

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Catharina E. Santasilia Holbek

### PERSONAL

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

### EDUCATION

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

### SELECT PUBLICATIONS

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- 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*,” in *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*, eds. Santasilia, Hepp, and Diehl, 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.
- Santasilia, Catharina E.  
2021 “*Tlatilco: 85 Years Later...*,” *Figure-ing Out the Past: A Transcendent Embodiment of Ancient Mexican Art*. The University of Texas, Permian Basin.
- 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.** 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.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- 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 the Free University, Berlin, plus grant (€1000 // \$1,200)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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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)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## ORGANIZED SYMPOSIA

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- 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

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- 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 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

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

## REFERENCES

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Distinguished Professor Karl Taube  
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Director of BVAR, Field director during my  
six seasons in Belize

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National Museum of the American Indian,  
Smithsonian  
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Washington, DC 20560  
Phone: 630-638-0393  
Email: [CuretA@si.edu](mailto:CuretA@si.edu)  
Colleague