HOLLY WISSLER, PHD

Curriculum Vitae

Ethnomusicologist, Asst. Professor of Instruction, Tour Director

San Marcos, Texas and Cusco, Peru

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EDUCATION

2009: Ph.D. in Musicology with emphasis in Ethnomusicology, Florida State University
Dissertation: *From Grief and Joy We Sing: Social and Cosmic Regenerative Processes in the Songs of Q'eros, Peru.* Funded by: **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant.**

1999: MA in Music History, University of Idaho (GPA 4.0).
Thesis: *An Outsider Inside: Ritual, Music, and Dance in the Qoyllur Rit'i Festival of the Peruvian Andes.*

1998: MM in Flute Performance, University of Idaho (GPA 4.0).
Committee Chair: Richard Hahn

1996: BA Applied Music, University of Idaho, *Summa cum Laude*, 1996
1981: AA Liberal Arts, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, California, 1981

TEACHING SPECIALIZATIONS

History and Music of: Latin America, the Andes, Amazon, Himalayas, and World Music Cultures. Western Classical Music History. Topics/methodologies in Ethnomusicology. Spanish. Quechua.

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

Indigenous Andes and Amazon culture, Inca Empire and Peru History, Applied Ethnomusicology, Indigenous Theory, Music and Tourism, Spanish, Quechua, Western Classical Music History, Deaf culture.

LANGUAGES

English: Mother language/fluent
Spanish: Fluent, speaking, reading, and writing
Quechua: Advanced, speaking and writing
American Sign Language: Conversational
Nepali: Beginning, speaking
Peruvian Sign Language: Intermediate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) American
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA)

Publications:

2026 (forthcoming): Wissler, Holly. "So That the Songs Arrive: Grief-Singing in Animal Fertility Ritual in Q'eros, Peru." In *ReSounding Loss: Music, Grief, and Culture*, Eds. Andrea Shaheen Espinosa, Heather Sparling. Oxford University Press.

2019: "Q'eros, Peru: La regeneración de relaciones cosmológicas e identidades específicas a través de la música." *Qoyllurit'i: Fe, Tradición y Cambio.* Editor: Ramón Pajuelo Teves. Peru: Ministerio de Cultura.

2018: "'Where Dead People Walk': Repatriation of Fifty Years of Audio-Visual Archives to Q'eros, Peru." *The Oxford Handbook of Musical Repatriation.* Eds. Frank Gunderson, Rob Lancefield and Bret Woods.

2015: "Andes to Amazon on the River Q'eros: Indigenous Voice in Grassroots Tourism, Safeguarding, and Ownership Projects of the Q'eros and Wachiperi Peoples." *The Oxford Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology*, Oxford University Press Publishers, eds. Svanibor Pettan and Jeff Todd Titon.

2015: "Music" and "Dance" entries, in *Encyclopedia of the Incas*, AltaMira Press, eds. Gary Urton and Adriana von Hagen.

2015: "La Comunidad Wachiperi en el Festival de Tradiciones Populares del Smithsonian, Washington, D.C., 2015." In *Willka Nina*, No. 03, July-August 2015.

2012: *Cantos Wachiperi.* Producer and editor of one compact disc of Wachiperi Harakbut songs (Amazon, Peru) from 1964/1965 archives of anthropologist Patricia J. Lyon and new recordings by Holly Wissler, Cusco, Peru.

2011: Principal author in collaboration with Peru's Ministry of Culture, on the proposal to UNESCO that the autochthonous songs of Q'eros, Peru be nominated to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

2010: "Q'eros, Perú: La regeneración de relaciones cosmológicas e identidades específicas a través de la música." In *Anthropológica*, 28: 93-116 (Revista del Departamento de Ciencias Sociales, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú).

2010: "La Música de Q'eros: Canciones como Reflejo de Identidad, Historia y Cosmología." In *Panorama Musical,* Revista del Instituto de Educación Superior de Formación Artístico Público "Leandro Alviña Miranda" del Cusco, Año V(4): 18-26.

2009: "Grief-Singing and the Camera: The Challenges and Ethics of Documentary Production in an Indigenous Andean Community." In *Ethnomusicology Forum*, 18(1): 37–53.

2008: John Cohen and Holly Wissler. "Q'eros." In *The Garland Handbook of Latin American Music*, Second Edition, Dale A. Olsen and Daniel E. Sheehy, eds. New York and London: Routledge, 463–473.

2008: John Cohen and Holly Wissler. "Q'eros." In *The Concise Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*, ed. Douglas Puchowksi. New York and London: Routledge, 142–147.

2005: Wissler, Holly. "Tradición y Modernización en la Música de las *Dos* Principales Festividades Anuales de Q'eros: Qoyllurit'i (con Corpus Christi) y Carnaval." In *Q'ero: El Ultimo Ayllu Inca,* Second

Edition, Jorge Flores Ochoa and Juan Nuñez del Prado, eds. Lima, Peru: National Institute of Culture and University of San Marcos, 375–413.

Documentary Productions:

1998: *Qoyllur Rit'i: A Woman's Journey*. 57-minute video documentary about the *Qoyllurit'i* pilgrimage festival of the Peruvian Andes. English and Spanish. Holly Wissler, producer, creator and copyright.

2007: Wissler, Holly. *Kusisqa Waqashayku* (*From Grief and Joy We Sing: The Musical Rituals of Q'eros, Peru*), 53-minute video documentary. English, Spanish, and Quechua. Holly Wissler, producer, director, writer, camera and copyright.

Documentary in Progress:

2026: Documentary: *Dante's Story: The Fight for Deaf Rights In Peru*. Dante's awakening (Holly's adopted deaf son from Q'eros) is the centerpiece of this awareness-raising documentary that shows issues with and proposes solutions for Deaf rights in Peru, through interviews with prominent deaf adults and deaf educators in Lima and Cusco. Five languages. www.wisslerdocumentary.org

Teaching and Related Experience:

Fall 2019 to present: Senior Lecturer/Assistant Professor of Instruction, Texas State University

Past instructor: University of Texas, Austin; Florida State University; University of Idaho (see below)

2010 to present, Cusco, Peru:
Guest lecturer and local expert for National Geographic in Peru and various U.S. study abroad programs: Student International Training (SIT), National Geographic Student Expeditions, UC Davis, Iowa State University, Brandeis University, San Antonio de Abad National University of Cusco, and Centro Bartolomé de las Casas. Advisor for ISP (month-long Independent Study Projects) of SIT students.

Certified instructor of classical flute in the Suzuki method. Flute Instructor for *Asociación Qantu*, Cusco, Peru. (2010-2016)

2011- 2013: Director in Peru for the Center for World Music, NGO with headquarters based in San Diego, California. The Center's goals are to support and foster the learning of indigenous and traditional music in Peru; facilitate the U.S.-based Center's study abroad program in Peru; create possibilities for Peruvian musicians to teach and perform abroad. **www.centerforworldmusic.org**

Courses Taught:

Texas State University
World Music Cultures MU3318
Introduction to Fine Arts MU2313
History and Analysis of Music I MU 3315
History and Analysis of Music II MU3316
Problems in Music MU 4351 (*History and Analysis of Music III* – MU3317)

University of Texas, Austin
Doctoral Graduate Seminar: Ethnographic Methods in Ethnomusicology MUS 381J (Spring 2019)
Music of the African Diaspora MUS 334/AFR 374F/LAS 326 (Spring 2017)

Florida State University:
Latin American Music MUH 4541 (Spring 2009)
Aconcagua Andean Music Ensemble MUN 4496 (Spring 2009)
World Music Cultures for music majors, MUH2512 (Spring 2004)
World Music Cultures for non-majors, MUH 2051 (Fall 2003)

University of Idaho:
Survey of Music History MUSH 101 (1997-2000)
Theory of Music I and II MUSC141/142, *Aural Skills I and II* MUSC 139/140 (teaching assistant, 1996/7)
Music in Western Civilization II MUSH322 (teaching assistant 1998)

Special Projects

2015: Presenter and logistics coordinator for participation with five representatives of the Wachiperi Harakbut Amazonian group in the 2015 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, focus on Peru.

2010: Audio-visual archive repatriation to the Q'eros (Quechua Andean) and Wachiperi (Harakbut) Amazonian groups.

Other Employment Experience (Peru, Nepal, Spain, Chile, Argentina, Colombia):

1995 to present: Peru: Logistics coordinator, Cultural Tour Leader, High Altitude Trek Leader and Guest Lecturer for Wilderness Travel, Berkeley, California, and National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions, Coltur Peruano de Turismo.

2000 and 2008: Nepal: High Altitude Cultural Trek Leader, Himalayas, for Wilderness Travel, Berkeley.

1995–1996: Quito, Ecuador: Principal translator for flute master classes and composition classes, International Flute Festival, National Conservatory of Music, Quito.

1987–1994: Kathmandu, Nepal: Operations Manager and Logistics Coordinator for Sherpa Expeditions (London-based adventure travel company) in Nepal. Instructor of western classical flute in private studio.

1991: Spain: Tour leader for Sherpa Expeditions (London-based travel company) in the Sierra Nevada mountains of Spain and the island of Majorca.

1985–1987: Cusco, Peru: Flute instructor for the *Instituto Superior de Música Leandro Alviña* (Superior Institute of Music).

1985–1987: Peru, Chile, Argentina: Cultural Trek Leader, Rafting Guide, and Logistics Coordinator for Sobek Expeditions, El Cerrito, California

Conference Paper Presentations:

2025: Society for Ethnomusicology
Regional Southern Plains Chapter (SEM SP) University of Houston, 4.5.25.
National Conference, Atlanta, GA., 10.23-26.2025.
Panel: "*Juntas Llorando*: Radical Empathy, Collective Mourning, and Singing Grief Across *Fronteras* in América Latina." Wissler paper: "The Song Above, the Sorrow Below: Grief-Singing in Animal Fertility Ritual in Q'eros, Peru."

2024: Glomus International Music Festival, Kathmandu, Nepal: *Ritual Music and Grief-Singing in the Quechua Community of Q'eros of the Andes of Peru*

2018/19: Panel: Indigenous peoples and World Music Festivals. *Queros-Wachiperi Community: From Song Archive Repatriation in the Amazon to 2015 Smithsonian Folklife Festival*
61st Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Albuquerque, NM
SEMSEC – Local Society for Ethnomusicology, Southeast and Caribbean Chapter, Austin, Texas

2015: President's Roundtable, *Indigenous Theory of Q'eros Music.*
60th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Austin, Texas.

2015: President's Roundtable of NECSEM (Northeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicolgoy. *Trends, Concerns, and Career Trajectories in Ethnomusicology: Applied Ethnomusicology.* Brown University.

2012: *Andes and Amazon, Peru: The Sustainable Futures of the Music o the Quechua Q'eros and Harakbut Wachiperi Groups.* 57th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2012: *Repatriation of 50-years of Audio-Visual Archives to the Remote Andean Commmunity of Q'eros, Peru.* The Annual Meeting of the Society for Visual Anthropology, San Francisco, California.

2011: *Conservation Ethnomusicology: Song Rescue of the Wachiperi Amazonian Group.* 56th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2010: "*Q'eros, Peru: Returning Documentation to the Remote Andes, with Community Discussions about its Value and Processes of Local Availability*," on panel "Repatriation of Audio-Visual Archives in the 21st Century" (chair: Anthony Seeger). 55th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Los Angeles, California.

2010: "*Q'eros: Ayni y Yanantin, Cantado y Tocado*." Tinkuy: 33rd Annual Anthropological Meeting of Andean Studies, Cusco, Peru. Universidad Nacional de San Antonio de Abad, Cusco, Peru.

2009: "*The Bilingual Accordion: Issues of Translations of Musical Experience in Peru's Largest Pilgrimage Festival.*" Latin American Studies Association Biennial Conference (LASA), in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2008: *Chayanankupaq*—"So that the Sound Arrives": Spirit Essence that Manifests in a Singing Technique in Q'eros, Peru. 53rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

2005: "Fifty Years of Ethnomusicological Research in Peru: The Quechua Community of Q'eros, Musical Tradition and Change over Half a Century." 50th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Atlanta, GA.

2005: "Tradición y Modernización en la Música de las dos Principales Festividades de las dos Principales Festividades Anuales de Q'eros: Qoyllurit'i (con Corpus Christi) y Carnaval." Tinkuy: 28th Annual Anthropological Meeting of Andean Studies, Cusco, Peru. Museo Inka. Homage Conference for the 50th anniversary of the first academic expedition to Q'eros by Cusco University.

2004: "The Story of an Andean Accordion: The Q'eros Community and Musical Modernization in the Andes." Annual Conference of Southeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. (Awarded "Dale. A. Olsen Best Student Paper" prize.)

2002: "Persistence and Emergence in the Modernization Process of the *Qoyllurit'i* Festival of the Peruvian Andes." 47th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Estes Park, Colorado

1998: "*Gringa Mayordoma* in the *Qoyllur Rit'i* Festival of the Peruvian Andes."
43rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Indiana University,
IN.

Documentary Presentations:

1) ***Kusisqa Waqashayku.*** **["From Grief and Joy We Sing"]**
November 2012: The Annual Meeting of the Society for Visual Anthropology, San Francisco, California.
August 2012: "Cinesuyu" National Film Festival, Cusco, Peru.
January 2011: 9th International "Oxford" Symposium on Archeoastronomy, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.
April 2010: Lima, Peru: ICPNA (Peruvian-North American Cultural Institute).
June 2009: Latin American Studies Association Biennial Conference (LASA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
May 2009: The Archeology Channel International Film and Video Festival, dedicated to films and videos on archeological and indigenous topics, Eugene, Oregon.
December 2008: Kathmandu, Nepal: International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, Department of Ethnomusicology, Kathmandu University. Also showing at Indigo Gallery.
October 2008: Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico
September 2008: London, England: The British Museum.
September 2008: London, England: Symposium "Archeology and Linguistics in the Andes."
September 2008: Florida Atlantic University: Southeast Conference on Amazonian and Andean Studies. **August 2008:** Cusco, Peru: Peru premiere: ICPNA (Peruvian-North American Cultural Institute).
August 2008: Indiana University: First Biannual Symposium on Teaching Indigenous Languages of Latin America, (STILLA).
August 2008: Cusco, Peru: Tinkuy: Annual Anthropology Conference.
May 2008: University of Idaho, Boise State University.
February 2008: Florida State University: Southeast/Caribbean Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology.
February 2008: Iowa State University.
October 2007: Columbus, Ohio: U.S. Premiere: National Conference for the Society for Ethnomusicology.
October 2007: Florida State University Student Film Center.

2) ***Qoyllur Rit'i:*** **A Woman's Journey:**
2010: Tinkuy: 33rd Annual Anthropological Meeting of Andean Studies, Cusco, Peru. Universidad Nacional de San Antonio de Abad, Cusco, Peru.
2004 to Present: Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C.: Excerpts of video footage shown continuously in exposition on Quechua life in the Andes of Peru.
2005: Cusco, Peru: School for International Training (SIT) Study Abroad Program.
2003: Florida State University Dance and Music Departments.
2002: Florida State University: Southeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology.
2001: University of Idaho: Northwest Anthropology Conference.
2000: Kathmandu, Nepal: International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).
2000: Cusco, Peru: Peru Premiere: Inca Archeological Museum.
2000: Cusco, Peru: Andean Historical and Ethnohistorical Conference: "Christianity and Power in Colonial Peru."
2000: University of Washington: The NW Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology.
1999: Austin, Texas: The National Conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology.
1999: The University of Idaho: U.S. Premiere.

Invited Guest Speaker and Performer on Research and Expertise:

2001 to present: National Geographic Local Expert, Cusco, Peru
2022 to present: Oasis Continuing Education Program (San Diego, Ca.)
October 2023: St. David's Episcopal Church, Adult Christian Formation, Guest speaker

November 2017: Texas State University, Guest speaker
October 2017: Texas Christian University, Guest speaker
June/July 2015: Presenter for the Wachiperi group, Smithsonian Folklife Festival
2013-present: Brandeis University, University of Massachusetts, Gallaudet University
November 2012: University of Oregon
November 2011: University of California, Davis
November 2011: Washington, D.C.: Guest speaker at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and Amazon Conservation Association. Topic "Andes and Amazon: Conservation, Sustainability and Promotion of the Music and Intangible Heritage of the Q'eros and the Wachiperi:"
September 2008: Cusco, Peru, Guest Speaker: Peru's National Institute of Culture declaration of the Q'eros community as "Cultural Patrimony of Peru."
September 2008: Interview on local (Cusco) and national (Lima) television channels with representatives from the Q'eros community.
August 2008: International Video Conference, Cusco, Peru: Coordinator for first-time international video conference between Cusco and Indiana University, with representatives of indigenous Andean culture (Q'eros), for the First Biennial Symposium on Teaching Indigenous Languages of Latin America (STILLA) hosted by Indiana University's Minority Languages and Cultures of Latin America Program (MLCP) and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS).
July 2006: Featured radio interview: Catholic University, Institute of Ethnomusicology, Lima, Peru. One hour interview on the Musical Traditions of Q'eros for program "*Músicas del Perú*."

Performance Experience/Instruments:

Current: *Wayra* – Austin-based Andean panpipe ensemble
Lipi Awan – Texas State University Indonesian gamelan ensemble.

1985-2017: Solo Classical Flute Concerts and Master Classes, Cusco, Peru.

2011-present: Performance of various Andean musical styles and instruments: indigenous flute ensembles, bandurria, folklore-popular, Afro-Peruvian, with the Center for World Music and guest lecture performances for National Geographic, in Cusco, Peru.

2007: Multi-cultural concert series, "Tupay": Collaboration among ten musicians to perform Western Classical, Q'eros, and popular Andean musics, Cusco, Peru.

2001-2004: Florida State University World Music Ensembles:
Andean Music Ensemble (Director); Indonesian Gamelan; African Drumming and Dance; Brazilian Samba; Indian Classical Music.

2002-2004: Private study and performance of Indian *bansuri* and *tabla* with *guru* Nalini Vinayak, Tallahassee, Florida.

1996-1999: Flute and Piccolo, University of Idaho Orchestra and Washington-Idaho Regional Symphony Orchestra. Faculty Woodwind Quintet, University of Idaho.

1987-1994: Solo Classical Flute Concerts, British Embassy Hall, Kathmandu, Nepal.

1987: Concert tour of Peru (Cusco, Arequipa, Lima, Trujillo, Chiclayo), funded by the United States Embassy and the Peruvian-North American Cultural Institute, accompanied by Peruvian pianist Eduardo Pimentel Mauricci.

Awards:

2009: Documentary "From Grief and Joy We Sing" received "Special Mention" in the TAC Film Festival, 2009 (The Archeology Channel, Eugene, Oregon), for most valuable ethnographic contribution to world cultural memory.

2007: Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant
2004: Dale A. Olsen Best Student Paper Prize, Southeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology Conference, February 21-22, 2004.
2002: Presser Scholar, Presser Foundation Award, for research and intensive Quechua language course, *Centro Bartolomé de Las Casas,* Cusco, Peru.
1997: Graduate Student Association grant for Peru fieldwork, University of Idaho