

Rebecca Bernstein

<https://rebecca-bernstein.com/get-in-touch/>

EDUCATION

- 2025 **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
M.A. Folklore
Relevant Coursework: Archives and records management, public folklore, ethnography, folklore theory, medical anthropology, eco-narratives, Jewish folklore
- 2009 **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
B.A. Dramatic Art
Minors: Folklore, Creative Writing

PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 **“Centering People, Centering Stories: OCD as an Unlikely Ally in the OCD Misdiagnosis Crisis”**
International OCD Foundation
- 2025 **“Between the Cracks, A Thousand Lonely Kingdoms: An Exploration of OCD Personal Narratives”**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2023 **“Who Else Worked This Land? A Research Compendium Investigating Slavery at Blackacre and Within the Tyler Family of Kentucky”**
Filson Historical Society

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2025 **“Between the Cracks, A Thousand Lonely Kingdoms: An Exploration of OCD Personal Narratives”**
Through ethnographic interviews, examines common themes within personal narratives of twenty individuals living with obsessive-compulsive disorder. In reframing these illness narratives through a folkloric lens, explores potential new ways to approach fundamental concepts in folklore such as community, identity, and narrative transfer.
- 2023 **“‘Who Else Worked This Land?’ A Research Compendium Investigating Slavery at Blackacre and Within the Tyler Family of Kentucky”**
Independently researched and distributed report documenting the history of the slave-owning family and enslaved individuals at a local historic homestead in Louisville, Kentucky. 118 pages. Includes a historical overview, enslaver genealogies, biographies of enslaved individuals, 60+ years of tax records and census data, and other relevant documents. Designed to support the work of future researchers.
- 2023 **“Upside Aerial Arts and Fitness”** A
collection of short reports regarding the culture of Upside Aerial Arts, a local aerial arts studio in Burlington, North Carolina. Includes ethnographic interviews, ethno poetic transcriptions autoethnographic elements, and audio/visual components.
- 2023 **“Mikveh Attendants in Literature and Practice”**
Occupational and religious folklore investigation into *mikveh* attendants from *Mayyim Hayyim*, the modern progressive Jewish *mikveh* movement. Using ethnographic interviews with local attendants at *Libi Eir Mikveh* in Raleigh, North Carolina, compares modern interpretations of the work with historical and traditional understandings.

PRESENTATIONS/PODCASTS

- 2025 **“OCD Personal Narratives: A Critical Look Through the Folkloric Lens”**
Stick with the Ick, Online Community
- 2024 **“Medical Folklore”**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2024 **“OCD and The Dark Creativity of Mental Illness”**
American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM
- 2023 **Guest**
Book Business Boss Podcast, BK Royston Publishing LLC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2026 **Museum Educator**
Mordecai Historic Park, Raleigh, NC
- Provide expert hourlong tours for general public, including both adult and child audiences
 - Ensure preservation and protection of historic house/artifacts through appropriate handling and treatment
 - Participate in continual professional education regarding history and artifact management
- 2024-2025 **Maynard Adams Fellow in Public Humanities**
Carolina Public Humanities, Chapel Hill, NC
- Built/implemented logistics plan for inaugural “Legacies of Lynching” conference (250+ attendees)
 - Effectively wrote, distributed, and processed multiple feedback surveys compliant with NC Humanities grant
 - Developed tools for statewide outreach initiatives
 - Served as key coordinating team member with Center for the Study of the American South (CSAS)
- 2023-2025 **Teaching Assistant**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- Supported tenured professors and 170+ undergraduate students in courses on history, the American South, folklore, and food studies
 - Managed course communication and monitored student attendance/participation
 - Evaluated student work and provided individualized academic support/feedback on assignments
 - Delivered lectures and created engaging lesson plans
 - Adhered to FERPA regulations
 - Participated in continual professional development
- 2022-2023 **Historical Interpreter**
Riverside Farnsley-Moremen Landing, Louisville, KY
- Wrote and edited organization documents/copy (volunteer manual, historical house signage, etc.)
 - Led public tours and daily historical/archeological programming for children grades K-8
 - Provided broad support during special community events
- 2020-2022 **Library Communication Specialist**
Unique Management Services, Jeffersonville, IN
- Upheld policies for 45+ library clients including those serving major metropolitan areas (Sacramento, Tucson, Houston, San Diego County)
 - Effectively navigated multiple ILS systems (Polaris, Sierra, Evergreen, Koha, OCLC)

- Successfully contributed to accurate and timely updates of client databases
- Provided informed, world-class customer service via phone (26,000+ calls) and chat (2,100 chats) to library patrons nationwide

2016-2019

Copywriter

Wiley & Sons/The Learning House, Louisville, KY

- Developed 16 full sets of website copy for college and university clients
- Created on-brand marketing copy for 15+ new and established clients (emails, print materials, microsites, infographics, case studies, radio ads, other forms as needed)
- Researched and generated 140+ short and long-form content articles
- Contributed to an 18% increase in student starts for established clients in 2017
- Successfully helped launch international branch of TLH