

Silvia Sanchez Diaz

Ph.D. Candidate in Cultural Anthropology
Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas

Education

- ____ *Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology*. University of Kansas.
- 2024 *Graduate Specialization in Museum Studies*. University of Kansas.
- 2016 *M.A. in Cultural Anthropology*. University of Kansas.
- 2012 *Licenciatura en Antropología Cultural*. Summa Cum Laude. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.
- 2012 *B.A. en Antropología y Sociología*. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

- 2016 *Abuse and Discrimination Towards Indigenous People in Public Health Care Facilities: Experiences from Rural Guatemala*; by Alejandro Ceron, Ana Lorena Ruano, Silvia Sanchez Diaz, Aiken Chew, Diego Diaz, and Alison Hernandez. *International Journal for Equity in Health* 15:77.
- 2014 *Making the Post-MDG Global Health Goals Relevant for Highly Inequitable Societies: Findings from a Consultation with Marginalized Populations in Guatemala*; by Ana Lorena Ruano, Silvia Sanchez Diaz, Fernando Jose Jerez, and Walter Flores. *International Journal for Equity in Health* 13(57):1-8.

Theses

- 2016 *Analyzing the Politics of Development in the Ch'orti' Maya Area*. University of Kansas. M.A. in Cultural Anthropology.
- 2012 *Sólo Para ir Pasando... Experiencias de Pobreza y Lazos Matrimoniales en una Aldea del Oriente de Guatemala*. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. Licenciatura en Antropología.

Digital Projects

- 2023 *Handmade to Last: Ch'orti' Maya Artisanry amid Globalization*. Museum exhibit curated in collaboration with MSU Denver's Ethnography Lab. <https://chortiobjects.net/>
- 2022 *Qanatab'äl: Escribamos la Historia de Patzún*. Digital history project based on archival research and ethnographic fieldwork. <https://qanatabal.org/>

Academic Presentations

- 2024 *The Atypical Maya Dress: Clothing, Gender, and Indigenous Identities in Eastern Guatemala*. First version of a dissertation chapter. Hall Center for the Humanities Gender Seminar. University of Kansas.
- 2024 *Placing Ethnic Difference: The Economy of Handmade Production in the Ch'orti' Maya Area*. Oral Presentation. Conference of Latin American Geography.
- 2024 *What is so 'Ethnic' about Maguey Bags? Indigeneity and Material Culture in Eastern Guatemala*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Research Symposium. University of Kansas.
- 2023 *The Archives of San Bernardino Patzún: Maya Kaqchikel Historical Relics*. Oral Presentation. Latin American Studies Association Congress.
- 2022 *Women and Indigenous Identities in a Kaqchikel Maya Town*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Research Symposium. University of Kansas.
- 2021 *COVID-19's Impact on Central American Communities: Transnational Truths and Anthropological Responsibilities*. Discussant in roundtable. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2020 *Indigenous Livelihoods and Economic Diversification in Rural Guatemala*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Research Symposium. University of Kansas.
- 2017 *Navigating the Global Development Industry: Experiences of NGO Workers in Guatemala*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Research Symposium. University of Kansas.
- 2016 *The Social Life of Development Supplies in Guatemala's Ch'orti' Maya Area*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Merienda Speaker Series. University of Kansas.
- 2015 *Exploring the Impact of Development Networking Processes in the Ch'orti' Maya Area*. Oral presentations. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.

2015 *Proliferación de Intervenciones para el Desarrollo en la Región Ch'orti'*. Oral Presentation. Guatemala Scholars Network Conference.

2015 *Understanding Political Empowerment: Experiences of Community Leaders in Guatemala*. Oral Presentation. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference.

Research Funding

Research Grants

2022 *Dissertation Fieldwork Grant*. Wenner-Gren Foundation. Funding was used to conduct ethnographic fieldwork and archival research in Guatemala.

2018 *Charles Stansifer Fieldwork Grant*. University of Kansas Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Funding was used to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in Guatemala.

2017 *Summer Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant*. University of Kansas Office of International Programs. Funding was used to conduct exploratory research for my dissertation.

2015 *Field Research Grant*. Tinker Foundation. Funding was used to conduct ethnographic research in Guatemala for my M.A. thesis.

Graduate Student Fellowships

2022 *Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships*. United States Department of Education. I received three FLAS Fellowships to study Kaqchikel Maya at the University of Kansas and in Tulane University's summer language course in Guatemala.

2021 *Digital Humanities Fellowship*. University of Kansas Hall Center for the Humanities. During this fellowship, I developed an educational platform for Kaqchikel Maya youth to write their own history.

2017 *Doctoral Research Fellowship*. University of Kansas Institute for Policy and Social Research. During this fellowship, I wrote a proposal for a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant.

Graduate Student Awards and Internships

2023 *Museum Studies Intern*. Metropolitan State University of Denver Ethnography Lab.

2023 *Carroll Clark Award*. University of Kansas Department of Anthropology. Award presented to Silvia to conduct additional ethnographic research in Guatemala.

- 2022 *Allan Hanson Award*. University of Kansas Department of Anthropology. Award presented to Silvia for her excellence in anthropological teaching.
- 2019 *Allan Hanson Award*. University of Kansas Department of Anthropology. Award presented to Silvia for her excellence in anthropological teaching.
- 2017 *Allan Hanson Award*. University of Kansas Department of Anthropology. Award presented to Silvia for her excellence in anthropological teaching.

Teaching Experience

University of Kansas Graduate Teaching Assistant (2014 to 2024)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. This course examines the social construction of gender, race, ethnicity, class, kinship, and religion in the United States and beyond.

Varieties of Human Experience. This course examines how people around the world are culturally and economically interconnected through the global market.

Culture and Health. This course examines how people understand and experience health, wellbeing, and disease across cultural contexts.

Language and Culture in Society. This course examines language variation in the United States, including socialization and ideologies regarding language standardization.

Multidisciplinary Field School in Partnership with the Ch'orti' People. This two-week study abroad course examines indigenous identities, development, and Ch'orti' history.

Elementary Spanish. This course introduces basic vocabulary and grammar in Spanish to beginner-level students.

Albion College Online Instructor (2020)

Introduction to Anthropology. This online course introduces the major concepts and methodologies of the four fields of anthropology.

Critically Engaged Research

- 2013 *Research Assistant*. Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en los Sistemas de Salud. I collected and analyzed ethnographic data for various research projects aimed at expanding the right to health in Guatemala.

2012 *Research Consultant.* Campaña Guatemala Sin Hambre. I conducted life stories and participant observation for a research project that investigated the social impacts of malnutrition in Eastern Guatemala.

Service

2023 Board member of the International Teaching Assistant Learning Community (ITALC), Organized by the KU Center for Teaching Excellence.

2022 Member of the Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) Program Committee to select invited panels for the American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting. Fall 2022.

2022 Member of the KU Faculty Research Committee.

2021 President of KU Latin American Graduate Organization.

Professional Affiliations

Latin American Studies Association.

American Anthropological Association. Member of the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology and the Society for Economic Anthropology.

Guatemala Scholars Network.

References

Professor Emerita Carol Hendrickson
Institute for Liberal Arts & Interdisciplinary Studies
Emerson College
Email: ch@emerson.edu

Professor Brent Metz
Department of Anthropology
University of Kansas
Email: bmetz@ku.edu

Associate Professor Alejandro Ceron
Department of Anthropology
University of Denver
Email: alejandro.ceronvaldes@du.edu