

## Selected Resources: U S Folklife, Ethnicity, Folklife Collection, Life History

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### **"Researching Diaspora (and indigenous) New England Ethnic Communities." Falmouth Genealogy Society, October 9, 2021**

Personal life histories complement and enrich historiography by broadening the scope of individual, family and community life. Life history collection has become a vibrant and active activity in the United State with the opening of the American Folklife Center in 1976 and recent genetic increasingly popular testing technologies. Life histories introduce us to our richly diverse United States ethnic and racial diaspora communities, formed by immigration from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to today. Life history collection, analysis, and reflection have revealed how qualitative data can provide richly-textured accounts of our lives, promoting deeper, more layered understandings of individuals, families and communities. Data-gathering using qualitative data provide the basis for the 1<sup>st</sup> person ethnographic method foundational to anthropological, folklife, and life history research, which deepens our appreciation of our richly diverse nation.

#### General Ethnicity, Life History, and Ethnography Texts:

Library of Congress American Folklife Center: <https://www.loc.gov/folklife/>

Fredrik Barth, Ed. *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference*, Waveland Press, 1969.

Sandra Gross Bressler, *Culture and politics: A legislative chronicle of the American Folklife Preservation Act*. U Pennsylvania Ph.D. Dissertation, 1995.

Karen Brodtkin, *How Jews Became White Folks and What That Says About Race in America*, 1998.

Aviva Chomsky, *Linked Labor Histories*, Duke U Press, 2008

Ardra L. Cole and Gary J. Knowles, *Lives in Context: The Art of Life History Research*, AltaMira Press, 2001.

Sandra Faiman-Silva, *The Courage to Connect: Sexuality, Citizenship and Community in Provincetown*, U Illinois Press: 2004

Robert A. Georges and Michael Owen Jones, *Folkloristics: An Introduction*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana Univ. Press, 1995.

MA Historical Commission, *Historic & Archaeological Resources of Cape Cod & the Islands*, A Framework for Preservation Decisions, August, 1986,

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/regionalreports/capeandislands.pdf>

Miranda Miles & Jonathan Crush, *Personal Narratives as Interactive Texts: Collecting and Interpreting Migrant Life-Histories*,

2010, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.0033-0124.1993.00084.x>

Elliott Oring, Ed. *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: An Introduction*, Utah State U Press, 1986.

Martha C. Sims and Martine Stephens, *Living Folklore, An Introduction to the Study of People and their Traditions*, Utah State U Press, 2005.

Leslie K. Townsend, *Out of Silence: Writing Interactive Women's Life Histories in Africa*,

Published online by Cambridge University Press, 13 May 2014, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/history-in-africa/article/abs/out-of-silence-writing-interactive-womens-life-histories-in-africa/0668F5230424CECB1F8884B3FF373639>