

CURRICULUM VITAE

Catharina E. Santasilia

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Phone: (+1) 951 565 7278

E-mail: csantasilia@g.ucla.edu / catharinasantasilia@gmail.com

Born: Roskilde, Denmark (Danish/American – dual citizenship)

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.*”
- 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 Frei University, Berlin, Germany**
GIS-Landscape archaeology and German courses
- 2008 **B.A. Egyptology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark**

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Santasilia, Catharina E.

- In prep *Reverberations of the Framebuffer: 50 Years of Pixels with David Em.*
- In prep *The 1981 Framebuffer Show: The First Digital Image Exhibition at ACM SIGGRAPH.*
- 2025 *Echoes of Eternity: Mastery of Ancient Mesoamerican Art.* In *Echoes of Eternity*. The University of Texas, Permian Basin.
- 2024 *Understanding Social Identities at Tlatilco: Figurines from Early Formative Central Mexico.* In *Figuración Humana en Mesoamérica Prehispánica*, edited by Chantal Huckert and Miriam Judith Gallegos Gómora, ch. 2. BAR Publishing, Oxford, UK.
- 2022 “Tlatilco: The People of the Lake,” in *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*, pp. 194–223, University of Florida Press.
- 2021 “Tlatilco: 85 Years Later...,” *Figure-ing Out the Past: A Transcendent Embodiment of Ancient Mexican Art*. The University of Texas, Permian Basin.
- 2018 *Tlatilco Uncovered*. Published by Ambient Light, CA. With an afterword by Michael D. Coe.
- 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.

Co-Authored:

- Guy D. Hepp, **Santasilia, Catharina E.**, and Richard A. Diehl
- 2022 “Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages,” in *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*, edited by Catharina E. Santasilia, Guy D. Hepp, and Richard A. Diehl, pp. 1–22, 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.**, Guy D. Hepp, and Richard A. Diehl eds.
- 2022 *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*. University of Florida Press.
- 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.

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 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 Frei University, Berlin, plus grant (€1000 // \$1,200)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017–2021 **Lecturer, University of California, Riverside**, for Anthropology
- 2023

• Upper Division:

- History of Anthropological Theory (ANTH100)
- Ancient Households and Communities (ANTH113)
- Archaeology of Western Mesoamerica (ANTH115S)
- Archaeology of Eastern Mesoamerica (ANTH115R)
- Ancient Oaxaca (ANTH115X)
- Language and Culture (ANTH120)
- Political Anthropology (ANTH127)
- Biological Approaches to Medical Anthropology (ANTH158)
- Culture and Medicine (ANTH160)

- **Lower Division:**

- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH001)
- Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH005)

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

- **Lower Division:**

- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH001)
- Introduction to Biological Anthropology (ANTH002)
- World Prehistory (ANTH003)
- Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH005)
- Introduction to Sociology (SOC001)
- Sociology and the Family (SOC142)
- Western Art: Prehistoric to Byzantine (AHS017A)
- Political Ideologies (POSC005W)
- Judicial Politics and Policy Making (POSC166)

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

2025–Present **Archive Manager for the Rock Art Archive at Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA** Managing the archive and its half-century worth of site records, slides, and bibliographical resources. Currently managing 10 volunteers.

2023–Present **Archive Manager and Editorial Assistant for the Easter Island Statue Project, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA** Managing the archive and editing a comprehensive Atlas publication on Easter Island by Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg.

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 publications, including working with digital artist, David Em.

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), Olmec Heads (Mexico).

2016–2018 **Graduate Researcher, University of California, Riverside. Analyzed 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.

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 Formative Mexican objects.

- 2010–2015 **Field Archaeologist and Supervisor, Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance project** Director Dr. Jaime Awe. Excavated pyramids at the 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 **Frei University, Berlin**, under the direction 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.

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

- 2021, 2024 **Invited Speaker and Essay writer, Nancy Fyfe Cardozier Gallery, Odessa, TX.** Prepared essays; assisted in the analysis of artifacts for exhibition; and edited catalogs for two shows: *Figure-ing Out the Past: A Transcendent Embodiment of Ancient Mexican Art* and *Echoes of Eternity*.
Guest lectured for students and for the invited audience for the exhibition's opening.
- 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, conducting educational outreach, creating 3D replicas of the collection for interactive activities, and preparing an exhibition catalogue.
- 2014–2015 **Intern, Riverside Metropolitan Museum** assisting in the installation, de-installation, preparing the exhibit, and storage management.

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 the 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 **Invited Speaker**, in conjunction with the Riverside Metropolitan Museum and Riverside Art Museum exhibition preparations, I lectured on the history of Tlatilco and the 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
- 2015 “Placing Cahal Pech on the Map,” Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 16

LANGUAGES

Danish: Fluent
English: Fluent
Spanish: Reading and basic conversation

REFERENCES

Dr. Karl Taube
Emeritus Professor
Department of Anthropology
UC Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521-0418
Phone: 951-827-3917
Email: karl.taube@ucr.edu
Dissertation Chair

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

Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg
Director of the Rock Art Archive at the Cotsen
Institute of Archaeology, at UCLA
225 Arizona Ave. STE 500
Santa Monica, CA. 90401

Phone: 310-883-4366
Email: jvantil@g.ucla.edu
Director of the Easter Island Statue Project

Dr. Jaime Awe
Professor, Northern Arizona University
Anthropology Department
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

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