



2021 Eagle Hill Institute  
Online Natural History Seminars  
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## Woven Cultures: Exploring the Textiles of the Ancient Andes

Shelley Burian  
June 22nd – July 6th, 2021

Pre-Hispanic societies in South America took a tactile rather than a pictorial or written approach for representing their worldview and communicating cultural values and traditions. The Andean textile tradition goes back thousands of years and encompasses some of the most complex and labor-intensive textile techniques ever developed that were designed to function as everything from representations of cosmology to account books. This seminar will explore the world of Andean textiles and the links between textile techniques and wider cultural contexts and provide an introduction to the full range of textiles produced from 3050 BCE through the end of the 18th century. Designed for participants with no knowledge of textile production generally, as well as those with prior experience, the seminar will combine examination of textiles in major museum collections (the Metropolitan Museum, Dumbarton Oaks, American Museum of National History, and the Museo Inka), textiles in private collections, and live demonstrations of textile techniques by the instructor.

### Scheduling Details

June 22, 24, 29 and July 1, 6  
7PM–9PM ET

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us> sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.

For more information regarding seminar costs and registration please visit:  
<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/sems-online/general-info.shtml>

### About the Instructor

Dr. Shelley Burian (sburian30@gmail.com) is a recent graduate of Emory University's Art History Ph.D. program specializing in the Art of the Ancient Americas and currently working as an independent scholar and curator. Her research focuses on the technical and cultural connections between PreColumbian textiles and textiles made during the period of Spanish colonization in Bolivia. She has taught both introductory art history courses and a course on the art of ancient South and Central America at Emory University and has presented her research at national and international conferences such as the Northeast Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory and International Conference on Pre-Columbian Textiles. Together with Rebecca Stone, emeritus curator of Art of the Ancient Americas at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, she curated the 2017-2018 exhibition *Threads of Time: Tradition and Change in Indigenous American Textiles*.

