



Photo Credit: Evy Toftegaard-Nielsen, 2022

Kristina Jacobsen is an ethnographer, singer-songwriter, and cultural anthropologist. An Associate professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology (Ethnology) at the University of New Mexico, her research focuses on language reclamation, expressive culture, popular music, and arts-based research methodologies. Her first book, *The Sound of Navajo Country: Music, Language and Diné Belonging* (UNC Press, 2017), is based on 2 ½ years of singing and playing lapsteel guitar with Navajo (Diné) country western bands on the Navajo Nation and was the winner of the 2018 IASPM-US Woody Guthrie Award for most outstanding book on popular music.

Jacobsen is a touring singer-songwriter, fronts the all-female honky-tonk band Merlettes, and is the founder and co-facilitator of the UNM Honky-Tonk Ensemble. Supported by the US-Italy Fulbright Commission and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, she recently completed one year of ethnographic fieldwork on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia for her second musical ethnography (University of Toronto Press 2024), *Sing Me Back Home: Ethnographic Songwriting and Sardinian Language Reclamation in Italy*. While in Sardinia, she also recorded an album (her fourth) of original songs collaboratively written with Sardinian songwriters and language activists, *House on Swallow Street* with the Sardinian Label, Talk About Records. Her third book, co-edited with ethnographic poet Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, is a craftbook that seeks to integrate ethnography and the arts in anthropology classrooms and for creative ethnographers from all paths. The Cultural Anthropology Advisor to the WOMAD South Africa Music Festival, she also founded and facilitates three culturally immersive songwriting intensives for anthropologists to engage with creative practice: on the Navajo Nation, in Sardinia, Italy, and,, beginning in 2023, along the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain.

*Within the BAIA, Jacobsen coordinates the Songwriting Focus Area and teaches Songwriting I & II, along with a study abroad course to Sardinia, Italy each spring; she is also the director and PI for the newly developed Prison Song Project, a Prison Arts Initiative pairing advanced UNM songwriting students with currently incarcerated musicians at Metropolitan Detention Center (launch date Spring 2024).*