***Erin Mellett***

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

The University of Memphis

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**Academic Appointments**

2023 **Assistant Professor of Anthropology,** University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

**Education**

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| 2023 | **Ph.D., Anthropology**  Brown University, Providence RI  Committee members: Paja Faudree, Jessaca Leinaweaver, Katherine Mason, Michele Friedner  Additional training: Predoctoral traineeship at Population Studies Training Center supported in part by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development |
| 2018 | **M.A., Anthropology**  Brown University, Providence RI |
| 2016 | **M.S., Medical Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Practice**  Boston University School of Medicine, Boston MA |
| 2013 | **B.A., Anthropology (Minor in Communications)**  Elon University, Elon NC |

**Scholarship**

**Publications**

2023 “Deaf Immigrants in the Northeast United States: Intelligibility and the Interpersonal.” Accepted by *Diffractions* for publication in Issue 7 on Deaf Culture.

**Invited Talks and Conference Papers**

2022 “Audible Citizenship: Deaf Immigrants, Language, and Belonging.” At session *Unsettling Community, Boundaries, and Belonging.* American Anthropological

Association Annual Meeting, November 11. Seattle, Washington.

2022 “Deaf People Have No Country: Language & Deaf Immigrant Belonging.” At session *Encounters Across Difference.* Anthropology Fall Symposium, Brown University. September 16. Providence, Rhode Island.

2020 “Children of Deaf Adults as Third Culture Kids.” Families In Global Transition Research Network, July 24. Recorded live and shared via [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYbWKB8B65c).

2019 “Intersections of Deafness and Immigration: Sign Language Interpreting and Language Rights in Healthcare.” At session *Inter-generational Conversations at the Intersection of Linguistic and Medical Anthropology.* American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 22. Vancouver, Canada.

2018 “Deafness and the Language Gap.” At session *Language Learning/Language and Learning.* American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14. San Jose, CA.

2018 “Deaf Asylum Seekers in the U.S.” At session *Deaf Citizenship and Representation.* Chicago Disability Studies Conference, April 21. University of Chicago, IL.

2017 “The Sound of Silence in America: Deaf Immigrants and the Politics of Othering.” At session *Migration, Transnationality, and the Social Determinants of Health.* American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, December 1. Washington, DC.

2016 “Cochlear Implants and Codas: The Impact of a Technology on a Community.” Poster. At session *Society for Medical Anthropology Poster Session.* American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 18. Minneapolis, MN.

2013 “Welcome to Our Land: The Occaneechi Yesterday and Today.” Exhibit Opening, Mebane Historical Museum, May 9. Mebane, NC.

2013 “Tourism as a Force for Cultural Revitalization: a case study of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.” Spring Undergraduate Research Forum, April 23. Elon University.

2010 “Findings from Oral History Analysis.” Mebane Historical Society Monthly Meeting, Mebane Historical Museum, November 15. Mebane, NC.

**Teaching Experience and Training**

**Primary Instructor**

*Anthropology of Global Health,* University of Memphis, Fall 2023

*Leadership, Power, and the Politics of Language,* Brown University Leadership Institute, Summer 2023.

*Sound and Symbols: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*, Brown University, Spring 2023

*American Sign Language Levels 1, 2 & 3,* ASL Academy (Providence, RI), April 2019 – present

**Pedagogical Training**

Reflective Teaching Seminar, Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University. 2021.

Course Design Seminar, Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University. 2022.

**Teaching Assistantships**

*Global Health: Anthropological Perspectives* (teaching assistant to course offered by Daniel Smith), Fall 2022.

*Sound and Symbols: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology* (teaching assistant to course offered by Paja Faudree), Spring 2022.

*Reproductive Justice* (teaching assistant to course offered by Sarah Williams), Fall 2021

*Anthropology of Mental Health* (teaching assistant to course offered by Katherine Mason), Spring 2021

*Disability and Culture in the Past and Present* (teaching assistant to course offered by Aviva Cormier), Fall 2020

*Ethnographic Research Methods* (teaching assistant to course offered by Jessaca Leinaweaver), IE Brown Executive MBA program, Fall 2020 & Fall 2021

*Babel’s Basement: An Introduction to Linguistic Discrimination (and Redemption)* (teaching assistant to course offered by Paja Faudree), Spring 2018

*Anthropology and Global Social Problems* (teaching assistant to course offered by Sarah Besky), Fall 2017

**Guest Lectures**

2022 “Deaf Immigrants: Language, Identity, and Belonging.” In undergraduate course on *Culture and Health* (taught by Katherine Mason), Brown University, March 14.

2021 “Deafness, Technology, and Medicalization.” In undergraduate course on *Culture and Health* (taught by Whitney Arey and Parsa Bastani), Brown University, June 21.

2020 “Disability as Culture.” In undergraduate course on *Disability in the Past and Present* (taught by Aviva Cormier), Brown University, October 8.

2020 “Fieldnotes.” In executive master’s course on *Ethnographic Research Methods* (taught by Jessaca Leinaweaver), IE Brown Executive MBA Program, September 21.

2020 “Sign Language and Linguistic Anthropology.” In undergraduate course on *Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology* (taught by Michael Berman), Brown University, March 11.

2018 “Deaf Languages, Communities, and Activism.” In undergraduate course on *Linguistic Discrimination* (taught by Paja Faudree), April 3.

**Grants, Awards, Fellowships**

2022-23 Manning Graduate Fellowship III, Brown University Graduate School

2022-23 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Nominee, Brown University

2018-19 Brown University Population Studies Training Center NICHD T32 Fellowship

2017 Brown Anthropology Department Summer Research Award, Brown University (declined)

2017 Mellon Summer Award for Anthropological Demography, Brown University Population Studies and Training Center (declined)

2017 Joukowsky Summer Research Award, Brown University Graduate School

2016-22 Conference Travel Award, Brown University Graduate School

2014-16 Provost Scholarship, Boston University School of Medicine

2013 Outstanding Senior Anthropology Student, Elon University

2013 North Carolina Humanities Council Grant for project “Creating a Permanent Museum Exhibit for the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.” With Dr. Tom Mould and Dr. Ethan Moore.

**Research and Fieldwork Experience**

**Language, Identity, and Belonging: An Ethnography of Deaf Immigrants in the Northeast United States (2017-present)**

Dissertation research on the experiences of deaf immigrants in the Rhode Island/New England area with a particular focus on issues of language, identity, and belonging. 2 years of ethnographic fieldwork in the deaf community and through a position in the Deaf Services department at an independent living center.

**Cochlear Implants and Codas: The Impact of a Technology on a Community (2014-16)**

Master’s thesis research on hearing children of deaf adults (“codas”) and their relationships to the deaf community and to cochlear implant technology, with a particular focus on how cochlear implants have pushed a refinement of identities associated with the deaf community. 10 months of ethnographic fieldwork at a school for the deaf and with codas.

**Cultural Tourism as a Force for Revitalization: a case study for the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation (2011-13)**

Bachelor’s thesis research conducted as a member of the Elon College Fellows, mentored by Dr. Tom Mould, exploring how and to what effect a local American Indian tribe utilizes tourism. Two years of ethnographic fieldwork at Tribal Council meetings, Powwow Committee Meetings, and other tribal events as well as 8 semi-structured interviews with tribal members. Subsequently used a grant to curate, design, and install an exhibit about the Occaneechi at the Mebane Historical Museum to support the tribe in their tourism and public programming efforts.

**Life in Mebane, NC (2010)**

Undergraduate research project using Atlas.ti data analysis software to code previously transcribed oral history interviews with some of Mebane’s oldest living residents to identify emergent themes about life in Mebane. The results of the analysis were used in the creation of an exhibit about play at the Mebane Historical Museum.

**Service**

**University Service**

2022 Postdoctoral search committee representative (graduate student), Anthropology Department & Cogut Institute, Brown University.

2022 Disability Studies Working Group, Brown University

2019 Methods workshop organizer, Anthropology Department, Brown

University

2017-2018 Colloquium co-organizer, Anthropology Department, Brown University

2017-present Brown Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Brown University

2017-present Migration Studies Working Group, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University

2013 Member of Elon University’s first Lambda Alpha chapter

**Community Service**

2020–2021 Assistant to Deaf Services Coordinator, Ocean State Center for Independent Living, Pawtucket, RI.

2014-2015 Intern, The Learning Center for the Deaf, Framingham, MA

**Professional Affiliations**

American Anthropological Association

Disability Research Interest Group

Society for Medical Anthropology

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

**Languages**

English (native)

American Sign Language (proficient)

Spanish (basic)