

Ryan O'Dell Begley, Ph.D.

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Education, Media, and Outreach Specialist
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Yale University

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Anthropology

December 18th, 2015, University of Missouri

Master of Arts, Anthropology

May 17th, 2013, University of Missouri

Bachelor of Arts, English

Minor, Philosophy

December 14th, 2007, University of Missouri

Academic Positions

Lecturer

Juniata College

Department of History and Anthropology

Fall 2019

Postdoctoral Scholar

Pennsylvania State University

Department of Anthropology

Fall 2018 — Present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Eastern Kentucky University
Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work

Fall 2017 — Spring 2018

Instructor
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Department of Social Sciences

Fall 2016 — Spring 2017

Instructor
University of Missouri
Department of Anthropology

Spring 2016

Other Positions

Education, Media, and Outreach Specialist
Yale University
Human Relations Area Files

Fall 2019 — Present

Professional Publications (total = 11)

In Peer-Reviewed Journals

Shenk, Mary K., **Begley, Ryan O.**, Nolin, David, & Swiatek, Andrew. (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, Kathryn, & **Begley, Ryan 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, Craig T., **Begley, Ryan O.**, & Coe, Kathryn. (2015). Totemism and long-term evolutionary success. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, 7(4), 286–294. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/relo000035>

Coe, Kathryn, Garcia, Justin R., & **Begley, Ryan 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, Ryan O., Coe, Kathryn, & Palmer, Craig 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, Craig T., **Begley, Ryan O.**, Coe, Kathryn, & Steadman, Lyle B. (2013). Moral elevation and traditions: Ancestral encouragement of altruism through ritual and myth. *Journal of Ritual Studies*, 27(2), 83–96.

Palmer, Craig T., **Begley, Ryan O.**, & Coe, Kathryn. (2013). Sainthood 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, Craig T., **Begley, Ryan O.**, & Coe, Kathryn. (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, Craig T., & **Begley, Ryan O.** (2015). Costly signaling theory, sexual selection, and the influence of ancestors on religious behaviour. In D. Jason Slone & James 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, Craig T., **Begley, Ryan O.**, & Coe, Kathryn. (2014). In defence of differentiating pilgrimage from tourism. In Alex Norman & Carole 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, Craig T., **Begley, Ryan O.**, Coe, Kathryn, Ellsworth, Ryan M., & Steadman, Lyle B. (2012). Do beliefs really have societal effects? Implications for theories of religion. In Pierre Bellamy & Guarin Montpetit (Eds.), *Religion: Beliefs, theories and societal effects* (pp. 55–72). Hauppauge, NY: Nova.

Dissertation

Begley, Ryan 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.

Filmography (total = 4)

Motion Pictures

Begley, Ryan O. (Director/Producer), Shenk, Mary K., Mattison, Siobhan, & Blumenfield Kedar, Tami (Producers). *Economic and social change in rural Bangladesh* [working title]. Film in production.

Videos

Begley, Ryan O. (Director/Producer), Shenk, Mary K., Mattison, Siobhan, & Blumenfield Kedar, Tami (Producers). (2018, November 4th). *The kr̥ṣaka* [Video file]. Available from www.ethnographicfilmproject.com

Begley, Ryan O. (Director/Producer), Shenk, Mary K., Mattison, Siobhan, & Blumenfield Kedar, Tami (Producers). (2018, October 20th). *The jēlē* [Video file]. Available from www.ethnographicfilmproject.com

Begley, Ryan O. (Director/Producer), Shenk, Mary K., Mattison, Siobhan, & Blumenfield Kedar, Tami (Producers). (2018, July 26th). *The mājhi* [Video file]. Available from www.ethnographicfilmproject.com

Other

Begley, Ryan O. (Director/Producer), Shenk, Mary K., Mattison, Siobhan, & Blumenfield Kedar, Tami (Producers). (2020). [Collection of video interviews conducted for *Economic and social change in rural Bangladesh* (Motion picture)]. Penn State University Libraries, University Park, PA and Ethnographic Film Project, Saint Louis, MO.

Grants

2019. National Science Foundation Supplemental Funding in the amount of \$24,341 awarded to **Ryan O. Begley** and Mary K. Shenk for “Collaborative research: A multidimensional investigation of the dynamics of market transition and social change in rural China and Bangladesh.” (No. BCS-1461522).

Research Experience

Ethnographic Fieldwork

July 2018 — August 2018 and March 2019 — May 2019 [Matlab, Bangladesh].

Collaboration with Mary K. Shenk and colleagues to conduct the video component of a research project investigating the micro-foundations of inequality amongst the villagers of Matlab, 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

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” [four sections]

“Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” (online) [two sections]

“Visual Anthropology”

Instructor**Fall 2016 — Spring 2017**

Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Department of Social Sciences
“Anthropology and Film”
“Ending Poverty”
“Humans and Culture” [three sections]
“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” [two sections]

Presentations

Invited Lectures

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

Sessions Organized

Betty, Gerald, Coe, Kathryn, Čvorović, Jelena, Steadman, Lyle B., Palmer, Craig T. [Introduction], & **Begley, Ryan 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 27th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, May 27th – 30th, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

Papers/Presentations

Shenk, Mary K., & **Begley, Ryan 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 5th – 7th, University College London, London, England.

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

Posters

Begley, Ryan 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 26th – 28th, University of Missouri—St. Louis, Saint Louis, MO.

Workshops

Professional Development

“Building Better Bridges: Race and Inclusivity in Online Courses”, Eastern Kentucky University, September 19th, 2017

“Online Strategies with an Emphasis on Engagement or Tools and Technology”, Eastern Kentucky University, September 13th, 2017

Service

Committees

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 3rd, 2018

Professional References

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Kathryn Coe, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita, Indiana University—Purdue University, Indianapolis
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Craig T. Palmer, Ph.D.

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