; Columbus, Ohio; October 2024 to present

Graduate Representative (Elected); May 2025 to May 2026

SOAR WV Mutual Aid

Mutual-Aid Fair Volunteer and Contributing Member; Charleston, West Virginia; June 2025 to present

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA)

Stream Team Volunteer; Bellingham, Washington; May through August 2023

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

Volunteer; Bellingham, Washington; May through August 2023

Northwest Straits Commission, Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee

Volunteer; Bellingham, Washington; May through August 2023

Junior Achievement of Central Ohio

Classroom volunteer; Columbus, Ohio; January through May 2019

REFERENCES

Dr. Anna Willow, Professor

Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
1465 Mount Vernon Avenue, Marion, Ohio 43302

Email: willow.1@osu.edu

Dr. Nick Kawa, Associate Professor

Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
4058 Smith Laboratory, 174 W. 18th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210

Email: moritz.42@osu.edu

Dr. Marnie Shaffer, Manager, IRB and Academic Scholarship

Office of Academic Scholarship, Franklin University
201 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215

Email: marnie.shaffer@franklin.edu

Dr. Kelly Renner, Assistant Dean, Curriculum, and Program Chair

Department of Psychology & Social Sciences, Franklin University
201 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215

Email: kelly.renner@franklin.edu