

Current Appointments

Feb. 2022-Present Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies, Center for Cross Cultural Studies, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Education

2021 Ph.D. Cultural Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Dissertation Title: “Northern Dene astronomical and sky-related knowledge: a comparative anthropological study”

2014 M.A. Northern Studies, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Thesis Title: “Alaska Athabascan stellar astronomy”

2007 B.S. Wildlife Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Research Foci

Northern Dene language and culture:

Astronomical and sky-related knowledge within and across languages, with related research on cosmology, worldview, spirituality, personhood, embodiment, relationality, wayfinding and spatial orientation, human-animal relationships, sacred geography, wellness, and language documentation.

Publications

a. Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Cannon, Chris M., Paul Herbert., and Fred Sangris. (in press). Yellowknives Dene and Gwich'in stellar wayfinding in large-scale Subarctic landscapes. *Arctic*.

Cannon, Chris M., Wilson Justin, Paul Herbert, Charles Hubbard, and Charlie Neyelle. 2020. Northern Dene constellations as worldview projections with case studies from the Ahtna, Gwich'in, and Sahtúot'inę. *Arctic Anthropology* 56(2).1-26.

Cannon, Chris M. and Gary Holton. 2014. A newly documented whole-sky circumpolar constellation in Alaskan Gwich'in. *Arctic Anthropology* 51(2).1-8.

b. Book Sections

Cannon, Chris M. (in press). “The Lower Tanana constellation, *Nogheyoli*.” Appendix H1-1 in *Lower Tanana Dene Dictionary*. Compiled and edited by James Kari. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.

c. Community Outreach and Teaching Publications

Cannon, Chris M., Paul Herbert, and Mareca Guthrie. 2020. *Dinjii Zhuh K'yàa Yahdii/Yahdii* in the Native tradition: a Gwich'in (Dene) star chart. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.

Research Appearing in Museums and Popular Culture

- 2021 Molly of Denali, "Mystery in the Night Sky." Internationally distributed animated children's television series produced by WGBH for PBS Kids and CBC Television. Consultant.
- 2021 "One Sky Many Worlds: Indigenous Voices in Astronomy." An international traveling exhibit and symposium. Ingenium, Canada's Museum of Science and Technology. Ottawa, Ont. Consultant. (Project cancelled prior to installation)
- 2020 Sahtúot'ı̄ne constellation exhibit panel and text. Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre. Yellowknife, N.W.T. Consultant.
- 2019 Molly of Denali, "Hot Springs Eternal." Season 1, episode 7. Internationally distributed animated children's television series produced by WGBH for PBS Kids and CBC Television. Consultant.

Fellowships and Awards

- 2017 Research fellowship. Aurora Research Institute, N.W.T.
- 2016 James Vanstone Graduate Scholarship. Alaska Anthropological Association
- 2015 Kleinfeld Prize. Outstanding graduate student award in Northern Studies. University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Research Grants

- 2020 Supplement: DDRIG: Northern Dene astronomy. NSF-OPP 1753650 (\$8,357), co-PI
- 2017 DDRIG: Northern Dene astronomy. NSF-OPP 1753650 (\$37,829), co-PI
- 2017 Research Support Grant: Northern Dene astronomical and sky-related knowledge. Tanana Chiefs Conference (\$2,450.60)
- 2016 Documenting Northern Dene astronomy. Arctic Institute of North America Grant-in-Aide Program (\$1,000)
- 2013 Documenting Alaska's Indigenous Astronomy. Arctic Institute of North America Grant-in-Aide Program (\$1,000)

Invited Talks

- Cannon, Chris M. 2022. "Gwich'in stellar knowledge." Interview/presentation for the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Inuvik, N.W.T. Recorded over Zoom. April 5
- Cannon, Chris M. 2021. "Northern Dene astronomical and sky-related knowledge." Presentation for the Sahtu Renewable Resource Board at their Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ıłı Forum Meeting. Tulita, Délıne, and Norman Wells, N.W.T. Zoom presentation. November 5
- Cannon, Chris M. 2021. "Northern Dene foundation stories and the role of the ancient Dene Traveler figure and his journey toward knowing." Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government. Dawson, Y.T. Zoom presentation. November 4
- Cannon, Chris M. 2021. "Northern Dene astronomy: Community relationships, approach, and following local epistemologies for investigation." Native Skywatchers, Educator and Community Summer 2021 Workshop: Indigenous STEM and Wellness (webinar). June 14-15
- Cannon, Chris M. 2021. "The Dene Traveler Constellation and Wayfinding." In Context: Series Talks. Anchorage Museum (webinar). April 22
- Cannon, Chris M. 2020. Northern Dene astronomy. Winter solstice Indigenous Star Knowledge Symposia hosted by Ingenium: Canada's Museum of Science and Technology and the Institute of Indigenous Research Studies, University of Ottawa (webinar). December 21
- Cannon, Chris M. 2020. Northern Dene astronomy." Research presentation for guests and staff at Borealis Basecamp. Fairbanks AK. October 10
- Cannon, Chris. M. and Fred Sangris. 2020. "Northern Dene astronomy." Research presentations and outdoor star viewing session given at the Second Annual NAKA Festival hosted by the Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre and the Municipality of Yellowknife. Yellowknife and Dettah, N.W.T. March 6 and 7
- Cannon, Chris M. 2019. "Northern Dene astronomy." Research presentation given during the Doyon Languages Gathering: *Naga' khwdokhwdeje'ikh* ('I am learning our language') at the Huffman Manor. Fairbanks AK. October 26
- Cannon, Chris M. 2019. "Northern Dene astronomical and sky-related knowledge." A public presentation hosted by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and the Kenai Peninsula College. Kenai AK. September 26

Conference Panels Organized and/or Moderated

- 2020 General session on Alaskan anthropology and ethnography. 47th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. Fairbanks AK, February 27.
Moderator

- 2017 Panel on environmental cognition. 44th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. Fairbanks AK, February 28. Organizer and moderator

Conference Presentations

- Cannon, Chris M. 2020. Northern Dene constellations as worldview projections. 47th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. Fairbanks AK, February 27
- Cannon, Chris M. 2017. Stellar orientation and wayfinding methods in Alaskan Gwich'in and Yellowknives Dene. 44th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. Fairbanks AK, February 28
- Cannon, Chris M. 2017. Ethnoastronomy. 44th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. Fairbanks AK, February 28
- Cannon, Chris M. 2015. Northern Dene stellar astronomy. Hawaiian, Oceanic, and Global Cultural Astronomy Conference. Hilo HI, August 15-21
- Cannon, Chris M. 2013. Under the snowshoe trail: documenting Alaska's indigenous astronomy. Third International Conference on Language Documentation and Revitalization. University of Hawaii at Manoa. Honolulu HI, February 28–March 3

Community Presentations

- Cannon, Chris M. 2021. Gwich'in astronomical and sky-related knowledge. Public presentation given at the tribal hall in Fort Yukon AK, August 16
- Cannon, Chris. 2019. Northern Dene astronomical knowledge. Presentations given to students at the local school in Délı̨ne, N.W.T., November 8
- Cannon, Chris M. 2019. Northern Dene astronomical and sky-related knowledge. Barnett Elementary School science classes, grades 4-6. Fairbanks AK, February 13
- Cannon, Chris M. 2018. Northern Dene astronomical knowledge. Public presentation given at the community hall in Délı̨ne, N.W.T., October 18
- Cannon, Chris M. 2018. Gwich'in astronomical knowledge. Public presentation given at the community hall and at the local school in Venetie, AK, April 22 and 23
- Cannon, Chris M. 2017. Northern Dene astronomical and sky-related knowledge. Public presentation given at the Tanana Chiefs Conference Education Summit at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. August 11
- Cannon, Chris M. 2017. Northern Dene astronomical and sky-related knowledge. Public presentation and outdoor star walk given as part of the University of Alaska Centennial Events Program. University of Alaska Fairbanks and Tanana River, March 6

Community-led Research and Collaboration

- 2020 *Yámoréya* in the sky: A Sahtúot'ı̨ne healing and wellness workshop funded and organized by the Délı̨ne Got'ı̨ne Government. Délı̨ne N.W.T., March 8-11
- 2019 Dena'ina language and astronomical knowledge workshop funded and organized by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Kenai AK, September 23-27

2018 Dëne Sułné traditional astronomical knowledge workshop funded and organized by the Smith's Landing First Nation. Fort Smith N.W.T., May 7-12

Fieldwork: Northern Dene Languages and Cultures

2019 Dena'ina (Kenai, AK)
2018, 2021 Hän (Fairbanks, AK, Dawson, Y.T.)
2018-2020 Sahtúot'ıne (Délıne, N.W.T.)
2018-2020 Yellowknives Dene (Ndılo, Dettah, and Yellowknife, N.W.T.)
2017-2018 Koyukon (Fairbanks, AK)
2016-2019 Lower Tanana (Fairbanks and Minto, AK)
2015-2018 Dëne Sułné (Fort Smith and Yellowknife, N.W.T.)
2014-2021 Tanacross (Tok, Tanacross, and Fairbanks, AK)
2013-2020 Ahtna (Gulkana, Tazlina, Copper Center, Chistochina, and Cantwell, AK)
2013-2018; 2022 Upper Tanana (Tetlin, Northway, Tok AK)
2013 Upper Kuskokwim (Nikolai, AK)
2009–2022 Gwich'in (Old Crow, Y.T., Arctic Village, Fort Yukon, Chalkyistik, and Venetie, AK)

Teaching

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

CCS/Ed 604: Documenting Indigenous Knowledge (with Theresa John), Fall 2022
CCS/Ed 610: Education and Cultural Processes (with Sean Asikłuk Topkok), Fall 2022
CCS/NRM 656: Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Wellbeing (with Michael Koskey),
Fall 2022

University Guest Lectures

2022 ACNS685: Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Seminar. University of Alaska, Fairbanks.
February 15
2021 AKNSA102H: Elementary Ahtna Language. University of Alaska, Anchorage.
February 19
2021 ANTH652: Research Design and Professional Development Seminar. University
of Alaska, Fairbanks. January 26
2019 ANTH609: Anthropology of Religion. University of Alaska, Fairbanks. October
29
2019 ANTH202: Cultural Anthropology. Kenai Peninsula College. September 25
2019 AKNS A101F: Elementary Dena'ina Language 1. Kenai Peninsula College.
September 24
2019 ANL495/695: Dene Lexicography. University of Alaska Fairbanks. May 15

- 2018 ANTH215: Fundamentals of Social/Cultural Anthropology. University of Alaska, Fairbanks. April 12
- 2018 ACNS681: Polar Exploration and its Literature. University of Alaska, Fairbanks. February 28
- 2017 Ed 593: Introduction to Athabascan Languages and Cultures. Tanana Chiefs Conference Teacher Training. University of Alaska, Fairbanks. August 9

Service Activities

University Service

- 2022-Present Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC) Editorial Board member
- 2022-Present GARF Review

Professional Service

- 2018 Peer reviewer for the Journal of Australian Anthropology

Media Coverage

- UpHere magazine article, “Seeking true knowledge in the stars” by Jacob Boon. September/October 2020 issue. <https://www.uphere.ca/articles/seeking-true-knowledge-stars>
- Article in Witness the Arctic, “Comparative study explores Northern Dene astronomical knowledge” edited by Betsy Turner-Bogren, Arctic Research Consortium of the United States. April 29, 2019. <https://www.arcus.org/witness-the-arctic/2019/4/highlight/1>
- Appearance on Kenai Public Radio, KDLL 91.9 FM in Kenai Alaska. September 24, 2019
- Appearance on First Nations Community Radio, VF2069 101.9 FM in Déłıne N.W.T. October 18, 2018
- Featured in CBC North article, “Alaskan researcher documents 100 Northern Dene star names” by Kate Kyle. January 10, 2016. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/northern-dene-astronomy-research-1.3393944>
- Appearance on First Nations Community Radio, CKLB 101.9 FM in Yellowknife N.W.T. and CHON 98.1 FM in Whitehorse YT. January 14, 2016
- Appearance on CBC Radio One, CFWH 94.5 FM in Whitehorse Y.T. January 11, 2016
- Appearance on CBC Radio One, CFYK 98.9 FM in Yellowknife N.W.T. January 8, 2016
- Television appearance on CBC Northbeat with host, Randy Henderson. January 7, 2016. <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2681548694>
- Appearance on CBC Radio One, CFYK 98.9 FM in Yellowknife N.W.T. January 7, 2016

Languages

- English (Native), Gwich'in (intermediate reading and writing, elementary speaking)

Professional Organization Membership

Alaska Anthropological Association
Arctic Institute of North America

Other Related Experience

Oct. 2015-Feb. 2016	Research assistant on project, “Lower Tanana Ethnogeographic Reconstruction.” Colorado State University
Jan. 2013-Aug. 2013	Research assistantship at the Alaska Native Language Archive. University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Sept. 2009-Dec. 2012	Education Outreach Specialist. University of Alaska Museum of the North. Fairbanks, AK
Jan. 2008- May 2009	Special Projects Coordinator. Gwich’in Steering Committee. Fairbanks, AK