

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Catharina E. Santasilia Holbek

### PERSONAL

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Phone: (+1) 951 565 7278

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

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

### PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY AND ATTRIBUTES

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- A decade of experience managing teams and supervising complex projects, researching, organizing and interpreting data, creating and maintaining databases, educational outreach, curation, and archival experience
- Excellent communicator: lecturer and published author, conference presenter and moderator, able to create coursework and to teach a variety of subjects. More than six years of teaching experience at the university level
- Innovative, strategic thinker, and solution-oriented team player with a passionate curiosity for learning

### EDUCATION

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2022	<b>Certificate, Cornell University, Online</b> Women's Entrepreneurship
2014-2019	<b>Ph.D. Anthropology, University of California, Riverside</b> Dissertation (defended September 2019): " <i>Identity, Ceramic Variability, and Social Transformation in Early Formative Tlatilco, Mexico.</i> " Dissertation Chair: Distinguished Professor Karl Taube
2016	<b>M.A. Anthropology, University of California, Riverside</b>
2013	<b>M.A. Native American Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark</b> Focus on mortuary practices among the Classic Maya
2009	<b>M.A. level courses, at Free University in Berlin, Germany</b> GIS-Landscape archaeology and German courses
2008	<b>B.A. Egyptology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark</b>

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

2023

- **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**, for Anthropology, Sociology, Art History, and Political Science.

- **Lower Division:** 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: Prehistoric to Byzantine (AHS017A), Political Ideologies (POSC005W), Judicial Politics and Policy Making (POSC166)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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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 from France), Irish High Crosses, Vishnu temple facades (India), Tlatilco figurines (Mexico).

2016-2018 **Graduate Researcher, University of California, Riverside**

- **Analyze collections:** Art Institute of Chicago, Boston Fine Arts Museum, Chicago Field Museum of Natural History, Harvard Peabody, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum New York, Museum of Fine Arts Montreal, Natural History Museum Los Angeles, National Museum of Mexican Art Chicago, Museo Nacional de Antropología Mexico City, Penn Museum, Princeton Art Museum, St. Louis Art Museum, Yale Art Museum, Yale Peabody, as well as accessing and scanning material at the Archive of Covarrubias in Cholula, and conducted Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis with Ronald Bishop.

## MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

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- 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*
  - 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

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- 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.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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- 2022- **Volunteer, CoachArt**
- Working with ill children on different activities, such as creative writing and science.
- 2018-2020 **CFO and Treasurer, Institute for Research on Trauma and Resilience**
- Also responsible for the website and institutional communications
  - Raised \$5,000 for a COVID-relief solar panel project and assisted in securing a \$6,000 grant for a re-roofing project for the Black Mesa community on the Navajo Reservation.

**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.
- *Teaching Assistant, Special Pedagogy, Oestervangs School*, Roskilde Municipality, Denmark.

2007 & 2012 **Mentor**, Exchange student program, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Copenhagen

## 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.

Hruby, Zachary, Christina Halperin, **Catharina E. Santasilia**, and Jaime Awe

In prep. "Comparison of Chert Silhouettes from the Late and Terminal Classic Eastern Lowlands," in unnamed project, ed. Zachary Hruby

Santasilia, Catharina E.

2021a "Tlatilco: 85 Years Later..." *Figure-ing Out the Past: A Transcendent Embodiment of Ancient Mexican Art*. The University of Texas, Permian Basin.

2021b "The Jaguars of Veracruz, Mexico," *unnamed project* by the University of Xalapa, ed. Chantal Huckert

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 CONFERENCE 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

“Results from the scientific laboratory analysis on the Tlatilco collection at RMM,” *The Rise of Civilization in Mesoamerica*, Riverside, CA, February 3

**2017-2018 Guest Lecturer and Invited Speaker**, in conjunction with Riverside Metropolitan Museum and Riverside Art Museum exhibition preparations, I presented the history of Tlatilco and exhibition process 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

“Salvage Archaeology, Uncovering Tlatilco: A Museums Study,” *Mesonet Conference Revived*, SoCal Mesoamerica Network, at CSULA, March 5

2015 “Placing Cahal Pech on the Map,” Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 16

## IN THE PRESS

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- 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 *UCR Highlander*, “UCR Graduate student curates new exhibit about ancient Mesoamerican culture.” <https://highlandernews.org/31637/ucr-graduate-student-curates-new-exhibit-ancient-mesoamerican-culture/>
- 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>

## LANGUAGES

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Danish: Fluent

English: Fluent

Spanish: Reading and basic conversation

## REFERENCES

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

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

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

Professor Jaime Awe  
Northern Arizona University  
Anthropology Department  
South San Francisco Street  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Phone: 928-523-1434  
Email: [jaime.awe@nau.edu](mailto:jaime.awe@nau.edu)  
Director of BVAR, Field director in Belize

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](mailto:CuretA@si.edu)  
Colleague

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

Producer Rosey Guthrie  
Night Fire Films  
3711 Ocean View Ave.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90066  
Phone: 310-463-0843  
Email: [roseyguthrie@earthlink.net](mailto:roseyguthrie@earthlink.net)  
Producer of the immersive animation project

