Continuities of Tradition within Hitchiti-Creek Ceremony Ritual

1. The sources intended to be used in my research involve five members of the Hitchiti-Creek Tribe located in Blountstown, Florida. Three of which are the medicine makers (*heles hayv*), one is the clan mother of the tribe, and one is the *micco*, or king of this tribe. All participants are in good health and show no signs of physical or mental illness. Besides the clan mother, all other participants are male from the ages of 50-82. The clan mother is about 70 years old. Native American/white is the ethnic background of all subjects.
2. I plan on using ethnographic procedures and interview style questions along with participation observation in ceremony with the Hitchiti-Creeks. All five subjects have full editing privileges over my thesis research, so I believe no consent forms are necessary.
3. Through personal ethnographies and participation observation, I plan on gathering data for my research. Phone interviews along with live interviews will comprise most of my personal data. Furthermore, I will participate in a number of religious ceremonies that will allow me to grasp a closer look at the Hitchiti-Creek religious structure.
4. Because my thesis will be edited by influential members of the Hitchiti-Creek tribe, this research will have a minimal risk factor to both parties.
5. Risks will be minimized as mentioned above.
6. This research and thesis will be beneficial to both parties. The information provided by the Hitchiti-Creeks will allow me to comprise an in depth study on their cosmological and religious structure. On the other hand, my thesis will provide the first ethnographic account for the Hitchiti-Creeks, and even possibly, this research will aid in the attempt of the Hitchiti-Creeks to gain federal recognition as an autonomous tribe.
7. Compensation for the knowledge given by the Hitchiti-Creek will include ceremonial “gifts” (i.e. tobacco, cloth, beads), as well as an academic thesis on the religious customs of their people (of which has never been completed before.)
8. I feel there are no/minimal risks involved in this study to my subjects and society.
9. No specific sites or agencies will be used in this thesis.
10. This research thesis will provide another great example of the material being produced by the Center for Arts and Symbolism in Ancient America (CASAA) within the Texas State University anthropology department. My mentors, Dr. Kent Reilly and Dr. James Garber, have significant strengths in the field of native religious systems.
11. My thesis proposal defense will be completed no later than March 25th.

12. N/A..

13. This thesis will be open to the public and hopefully will be published in an anthropological journal.