

**PERSONAL**

Phone: (+1) 951-565-7278

Email: [csant011@ucr.edu](mailto:csant011@ucr.edu) or [catharinasantasilialia@gmail.com](mailto:catharinasantasilialia@gmail.com)

Born: Roskilde, Denmark (Danish and American citizenships)

**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY AND ATTRIBUTES**

- Over a decade of experience managing and supervising complex projects, researching, organizing and interpreting data, creating and maintaining databases, educational outreach, curation, and archival work.
- Excellent communicator: lecturer and published author, conference presenter and moderator, capable of developing coursework and teaching a variety of subjects.
- Innovative, strategic thinker and solution-oriented team player with a passionate curiosity for learning.

**EDUCATION**

2022 **Certificate**, Women's Entrepreneurship, Cornell University, US (Online)

2014–2019 **Ph.D.** in Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, US

2014–2016 **M.A.** in Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, US

2010–2013 **M.A.** in Native American Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

2009 **M.A.** courses at Freie University, Berlin, Germany

2005–2008 **B.A.** in Egyptology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2017–2021, 2023 **Instructor**, University of California, Riverside, and

2015–2019 **Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Riverside

- Developed curriculum, exams, and lecture materials, and taught courses in medical, theoretical, political, cultural, and linguistic anthropology, archaeology, political science, sociology, and art history.

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS**

Santasilialia, Catharina E.

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.

Santasilialia, Catharina E., Guy D. Hepp, and Richard A. Diehl, editors

2022 *Identities, Experience, and Change in Early Mexican Villages*. University of Florida Press.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2025–Present **Archive Manager, Rock Art Archive, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA**

- Managing the archive and eight student volunteers, currently processing site records from indigenous rock art sites across all of California, including field trips, mentoring, and publishing.

2023–Present **Archive Manager and Editorial Assistant, Easter Island Statue Project, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA**

- Managing an extensive archive with multiple databases, as well as editing a comprehensive Atlas by Jo Anne Van Tilburg (2026), published by CIOA, UCLA.

2022-Present **Consultant, Conservator, and Researcher**

- Cataloging and inventorying private collections from artists and collectors. Communicating with museums, conducting research, translating, and disseminating information.

2019-Present **Researcher and Consultant, Night Fire Films**

- Conduct cultural and historical research, contact museums and organizations, and secure legal permissions for an artistic and immersive animation project: *Transfigurations: Reanimating the Past*.

2014–2019 **Graduate Researcher**

- Planned and carried out research at over 25 museums across the US, Canada, and Mexico.
- Created a database in FileMaker © with over 1,700 objects.

**MUSEUM EXPERIENCE**

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2021 **Guest Speaker and Catalog Essay writer, Nancy Fyfe Cardozier Gallery, Odessa, Texas**

- Exhibition: *Figuring Out the Past: The Transcendent Embodiment of Ancient Mexican Art*

2016–2018 **Guest Curator, Museum of Riverside, and**2014–2016 **Associate Curator Intern, Museum of Riverside**

- Developed and curated the exhibition: *Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco*, which ran from February to December 2018 at the Riverside Art Museum.
- Fundraised \$34,000 for museum loans, educational outreach, a conference, and an exhibition catalog I authored: *Tlatilco Uncovered*.
- Carefully organized the exhibition to serve the large Latinx community, resulting in the highest visitor numbers in recent history.
- Extended educational outreach through lectures at local universities, a K-12 STEM academy, and other organizations.

**SELECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE**

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

- Conducted complex excavations of multi-layered pyramids at Maya sites in Belize over six summers. Excavated, processed, and documented more than 1,100 artifacts.
- Managed site logistics, supervised a team of students and coworkers, and oversaw the on-site laboratory.
- Utilized advanced analytical skills and new technologies, including 3D rendering, to interpret excavation data, and authored multiple papers on the subject.

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

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Microsoft Office / Adobe Creative Suite / Google Workspace / FileMaker Pro

**LANGUAGES**

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Danish: Fluent; English: Fluent; Spanish: Basic

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

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- 2017 UCR Center for Ideas and Society's Humanities Interdisciplinary Project Award, for a conference held in conjunction with an exhibition I curated on Tlatilco: "*The Rise of Civilization in Mesoamerica*" (\$9,000)
- 2016–2017 Raised approximately \$34,000 to fund the Tlatilco exhibit at Riverside Art Museum.
- 2016 UCMexus Dissertation Research Grant (\$12,000)
- 2010 Copenhagen Botanical Garden grant allocated for Belize (\$1,650 / 10,000 Dkr)
- 2009 Erasmus Fellowship: one semester at the Free University of Berlin, plus a grant (€1000 // \$1,200)