

CURRICULUM VITAE

Catharina E. Santasilia Holbek

PERSONAL

Phone: (+1) 951 565 7278

E-mail: catharinasantasilia@gmail.com or catharina.santasilia@email.ucr.edu

Born: Roskilde, Denmark (Danish Citizen; have Green Card)

EDUCATION

- 2014-2019 **Ph.D. Anthropology, University of California, Riverside**
Dissertation (defended September 2019): "*Identity, Ceramic Variability, and Social Transformation in Early Formative Tlatilco, Mexico.*" Dissertation Chair: Distinguished Professor Karl Taube
- 2016 **M.A. Anthropology, University of California, Riverside**
- 2013 **M.A. Native American Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark**
Focus on mortuary practices among the Classic Maya
- 2009 **M.A. level courses, at Free University in Berlin, Germany**
GIS-Landscape archaeology and German courses
- 2008 **B.A. Egyptology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark**

MUSEUM AND COLLECTIONS EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Present **Consultant, Conservator, and Researcher**
- Cataloging and inventorying private collections. Focus on curation of online exhibition, negotiating and communicating with museums about repatriation, researching, translating, and writing essays on the artists.
- 2021 **Invited Speaker and Essay writer, Nancy Fyfe Cardozier Gallery, Odessa, TX.**
- Prepared essay, assisted in analysis of artifacts for exhibition, came up with the title for the show: *Figure-ing Out the Past: A Transcendent Embodiment of Ancient Mexican Art*
 - I met with several university classes and introduced the students to the cultures on display, as well as guest lectured for an invited audience for the opening of the exhibition.
- 2015-2018 **Guest Curator, Riverside Metropolitan Museum**
- Curating an exhibition entitled *Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco*, opening February 3, 2018, at Riverside Art Museum in collaboration with Riverside Metropolitan Museum.
 - Some of the responsibilities included: preparing the contents, choosing objects borrowed from LACMA and NMAI, educational outreach, created 3D replicas of the collection for interactive activities, prepared exhibition catalogue.
- 2014-2015 **Intern, Riverside Metropolitan Museum** assisting in installation, deinstallation, preparing exhibit, storage management.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

- 2016 **Field Archaeologist, Proyecto Arqueológico Tlalancaleca, Puebla**
- Directors: Dr. Tatsuya Murakami, Tulane University, New Orleans, and Dr. Shigeru Kabata, University of the Americas, Puebla. Excavated and analyzed objects.

2010-2015 ***Field Archaeologist and Supervisor, Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance project***

- Director Dr. Jaime Awe. Excavated pyramids at Cahal Pech and Xunantunich site cores. Uncovered elite burials and caches, supervised students, administered lab, documented and published data.

2009 ***Field Archaeologist, Sion, Switzerland with Free University, Berlin***

- Director of Dr. Silvia Polla. Two weeks of GIS survey in the southern Alps researching Paleolithic artifacts and mapping the area.

2008 ***Field school participant, Danish-Jordanian Islamic Jarash Project of Copenhagen***

- Director Dr. Alan Walmsley. First hands-on experience with excavations, introduced to all areas of archaeology, including mapping, processing, and analyzing data. Recipient of the Golden Trowel, for archaeologist of the season.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-2021 ***Lecturer, University of California, Riverside, for Anthropology***

- **Upper Division:**
 - History of Anthropological Theory (ANTH100, From Socrates to Post-modernism, development of anthropological theory)
 - Ancient Households and Communities (ANTH113, Ancient communities across the world - human labor revisited)
 - Archaeology of Western Mesoamerica (ANTH115S, From Prehistory to the Spanish conquest in Mesoamerica outside of the Maya area)
 - Archaeology of Eastern Mesoamerica (ANTH115R, From Prehistory to the Spanish conquest in Mesoamerica in the Maya region)
 - Ancient Oaxaca (ANTH115X, From Prehistory to the Spanish conquest in Oaxaca, Mexico)
 - Language and Culture (ANTH120, Linguistic impact on human development since the early hominins)
 - Political Anthropology (ANTH127, Marx, Libertarians, Revolutions, and Civic Duty)
 - Biological Approaches to Medical Anthropology (ANTH158, Understanding the impact biology has on human health culturally)
 - Culture and Medicine (ANTH160, One human race - individual and government's responsibilities toward global and mental health)
- **Lower Division:**
 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH001, From Boas to today: What is culture and how do we apply it?)
 - Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH005, Ethical approaches to the importance of preserving the past)

2015-2019 ***Teaching Assistant, University of California, Riverside, Discussion leader for Anthropology, Sociology, Art History, and Political Science.***

- Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH005), Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH001), Introduction to Biological Anthropology (ANTH002), World Prehistory (ANTH003), Introduction to Sociology (SOC001), Sociology and the Family (SOC142), Western Art:

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2017	UCR Center for Ideas and Society's Humanities Interdisciplinary Project Award with Dr. Karl Taube, for a conference: "The Rise of Civilization in Mesoamerica" in conjunction with my exhibition on Tlatilco at Riverside Art Museum (\$9,000)
2016-2017	Fundraised for Tlatilco exhibit at Riverside Art Museum (approx. \$34,000)
2016	UC Mexus Dissertation Research Grant (\$12,000)
2014	Dean's Distinguished Fellowship Award, PhD program in Anthropology, University of California, Riverside
2010	Copenhagen Botanical Garden grant (10,000 Dkr // \$1,650)
2009	Erasmus fellowship: one semester at the Free University, Berlin, plus grant (€1000 // \$1,200)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

- Santasilia, Catharina E.**, Guy D. Hepp, and Richard A. Diehl eds.
 2022 *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*. University of Florida Press.
- Guy D. Hepp, **Santasilia, Catharina E.**, and Richard A. Diehl
 2022 *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*, pp. 1-22, University of Florida Press.
- Santasilia, Catharina E.
 2022 "Tlatilco: The People of the Lake," in *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*, pp. 194-223, University of Florida Press.
- Novotny, Anna C., Jaime J. Awe, **Catharina E. Santasilia**, and Kelly J. Knudson.
 2018 Ritual Emulation of Ancient Maya Elite Mortuary Traditions during the Classic Period at Cahal Pech, Belize. *Latin American Antiquity* 29 (4): 641-659.
- Santasilia, Catharina E.
 2018 *Tlatilco Uncovered*. Published by Ambient Light, CA. With afterword by Michael D. Coe.
- Santasilia, Catharina E.
 2017 LACMA UNFRAMED blog: The Pretty Ladies of Tlatilco, Mexico:
<http://unframed.lacma.org/2017/05/10/%E2%80%9Cpretty-ladies%E2%80%9D-tlatilco-mexico>
- Santasilia, Catharina E.** and Douglas Tilden
 2016 Excavations of the Eastern Triadic Shrine at Xunantunich, Belize 2015. *The Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project: A Report of the 2015 Field Season*, edited by Julie A. Hoggarth, and Jaime J. Awe, pp. 118-138 Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan.
- Santasilia, Catharina E.
 2015 The Discovery of the Thirteenth Interment: Excavation of Structure B1 at Cahal Pech, Belize. *The Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project: A Report of the 2014 Field Season*, edited by Julie A. Hoggarth, and Jaime J. Awe, pp. 38-52. Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan.
- 2014 The Discovery of an Early Classic Maya Tomb: Excavations at the western Façade of Structure B1 at Cahal Pech. *The Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project: A Report of the 2013 Field Season*, edited by Julie A. Hoggarth, and Jaime J. Awe, pp. 90-113. Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan.

- 2013 The Discovery of a Protoclassic Maya Tomb: Excavations at the Summit of Structure B1 at Cahal Pech. *The Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project: A Report of the 2012 Field Season*, edited by Julie A. Hoggarth, Reiko Ishihara-Brito and Jaime J. Awe, pp. 90-113. Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan.
- 2012 The Discovery of an Elite Maya Tomb: Excavations at the Summit of Structure B1 at Cahal Pech, Belize. *The Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project: A Report of the 2011 Field Season*, edited by Julie A. Hoggarth, Rafael A. Guerra and Jaime J. Awe, pp. 33-55. Belize Institute of Archaeology, National Institute of Culture and History, Belmopan.

ORGANIZED SYMPOSIA

- 2019 **Moderator**, “Rearranging Identities and Society in Formative Period Mesoamerica,” Forum session at *Society of American Archaeology* Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM (April 12)
- 2018 **Organizer**, symposium “The Rise of Civilization in Mesoamerica,” at Riverside Public library in conjunction with the opening of Tlatilco exhibition: *Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco* (February 3)

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Early Formative Figurines from Tlatilco – Understanding the Diversity and Individuality” Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, April 13
- 2018 “Tlatilco Revisited,” Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 14
- 2017-2018 **Guest Lecturer and Invited Speaker**
In conjunction with museum exhibition preparations, I presented on museum’s history, curation, and exhibition development, science in archaeology, and the history of Tlatilco at local institutions, schools, universities, and museums in Southern California
- 2017 “Exploring Ceramic Variability at Tlatilco, Mexico,” Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, March 31
- 2015 “Placing Cahal Pech on the Map,” Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 16

SELECT MENTIONS IN PRESS

- 2018 *First American Art Magazine*, “Uncovering Ancient Mexico, the mystery of Tlatilco” exhibition review by Bryn Potter. Summer edition
- 2018 *UCR Today*, “Hidden in Plain view,” by Tess Eyrich <https://medium.com/ucr-magazine/hidden-in-plain-view-42d25cdf297d>
- 2018 *LACMA Unframed*, blog by Dr. Michelle Rich: “An Olmec Transformation Figurine in “Ancient Bodies.” The object which was presented at the conference I arranged. <https://unframed.lacma.org/2018/01/09/olmec-transformation-figurine-ancient-bodies>
- 2018 *Press Enterprise*, “Ancient Mesoamerican figurines displayed for first time at Riverside Art Museum.” <https://www.pe.com/2018/01/04/ancient-mesoamerican-figurines-displayed-for-first-time-at-riverside-art-museum/>
- 2018 *UCR Today*, “UCR Pd.D. student curates Riverside Art Museum Exhibition.” <https://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/50763>

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2022-Present

Consultant, Conservator, and Researcher

- Cataloging and inventorying private collections from artists and collectors. Dissemination, curation of online exhibition, negotiating and communicating with museums about repatriation, researching, translating, and writing essays on the artists.

2019-Present

Researcher and Consultant for Night Fire Films

- Working on *Transfigurations: Reanimating the Past*, an immersive animation project. Including ancient cultural objects from: Luristan (Iran), Cyclades (Greece), Paleolithic Stone Tools (Acheulean and Mousterian, France), Irish High Crosses, Vishnu temple facades (India), Tlatilco figurines (Mexico)

2003-2014

Caregiver: provided therapeutic treatment, applied special pedagogy to accommodate individual needs, and planned suitable activities for people with various physical and mental special needs in their homes or municipal residences, including:

- *Caregiver*, Centre for Autism and Special-Pedagogy, Copenhagen Municipality, Denmark
- *Caregiver*, Irish Wheelchair Association, Ireland
- *Teaching Assistant, Special Pedagogy, Oestervangs School*, Roskilde Municipality, Denmark

LANGUAGES

Danish: Fluent

English: Fluent

Spanish: Reading and basic conversation

REFERENCES

Distinguished Professor Karl Taube
Department of Anthropology
UC Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521-0418
Phone: 951-827-4390
Email: karl.taube@ucr.edu
Dissertation Chair

South San Francisco Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86011
Bldg. 70, RM #1C
Phone: 928-523-1434
Email: jaime.awe@nau.edu
Director of BVAR, Field director during my six seasons in Belize

Professor Travis Stanton
Department of Anthropology
UC Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521-0418
Phone: 951-827-4290
Email: travis.stanton@ucr.edu
Dissertation committee

Curator Antonio Curet
National Museum of the American Indian,
Smithsonian
Fourth Street & Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20560
Phone: 630-638-0393
Email: CuretA@si.edu
Colleague

Professor Emeritus Richard A. Diehl
University of Alabama
Phone: 205-345-5129
Email: rdiehl@ua.edu
Colleague and co-editor on book

Director Robyn Peterson
Riverside Metropolitan Museum
3580 Mission Inn Avenue,
Riverside, CA 92501
Phone: 951-318-9201
Email: rpeterson@riversideca.gov
Director of the museum where I curated an exhibition

Professor Jaime Awe
Northern Arizona University
Anthropology Department

Producer Rosey Guthrie
Night Fire Films
3711 Ocean View Ave.

Los Angeles, Ca. 90066
Phone: 310-463-0843
Email: roseyguthrie@earthlink.net
Producer of the immersive animation project