

Abra Wenzel, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

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Email: abra.wenzel@gmail.com**EDUCATION**

- 2016-2023 Ph.D. in Anthropology
Carleton University, Ottawa, ON
Thesis: Valuable Materials, Invaluable Relationships: Exploring Indigenous Culture and Sovereignty Through Moose and Caribou Hair Tufting
- 2016 M.A. in Anthropology
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Thesis: The Grey Nuns Northwest Territories Collection: Embroidery in the Mackenzie Valley
- 2014 B.A. in Anthropology and Political Science (minor)
McGill University, Montreal, QC

CITIZENSHIP AND LANGUAGES**Citizenship:** Canadian and American citizenship.**Languages:** English (native speaker); French (fluent)**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Geographic specialization: Dene and Métis studies; Subarctic Indigenous studies; Great Slave Lake-Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories; Subarctic Northwest Territories; Subarctic Canada; Arctic Canada.

Research and Teaching areas: socio-cultural anthropology; Indigenous studies; Indigenous-environment relationships; Traditional knowledge systems and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK); Northern economies; Indigenous art and materiality; Museum, archival, and heritage collections research; Canadian wildfire policy; Ethnohistory; Northern studies; Canadian-Indigenous histories; Introduction to Anthropology; Anthropological Theory; Anthropology of Art and Materiality; Anthropology and Environment; Economic Anthropology; Decolonizing methodologies, ethics, and applied research methodologies; Community-based participatory, action and engaged research and teaching.

HONOURS & AWARDS

- 2024 **Canadian Anthropology Studies Association Teaching Award (Carleton University)**
- 2019-2021 **SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (Carleton University)**
- 2019 **Richard F. Salisbury Award (Carleton University)**
- 2018 **Northern Studies Training Program Research Grant (Carleton University)**
- 2018 **Frank Vallee Scholarship (Carleton University)**

2017 **Bader Travel Award (Carleton University)**
2017 **Carleton Travel Award**
2016-2020 **Carleton University Departmental Scholarship**
2015-2016 **University of Victoria Graduate Award**

ACADEMIC POSITIONS, RESEARCH & TEACHING

2027: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 3580B: Anthropology of Material Culture and Museums

This is an upper level undergraduate course. The course investigates the foundations of material culture studies, the intersection of colonialism and museums, and innovations in material studies.

2027: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 2610B: Studies in Indigenous Peoples

Through this undergraduate course, students will be introduced to the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples of North America, the intersectionality of colonialism and Indigeneity, and Indigenous resurgence that continues to challenge and transform the harmful and continued legacy of colonialism.

2024-2026: Roberta Bondar Postdoctoral Fellowship, Trent University

2025: Contract Instructor, Trent University

ANTH 5953: The Changing Arctic

This is an upper level undergraduate and graduate level seminar. This course investigates the connections of identity, language, place, environment, politics, and storytelling with specific focus to Indigenous peoples in the Canadian Arctic and Subarctic, and Alaska.

2023-2024: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 2001A: Foundations in Socio-Cultural Anthropology

Designed and taught anthropology (declared major and minor) undergraduate students in the major themes, writings, and methodologies of cultural anthropology, past to present.

2023: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 4205A/ANTH 5205A/ ENGL5900: Language, Place, and the North

This is an upper level undergraduate and graduate level seminar. This course investigates the connections of identity, language, place, environment and politics with specific focus to Indigenous peoples in the Canadian Arctic and Subarctic.

2023: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 1002A: Introduction to Issues in Anthropology

This course introduces students to selected issues (past, present, and future) facing our society. This course introduces students to broad debates related to anthropology and the position of anthropologists, to the environment, and to race. Students learn on continued social issues surrounding these broad themes. Designed and taught an online-deliverable curriculum at the undergraduate level.

2023: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

HUMS 1005B: Early Human Cultures

This course introduces students to the foundations of anthropology, anthropological theory, and global cultures and is designed to be instructed to students outside of the Department of Anthropology and support core courses in the Humanities.

2023: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 3355B: Anthropology and the Environment

In this course, students are instructed in the foundations of environmental theory in anthropology, as well as taking a multi-perspective approach to thinking about the environment.

2022: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 3570A/SOCI 3570A: Studies in Art, Culture, and Society

This course exposes students to diverse forms of art and their influence on and depiction of culture and society. Students are instructed in thinking about art as important visual texts.

2022: Research Assistant, University of Waterloo

Video creation, research and formal report writing on Cultural and Indigenous Knowledge Systems for the project entitled “Online training modules for graduate student researchers to engage with Indigenous Knowledge Systems with Integrity” led by Dr. Steffanie Scott (University of Waterloo).

2021: Contract Instructor, Carleton University

ANTH 1002A: Introduction to Issues in Anthropology

Designed and taught an online-deliverable curriculum at the undergraduate level.

2016-2022: Teaching Assistant, Carleton University

Designed and taught curriculum at the undergraduate level.

2020: Research Assistant, Carleton University

Researched collaborative methods projects as part of the New Frontiers Research Fund entitled “Plural perspectives on Bighorn Country: restor(y)ing land use governance and bull trout population health in Alberta” led by Dr. Zoe Todd (Carleton University).

2018: Student Internship-Archival Assistant, Canadian Museum of History

I developed online museum databases of Indigenous Northern geographical collections.

2014-2016: Teaching Assistant, University of Victoria

Designed and taught curriculum at the undergraduate level.

2014: Research Assistant, McGill University

Conducted research in Iqaluit, Nunavut on the impacts of Indian Residential Schools and healthcare provisions. Supervisor: Dr. Ronald Niezen.

SERVICE

2025-2026: Co-editor Études Inuit Studies Special Issue.

2025-present: Co-coordinator of the Canadian Anthropology Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCAS) Women's Network.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2017 **Collections Research Training.** Otsego Institute for Native American Art History. Cooperstown, NY (May 2017).

2017 **Museum Collection Online Database Training.** Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau, QC (January-May 2017).

2014 **Training in Teaching in Higher Education.** University of Victoria.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed journal articles (7)

Wenzel, A. (2026) "Canada Post is a Lifeline": Explaining the Postal Strike in Arctic Communities. Special Issue of *Etudes Inuit Studies*. -Accepted/Awaiting Publication.

Wenzel, A., and Larocque, B. (2026) The North Slave Complex Fires: A New After-Action Report. Special Issue of *Etudes Inuit Studies*. -Accepted/Awaiting Publication.

Wenzel, A., and Therrien, C. (2026) Teaching anthropology: lessons on bad habitus in the classroom. Special Issue of *Anthropologica*. -Under review.

Wenzel, A. (2025) A Doll's Story: Indian Residential School Art as Artifacts of Northern Trade and Cultural Continuance. *RACAR* 50(1): 100-117.

Wenzel, A. (2021) Circling Covid: Making in the Time of a Pandemic. *Anthropologica* 63(1): 1-13.

Wenzel, A. (2018) Tufted Caribou Hair Picture. *Otsego Alumni Review*.

Wenzel, A. (2017) The Literary Pen: Deconstructing the Normalized View of the Indian Residential School Experience". *Platforum: Journal of Graduate Studies in Anthropology* 15: 121-143.

Book reviews (1)

Wenzel, A. (2019) The Bungling Host: The Nature of Indigenous Oral Literature" (Review). *Anthropologica* 61(2): 360-361.

Reports (1)

Wenzel, A. (2021) Tracing Regimes of Value in the Mackenzie Basin. *Culture* 15(1).

Blog posts (1)

Wenzel, A. (2021) Spider Woman's Knowledge and the Survival of Diné Textile Arts. *School of Advanced Research*.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Plenary Session (1)

Wenzel, A., McDonald, F.P., Paul, H.M., Radice, M., Pennesi, K., Kirschke-Leitão, D. Anthropological Reinventions in the Era of COVID. *Canadian Anthropological Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie*. Regina, Saskatchewan, May 11-15, 2022.

Award Session (1)

Wenzel, A. Regimes of Value: Positioning Value in the Indigenous Arts Tourism Market. Salisbury Recipient Presentation. *Canadian Anthropological Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie*. Guelph, Ontario, May 12-15, 2021.

Selected Conference Papers (8)

Wenzel, A. 'Firesmaring': Community Reflections in the Aftermath of the 2023 Northwest Territory Fires. *Canadian Anthropological Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie*. Montreal, Québec, May 7-10, 2025.

Wenzel, A. #IndigeniusArt: Expressions of Tradition and Sovereignty Online in the Northwest Territories. *American Anthropological Association- Canadian Anthropological Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie*. Toronto, Ontario, November 15-19, 2023.

Wenzel, A. Caribou Relationalities in the Subarctic. *Native American Art Studies Association*. Virtual Conference, November 4-6, 2021.

Wenzel, A. Forever Home: Indigenous Women's Perspective on Value and Their Art. *American Anthropological Association-Canadian Anthropological Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie*. Vancouver, British Columbia, November 20-24, 2019 .

Wenzel, A. Métis Crafting: From Souvenir Object to Transformative Art. *Native American Arts Studies Association*. Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 2-3, 2019.

Wenzel, A. Métis Identity and 'Singularization' in Women's Floral Embroidery. *Canadian Anthropological Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie*. Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, May 16-20, 2018.

Wenzel, A. Moosehair Tufting: A Stitch Imbued with Residential School Knowledge. *Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*. Honolulu, Hawaii, May 18-21, 2016.

Wenzel, A. The Literary Pen: The Legacy of Indian Residential School in Other Voices. *Canadian Indigenous and Native Studies Association*. Montreal, Quebec, June 11-15, 2015.

INVITED TALKS & LECTURES

Wenzel, A. Valuable Materials, Invaluable Relationships: Tufted Stories of Connection. North At Trent Lecture Series, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, 2025.

Wenzel, A. Women's Art in the Subarctic. ART205A, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, 2023.

Wenzel, A. Hidden Transcripts and Mediation Through Art. Presentation to undergraduate students in Anthropology. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, 2018.

Wenzel, A. Hunter Gatherer Societies. Presentation to undergraduate students in Anthropology. University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, 2016.

Wenzel, A. Social Inequality: Gender. Presentation to undergraduate students in Anthropology. University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2017-present Native American Art Studies Association (NAASA)

2016-present Canadian Anthropological Society/ Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA)