

## Ryan O'Dell Begley, Ph.D.

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Postdoctoral Scholar

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Lecturer of Anthropology

Applied Social and Cultural Sciences Department

Our Lady of the Lakes University

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## Education

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### Doctor of Philosophy, Anthropology

December 18, 2015, University of Missouri

### Master of Arts, Anthropology

May 17, 2013, University of Missouri

### Bachelor of Arts, English

*Minor, Philosophy*

December 14, 2007, University of Missouri

## Publications (total = 11)

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### *In Preparation/Submitted/In Press*

Lynch, R., Spake, L., Alam, N., Mattison, S. M., Blumenfield Kedar, T., **Begley, R. O.**, Sear, R., Sosis, R., Shaver, J., & Shenk, M. K. Religiosity, social networks, and gender in a rapidly developing economy. (Manuscript submitted for publication).

Nolin, D. A., Ghosh, S. **Begley, R. O.**, Schaffnit, S. B., Sear, R., Alam, N. Rai, R. K., Sosis, R., Shaver, J., & Shenk, M. K. Social support networks and fertility in South Asia: How does allocare shape fertility in the context of high social competition? (Manuscript in preparation).

Lankes, J., Ghosh, S., Schaffnit, S. B., **Begley, R. O.**, Alam, N., Sear, R., Sosis, R., & Shaver, J., & Shenk, M. K. How does religiosity affect fertility? (Manuscript in preparation).

### ***In Peer-Reviewed Journals***

Shenk, M. K., **Begley, R. O.**, Nolin, D., & Swiatek, A. (2019). When does matriline fail? The frequencies and causes of transitions to and from matriline estimated from a de novo coding of a cross-cultural sample. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 374(1780), 20190006. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0006>

Coe, K., & **Begley, R. O.** (2016). Ancestor worship and the longevity of Chinese civilization. *Review of Chinese Religion and Society*, 3(1), 3–24. <https://doi.org/10.1163/22143955-00301001>

Palmer, C. T., **Begley, R. O.**, & Coe, K. (2015). Totemism and long-term evolutionary success. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, 7(4), 286–294. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/rel0000035>

Coe, K., Garcia, J. R., & **Begley, R. O.** (2015). [Peer commentary on “Evolutionary aesthetics, the interrelationship between viewer and artist, and New Zealandism”, by Anthony Lock]. *ASEBL Journal*, 11(2), 41–42.

**Begley, R. O.**, Coe, K., & Palmer, C. T. (2015). From blood feuds to civility: Romeo and Juliet and the changing evolutionary role of cultural traditions. *ASEBL Journal*, 11(1), 2–16.

Palmer, C. T., **Begley, R. O.**, Coe, K., & Steadman, L. B. (2013). Moral elevation and traditions: Ancestral encouragement of altruism through ritual and myth. *Journal of Ritual Studies*, 27(2), 83–96.

Palmer, C. T., **Begley, R. O.**, & Coe, K. (2013). Sainly sacrifice: The traditional transmission of moral elevation. *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 48(1), 107–127. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9744.2012.01317.x>

Palmer, C. T., **Begley, R. O.**, & Coe, K. (2012). In defence of differentiating pilgrimage from tourism. *International Journal of Tourism Anthropology*, 2(1), 71–85. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJTA.2012.046062>

### ***In Edited Volumes***

Palmer, C. T., & **Begley, R. O.** (2015). Costly signaling theory, sexual selection, and the influence of ancestors on religious behaviour. In D. J. Slone & J. A. Van Slyke (eds.), *The attraction of religion: A new evolutionary psychology of religion* (pp. 93–110). London, England and New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781472594617.ch-005>

Palmer, C. T., **Begley, R. O.**, & Coe, K. (2014). In defence of differentiating pilgrimage from tourism. In A. Norman & C. M. Cusack (eds.), *Religion, pilgrimage, and tourism* (vol. 1, pp. 71–87). London, England and New York, NY: Routledge. (Reprinted from *International Journal of Tourism Anthropology*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2012, pp. 71–85)

Palmer, C. T., **Begley, R. O.**, Coe, K., Ellsworth, R. M., & Steadman, L. B. (2012). Do beliefs really have societal effects? Implications for theories of religion. In P. Bellamy & G. Montpetit (Eds.), *Religion: Beliefs, theories and societal effects* (pp. 55–72). Hauppauge, NY: Nova.

### **Unpublished Manuscripts**

**Begley, R. O.** (2015). *The birth and adoption of kinship: Folklore and fakelore in the context of nation-states and world religions* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

### **Videos (total = 08)**

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**Begley, R. O.** (director/producer), Shenk, M. K., Mattison, S. M., & Blumenfield Kedar, T. (producers). (2021, March 27<sup>th</sup>). *Pioneers of newer splendor | Teaser trailer #1* [Video file]. Available from <https://vimeo.com/529703783>

**Begley, R. O.** [Human Relations Area Files]. (2020, June 26<sup>th</sup>). *eHRAF Archaeology tutorial* [Video file]. Available from [https://youtu.be/Vj\\_iEdf5nQI](https://youtu.be/Vj_iEdf5nQI)

**Begley, R. O.** [Human Relations Area Files]. (2020, April 27<sup>th</sup>). *Explaining Human Culture tutorial, part 2* [Video file]. Available from <https://youtu.be/FwoOErW59h0>

**Begley, R. O.** [Human Relations Area Files]. (2020, April 21<sup>st</sup>). *Explaining Human Culture tutorial, part 1* [Video file]. Available from <https://youtu.be/eoWHq7UC7so>

**Begley, R. O.** [Human Relations Area Files]. (2020, January 6<sup>th</sup>). *eHRAF World Cultures tutorial* [Video file]. Available from <https://youtu.be/A1C0e95jYbl>

**Begley, R. O.** (director/producer), Shenk, M. K., Mattison, S. M., & Blumenfield Kedar, T. (producers). (2018, November 4<sup>th</sup>). *The kṛṣaka* [Video file]. Available from <https://vimeo.com/298906113>

**Begley, R. O.** (director/producer), Shenk, M. K., Mattison, S. M., & Blumenfield Kedar, T. (producers). (2018, October 20<sup>th</sup>). *The jēlē* [Video file]. Available from <https://vimeo.com/296208623>

**Begley, R. O.** (director/producer), Shenk, M. K., Mattison, S. M., & Blumenfield Kedar, T. (producers). (2018, July 26<sup>th</sup>). *The mājhi* [Video file]. Available from <https://vimeo.com/281756414>

## ***In Progress***

**Begley, R. O.** (co-investigator), Shenk, M. K., Mattison, S. M., & Blumenfield Kedar, T. (principal investigators). *Local perspectives on economic development in rural Bangladesh: Video interview archives* [Video interview archives for “Collaborative research: A multidimensional investigation of the dynamics of market transition and social change in rural China and Bangladesh.”] ScholarSphere. Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.  
<https://doi.org/10.26207/tsw8-3k63>

## **Grants (total = \$69,381.26)**

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2023. The Center for Humanities and Information at Penn State Digital Humanities Grant in the amount of \$9,623.00 awarded to M. K. Shenk (principal investigator) and **R. O. Begley** (co-investigator) for *Local perspectives on economic development in rural Bangladesh: Video interview archives* [Video interview archives].

2022. The Center for Humanities and Information at Penn State Digital Humanities Grant in the amount of \$9,488.00 awarded to M. K. Shenk (principal investigator) and **R. O. Begley** (co-investigator) for *Local perspectives on economic development in rural Bangladesh: Video interview archives* [Video interview archives].

2021. National Science Foundation Supplemental Funding in the amount of \$16,420 awarded to M. K. Shenk (principal investigator) and **R. O. Begley** (co-investigator) for “Collaborative research: A multidimensional investigation of the dynamics of market transition and social change in rural China and Bangladesh.” (No. BCS-1461514).

2020. Funding from the Department of Anthropology at Penn State in the amount of \$2000 awarded to M. K. Shenk (principal investigator) and **R. O. Begley** (co-investigator) for *Local perspectives on economic development in rural Bangladesh: Video interview archives* [Video interview archives].

2020. Funding from the Department of Asian Studies at Penn State in the amount of \$3000 awarded to M. K. Shenk (principal investigator) and **R. O. Begley** (co-investigator) for *Local perspectives on economic development in rural Bangladesh: Video interview archives* [Video interview archives].

2020. The Center for Humanities and Information at Penn State Digital Humanities Grant in the amount of \$4,959.26 awarded to M. K. Shenk (principal investigator) and **R. O. Begley** (co-investigator) for *Local perspectives on economic development in rural Bangladesh: Video interview archives* [Video interview archives].

2019. National Science Foundation Supplemental Funding in the amount of \$24,341 awarded to M. K. Shenk (principal investigator) and **R. O. Begley** (co-investigator) for “Collaborative

research: A multidimensional investigation of the dynamics of market transition and social change in rural China and Bangladesh.” (No. BCS-1461514).

## **Research Experience**

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### ***Ethnographic Fieldwork***

**Summer 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2022, and Fall 2022** [Matlab, Bangladesh]. Collaborating with Mary K. Shenk and colleagues to record video interviews with villagers in Matlab for a research project investigating economic development and social change in rural Bangladesh.

**November 2008 — January 2009** [Second Life]. Investigated religious practices amongst Second Life “residents” under the supervision of Craig T. Palmer.

### ***Archival/Ethnological Research***

**May 2018 — April 2019** [Standard Cross-Cultural Sample/eHRAF World Cultures (n = 186)]. Collaborated with Mary K. Shenk and colleagues to investigate the causes, correlates, and frequency of transitions to and from matrilineal kinship systems through *de novo* coding of a cross-cultural sample.

**August 2013 — December 2013** [Academic Search Premier]. Collaborated with Mary K. Shenk to review demographic research on Bangladesh and India through *de novo* coding of scholarly articles.

**January 2011 — October 2015** [Probability Sample Files/eHRAF World Cultures (n = 60)]. Collaborated with Craig T. Palmer and Kathryn Coe to investigate cultural persistence and change through *de novo* coding of a cross-cultural sample.

## **Teaching Experience (total = 45 sections)**

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### **Lecturer of Anthropology (Spring 2025 — Present)**

Our Lady of the Lake University  
Applied Social and Cultural Sciences Department  
“Cultural Anthropology”

### **Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of Anthropology (Fall 2024 — Spring 2025)**

The University of Southern Mississippi  
School of Social Science and Global Studies  
“The Human Experience-A Global Perspective on Human Diversity”  
“Introduction to Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology”  
“Genes, Culture, and Identity”

**Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Fall 2023 — Spring 2024)**

Western Kentucky University  
Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology  
“Applied Anthropology”  
“Foodways”  
“Introduction to Cultural Anthropology”

**Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Fall 2021 — Spring 2022)**

Zayed University, Abu Dhabi  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
“Introduction to Culture and Society”  
“Politics of Identity”

**Lecturer (Fall 2019)**

Juniata College  
Department of History and Anthropology  
“Constructing Race and Ethnicity”  
“Cultures of the World”  
“Introduction to Anthropology”

**Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Fall 2017 — Spring 2018)**

Eastern Kentucky University  
Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work  
“Anthropology of Religion”  
“Introduction to Cultural Anthropology”  
“Visual Anthropology”

**Instructor (Fall 2016 — Spring 2017)**

Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Social Sciences  
“Anthropology and Film”  
“Ending Poverty”  
“Humans and Culture”  
“Witchcraft, Magic, Religion”

**Instructor (Spring 2016)**

University of Missouri  
Department of Anthropology  
“Multiculturalism: An Introduction”

**Graduate Instructor (Fall 2010)**

University of Missouri  
Department of English  
“Exposition and Argumentation”

## Other Positions

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### **Postdoctoral Scholar (Fall 2018 — Present)**

Pennsylvania State University  
Shenk Group, Department of Anthropology

### **Education, Media, and Outreach Specialist (Fall 2019 — Spring 2020)**

Yale University  
Human Relations Area Files

## Presentations

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### *Invited Lectures*

**Begley, R. O.** “A history of visual ethnography”. (2018). Presentation at the Workshop on Ethnography in Contemporary Trends: Concerns and Applications, July 23, Comilla University, Comilla, Bangladesh.

### *Sessions Organized*

Betty, G., Coe, K., Čvorović, J., Steadman, L. B., Palmer, C. T. [introduction], & **Begley, R. O.** [organizer]. (2015). “Incorporating traditions and ethnographic evidence into evolutionary explanations of human social behavior, with reference to stories, art and ritual”. Symposium at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, May 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

### *Papers/Presentations*

Shenk, M. K., & **Begley, R. O.** (2013). “Not enough ethnography: The perils of quantitative research with limited cultural context, and some thoughts on what to do about it”. Paper presented at But What if They Exaggerate Their Age? Language, Culture, and Language-Based Knowledge in Large Dataset Collection—A Workshop, December 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, University College London, London, England.

Palmer, C. T., Coe, K., & **Begley, R. O.** (2011). “If we’re wrong, why can’t anyone tell whether or not I believe in god?” Presentation at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association, October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.

### *Posters*

**Begley, R. O.** (2012). "From blood feuds to civility: Romeo and Juliet and the changing evolutionary role of cultural traditions". Poster presented at the Consilience Conference, April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, University of Missouri—St. Louis, Saint Louis, MO.

## **Workshops**

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### ***Professional Development***

"Building Better Bridges: Race and Inclusivity in Online Courses", Eastern Kentucky University, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

"Online Strategies with an Emphasis on Engagement or Tools and Technology", Eastern Kentucky University, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **Service**

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### ***Committees***

Events Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zayed University Abu Dhabi, 2021 — 2022

Awards Committee, Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work, Eastern Kentucky University, 2017 — 2018

Equipment Committee, Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work, Eastern Kentucky University, 2017 — 2018

### ***Activities/Events***

EKU Spotlight Days, Eastern Kentucky University, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

## Professional References

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**Mary K. Shenk, Ph.D.**

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318 Carpenter Building  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802  
[mks74@psu.edu](mailto:mks74@psu.edu)  
814-863-1045 (telephone) | 814-863-1474 (fax)

**Craig T. Palmer, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor (retired), University of Missouri  
Department of Anthropology  
112 Swallow Hall  
Columbia, Missouri 65211  
[palmerct@missouri.edu](mailto:palmerct@missouri.edu)  
478-200-6098 (telephone)

**Jiletta L. Kubena, Ph.D.**

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San Antonio, Texas 78207  
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