

# Theresa L. Miller

## Curriculum Vitae

millerth@si.edu

Department of Anthropology  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution  
10<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20560  
202-633-5039

1331 Newton St. NE  
Apt. 2  
Washington, DC 20017  
301-706-0656

### EDUCATION

#### 2015 DPhil in Anthropology

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology  
University of Oxford  
Dissertation Title: Bio-Sociocultural Aesthetics: Indigenous Ramkokamekra-Canela Gardening Practices and Varietal Diversity in Maranhão, Brazil

#### 2010 MPhil in Social Anthropology with Distinction

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology  
University of Oxford  
Thesis Title: The Aesthetics of Environment: An Exploration of Indigenous Maize Cultivation and Biocultural Diversity in Central Brazil

#### 2007 BA in International Studies and Spanish Studies with Honors and *summa cum laude*

School of International Service  
American University, Washington, DC

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

#### 2015-2017 Peter Buck Postdoctoral Fellow

Department of Anthropology  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, DC

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

Forthcoming Miller, T. *Caring for Our Plant Children: Sensory Ethnobotany in the Brazilian Cerrado*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

#### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2016 Miller, T. Living Lists: How the Indigenous Canela Come to Know Plants Through Ethnobotanical Classification. *Journal of Ethnobiology* 36(1):105-124.
- 2016 Daly, L., K. French, T. Miller, L. Nic Eoin. Introduction: Integrating Ontology into Ethnobotanical Research. *Journal of Ethnobiology* 36(1):1-9.
- 2015 Miller, T. Valuing Varietal Diversity: Indigenous Canela Horticulture in Northeast Brazil.

*Society, Biology and Human Affairs* 78(1-2):62-82.

- 2012 Miller, T. Growing Gardens: Towards a Theory of Ecological Aesthetic Performances in Indigenous Amazonia. *Enfoques, Revista dos Alunos do PPGSA-Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro* 12(1):92-113.

### Edited Volume

- 2016 Miller, T., L. Nic Eoin, K. French, and L. Daly (eds.). Special Section: Botanical Ontologies. *Journal of Ethnobiology* 36(1):1-149.

### Book Reviews

- 2014 Miller, T. Book review of *Seeds of Resistance, Seeds of Hope: Place and Agency in the Conservation of Biodiversity*, edited by Virginia D. Nazarea, Robert E. Rhodes, and Jenna E. Andrews-Swann. *CAFÉ: Culture, Agriculture, Food & Environment* 36(1):56-58.
- 2013 Miller, T. Book review of *Islands in the Rainforest: Landscape Management in Pre-Columbian Amazonia* by Stéphen Rostain. *Archaeological Review from Cambridge* 28(2):234-239.

### Web-Based Publications

- 2012 Miller, T. Ecological Ethics within the Ramkokamekra-Canela Indigenous Community of Northeast Brazil. *UNESCO Ethics and Climate Change Project, Working Group 2: Ethical World Views of Nature, Latin America Section*. URL: <http://www.unescobkk.org/rushsap/ethics-and-climate-change/energyethics/eetwg2/>.
- 2011 Miller, T. Maize as Material Culture?: Amazonian Theories of Persons and Things. *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford-online (JASO)* 3(1-2):67-89. URL: <http://www.isca.ox.ac.uk/publications/jaso/previous-issues/jasoonline-2011/>.

### Manuscripts in Submission

- 2017 De St. Maurice, G. and T. Miller (eds.). Special Issue: Less Palatable, Still Valuable: Taste, Agrobiodiversity, and Culinary Heritage. *Food, Culture and Society*.
- 2017 Miller, T. Valuing the Bad and the Ugly: “Tasting” Agrobiodiversity among the Indigenous Canela. Special Issue: Less Palatable, Still Valuable: Taste, Agrobiodiversity, and Culinary Heritage. *Food, Culture and Society*.
- 2017 Miller, T. From the Garden to the Greenhouse to the Lab: Becoming with and Caring for Plants. Special Issue: Vegetal Ontologies. *Semiotic Review*.

### Manuscripts in Preparation

- Miller, T. “Garden Work No Longer Matters, For the World is Ending:” A Political Ecology of Canela Messianic Movements. Journal article for submission to *Environment and Society*.
- Miller, T. Becoming Canela Gardeners: Indigenous Identity and Resilience. Journal article for submission to *American Ethnologist*.
- Miller, T. Transgendered Manioc: Blurred Gender and Sexuality Among Canela People and Plants. Journal article for submission to *Cultural Anthropology*.
- Miller, T. and A. Egan. Researching Biocultural Diversity: New Interdisciplinary Methods. Journal article for submission to *Ethnobiology Letters*.

Miller, T. and A. Egan. Ethnographic Biology: Bridging the Gap between Field Biology and Ethnography. Journal article for submission to *Human Ecology*.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2016 Small Grant Award for project: “Human Ecology and Genetic Diversity in the Brazilian Cerrado: Use and Management of Cultivated and Wild Legumes (from the genus *Phaseolus*),” PI Ashley N. Egan and Co-PI Theresa L. Miller, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
- 2015 Student Travel Award, 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers
- 2013 First Place, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography Fieldwork Photography Competition, University of Oxford
- 2010-2013 Rausing Scholarship for doctoral studies, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and Linacre College, University of Oxford
- 2012-2013 Jacobs Research Funds Individual Research Grant for doctoral fieldwork, University of Washington Whatcom Museum
- 2012-2013 Small Research Grant for doctoral fieldwork, Biosocial Society
- 2011 Jacobs Research Funds Individual Research Grant for pilot study, University of Washington Whatcom Museum
- 2011 Santander Academic Travel Award, University of Oxford

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

### **Conferences Organized**

- 2014 Botanical Ontologies: A Cross-Disciplinary Forum on Human-Plant Relationships Postgraduate Conference, University of Oxford, May 16-17

### **Panels Organized**

- 2016 Becoming Like a Plant?: New Methodologies in Studying Plant-People Relationships. Executive Session. 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 16-20
- 2016 Exploring Human-Plant Relationships in Native Amazonia. Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA) Sesquennial Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 7-10
- 2014 Less Palatable, Still Valuable: Taste, Agrobiodiversity and Culinary Heritage. 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 3-7

### **Papers Presented**

- 2016 The Bio-Sociocultural Lives of Seeds: Towards a Sensory Ethnobotany Approach. 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 16-20
- 2016 Gardening as Resistance: Indigenous Land Rights and Territorial Boundaries in Northeast Brazil. George Washington University Anthropology Symposium, Washington, DC, April 15
- 2016 Lowland South American Beans in Past and Present: Indigenous Cultivation and Management of Domesticated and Wild Botanical Resources. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, March 29-April 2
- 2016 The Education of Affection: Multispecies Learning-to-Care in Indigenous Canela

- Gardens. Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA) Sesquiannual Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 7-10
- 2015 Soil *Companheiros* and Garden Couples: An Indigenous Perspective on Landscape Management in the Brazilian Cerrado. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG), Fortaleza, Brazil, May 26-30
- 2015 Growing Crops, Cultivating Sustainability: Indigenous Biodiversity Conservation in Northeast Brazil. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, March 24-28
- 2014 The Bad and the Ugly: Less Delicious Yams and Varietal Diversity in the Canela Indigenous Society. 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 3-7
- 2014 Living Lists: Exploring the Materiality of Ethnobotanical Knowledge in Indigenous Communities. Botanical Ontologies: A Cross-Disciplinary Forum on Human-Plant Relationships Postgraduate Conference, University of Oxford, May 16-17
- 2013 Hunger, Gender, and Social Assistance Programs in the Canela Indigenous Society of Northeast Brazil. Latin American Studies Association XXXI International Congress, Washington, DC, May 30-June 1
- 2013 Varietal Diversity and Shamanic Experience: Canela Encounters with Cultivated Plants. Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA) Sesquiannual Conference, Nashville, TN, March 7-10

### **Departmental Talks**

- 2016 Mythical Histories and Historical Myths: Canela Messianic Movements, 1963-Present. Center for Research and Collaboration in the Indigenous Americas (CRACIA), University of Maryland, College Park, MD, April 29
- 2015 People-Plant Engagements: Exploring Past and Present Indigenous Crop Cultivation in the Brazilian Cerrado. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, October 20
- 2015 Good, Bad, and Regular Crops: Value and Meaning in Indigenous Canela Plant Cultivation. Amazonianist Workshop, University of Oxford, March 19

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Montgomery College, Rockville MD**

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Lecturer in Anthropology

Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology (Spring 2015 and Fall 2013)

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Editorial Board Member    | Journal of Ethnobiology, January 2016-December 2017  |
| Board Member (Non-voting) | Anthropology & Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), January 2016-December 2017 |
| Research Associate        | Center for Research and Collaboration in the Indigenous Americas (CRACIA), University of Maryland                |
| Contributing Editor       | Anthropology News, Anthropology & Environment Section of the AAA, January 2016-December 2017                     |
| Co-editor                 | Engagement Blog, Anthropology & Environment Section of the AAA, April 2015-April 2017                            |

Assistant Editor                      Tipiti: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA), March 2011-March 2013  
External Reviewer                      Cultural Anthropology Program, National Science Foundation (NSF), 2016  
Referee                                      Journal of Ethnobiology, January 2016 and May 2015  
Referee                                      Latin American Research Review, April 2015 and October 2013

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

GIS Course Certification              Introduction to ArcGIS Course, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, March 2016  
Laboratory Experience                Plant DNA Extraction, Laboratory of Analytical Biology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, August 2016

## **LANGUAGES**

**Portuguese:** excellent in reading, writing, and speaking  
**Spanish:** excellent in reading and writing, and speaking  
**Canela:** intermediate in reading, writing, and speaking

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Anthropological Association (AAA)  
AAA Culture & Agriculture and Anthropology & Environment Sections  
Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)  
Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA)

## **REFERENCES**

### **Laura Rival**

Associate Professor in Anthropology and Development  
Fellow of Linacre College  
Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology  
University of Oxford  
51/53 Banbury Rd.  
Oxford, UK OX2 6PE  
+44 (0) 1865 281834  
laura.rival@anthro.ox.ac.uk

### **Joshua A. Bell**

Curator of Globalization  
Department of Anthropology  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution  
10<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20560  
(202) 633-1935  
bellja@si.edu

### **William Balée**

Professor of Anthropology  
Roger Thayer Stone Center  
for Latin American Studies  
Tulane University  
100 Jones Hall  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
(504) 865-5164  
wbalee@tulane.edu