

Holly Wissler, Ph.D.

Ethnomusicologist | Assistant Professor of Instruction, Texas State University

San Marcos, Texas and Cusco, Peru

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Profile

Holly Wissler is an ethnomusicologist whose work centers on Indigenous musical traditions of the Andes and Amazon, with additional expertise in applied ethnomusicology, Indigenous theory, music and tourism, and intercultural pedagogy. Her teaching and scholarship emphasize experiential learning, community collaboration, ethical engagement with culture bearers and Western Art Music tradition (musicology and flute performance). She has conducted long-term fieldwork in Peru and has worked extensively as an educator, documentarian, and cultural liaison in Peru and Nepal.

Education

- **Ph.D., Musicology (Ethnomusicology emphasis)**, Florida State University, 2009
Dissertation: *From Grief and Joy We Sing: Social and Cosmic Regenerative Processes in the Songs of Q'eros, Peru* (Fulbright-Hays funded)
- **M.A., Music History**, University of Idaho, 1999 (GPA 4.0)
- **M.M., Flute Performance**, University of Idaho, 1998 (GPA 4.0)
- **B.A., Applied Music**, University of Idaho, 1996, *summa cum laude*

Academic Appointment

- **Senior Lecturer / Assistant Professor of Instruction**, Texas State University (2019–present)

Previous teaching appointments include the University of Texas at Austin, Florida State University, the University of Idaho, SIT (Student International Training), Cusco, Peru.

Teaching Specializations

- World Music Cultures
- Music History (Western Art Music)
- Latin American, Andean, Amazonian, and Himalayan musical traditions
- Ethnomusicological methods and theory
- Experiential, performance-based pedagogy
- Fine Arts

Courses Taught (selected)

- World Music Cultures (MU 3318)
 - History and Analysis of Music I & II (MU 3315–3316)
 - Introduction to Fine Arts (MU 2313)
 - Doctoral Seminar: Ethnographic Methods in Ethnomusicology (UT Austin)
 - Music of the African Diaspora (UT Austin)
 - Latin American Music (FSU)
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Research and Creative Interests

- Indigenous Andean and Amazonian music and culture
 - Applied ethnomusicology and community collaboration
 - Music, grief, and ritual
 - Music and tourism
 - Indigenous language and cultural sustainability
 - Documentary ethics and audio-visual archive repatriation
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Publications (Selected)

- Wissler, Holly. Forthcoming 2026. “So That the Songs Arrive: Grief-Singing in Animal Fertility Ritual in Q’eros, Peru.” In *ReSounding Loss: Music, Grief, and Culture*. Oxford University Press.
 - Wissler, Holly. 2018. “Where Dead People Walk: Repatriation of Fifty Years of Audio-Visual Archives to Q’eros, Peru.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Musical Repatriation*.
 - Wissler, Holly. 2015. “Andes to Amazon on the River Q’eros: Indigenous Voice in Grassroots Tourism...” In *The Oxford Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology*.
 - Wissler, Holly. 2009. “Grief-Singing and the Camera: The Challenges and Ethics of Documentary Production in an Indigenous Andean Community.” *Ethnomusicology Forum* 18(1).
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Documentary Work

- *Kusisqa Waqashayku (From Grief and Joy We Sing)* (2007) – Producer, Director, Writer, Camera
- *Qoyllur Rit’i: A Woman’s Journey* (1998) – Producer
- *Dante’s Story: The Fight for Deaf Rights in Peru* (in progress, 2026 release)- Producer, Director, Writer, Camera

2025 Highlights

- Presented research at regional and national conferences of the Society for Ethnomusicology (Houston; Atlanta)
 - Publication chapter accepted (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2026)
 - Fulbright Teaching/Research application advanced to second-stage review (Nepal: Kathmandu University placement for Spring 2027)
 - Invited by Provost to teach at Vijaybhoomi University (India) in Fall 2026 through global partnership
 - Organized and hosted visiting ethnomusicologist Sean Williams for guest lectures at Texas State in World Music Cultures and Music History series courses
 - \$10,000 Award (Enigma Peru) for documentary production, *Dante's Story*.
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Selected Service and Engagement

- Guest lecturer and local expert for National Geographic and multiple study abroad programs (Peru)
 - Coordinator for Indigenous participant collaboration at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (2015)
 - Recruiter and supporter for Texas State Indonesian Gamelan Ensemble, *Lipi Awan*
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Professional Memberships

- Society for Ethnomusicology
 - Latin American Studies Association
 - Society for Visual Anthropology
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Languages

- English (native)
 - Spanish (fluent)
 - Quechua (conversational)
 - American Sign Language (conversational)
 - Peruvian Sign Language (intermediate)
 - Nepali (intermediate)
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