

Silvia Sanchez Diaz

Ph.D. Candidate | silviasanchezdiaz@ku.edu
Department of Anthropology | University of Kansas

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022–2024 **Graduate Teaching Assistant.** Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas.
- 2021–2022 **Digital Humanities Fellow.** Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas
- 2021–2022 **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow.** United States Department of Education.
- Fall 2020 **Online Instructor.** Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Albion College.
- 2017–2018 **Doctoral Research Fellow.** Institute for Policy and Social Research. University of Kansas.
- 2014–2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant.** Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas.
- 2013 **Research Assistant.** Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en los Sistemas de Salud.
- 2012 **Psychosocial Support Facilitator.** Campaña Guatemala Sin Hambre.

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Anthropology.** University of Kansas. Dissertation title: *Ch'orti' Maya Pathways toward Gender Equality: Reinventing Indigeneity at the Margins of Globalization*. Committee Chair: Brent Metz.
- 2016 **M.A. in Anthropology.** University of Kansas. Thesis title: *Analyzing the Politics of Development Funding, Competition, and Corruption in the Ch'orti' Maya Area*. Committee Chair: Brent Metz. Committee members: Allan Hanson, Melissa Birch.
- 2012 **Licenciatura in Anthropology.** Summa Cum Laude. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. Thesis title: *Sólo para ir pasando... experiencias de pobreza y lazos matrimoniales en una familia extensa de Lelá Chancó, Camotán*. Committee Chair: Alejandro Cerón. Committee members: Jennifer Casolo, Alejandra Colom.
- 2012 **B.A. in Anthropology.** Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- “Working with Donors, Working with Indigenous Communities: The Expertise of Development Specialists in the Ch’orti’ Region of Guatemala” by Brent Metz and **Silvia Sanchez Diaz**. Under revision.
- 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.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2023 “Revitalizing Our Legacy: Anthropology, Higher Education, and the Importance of Sustained Ethnographic Research Abroad” by **Silvia Sanchez Diaz** in *Revitalizing Anthropology*, edited by Robert Borofsky.

RESEARCH FUNDING

EXTERNAL AWARDS

- 2022 *Dissertation Fieldwork Grant*. Wenner-Gren Foundation. \$19,979.
- 2022 *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship*. U.S. Department of Education. \$7,500.
- 2021 *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship*. U.S. Department of Education. \$16,600 stipend and \$10,000 tuition.
- 2021 *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship*. U.S. Department of Education. \$5,000.

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

- 2024 *Graduate Student Research Travel Grant*. Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas. \$3,500.
- 2023 *Carroll Clark Award*. Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas. \$1,000.
- 2023 *Pierre A. Stouse Memorial Award*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas. \$1,000.
- 2020 *Felix Moos Award*. Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas. \$2,000.
- 2018 *Charles Stansifer Fieldwork Grant*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas. \$5,000.

- 2018 *Graduate Student Writing Incentive Fund*. College of Liberal Arts, University of Kansas. \$2,400.
- 2017 *Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Scholarship*. Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas. \$1,500.
- 2017 *Summer Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant*. Office of International Programs, University of Kansas. \$1,500.
- 2015 *Field Research Grant*. Tinker Foundation. \$1,500.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 *Ch'orti' Artisans at Work: The Production of Handcrafted Goods in Eastern Guatemala*. Oral Presentation. World Anthropology Union Congress.
- 2025 *Producción e intercambio de artesanía Ch'orti' en el oriente de Guatemala*. Oral Presentation. XV Congreso Centroamericano de Antropología.
- 2025 *Comercializando el estilo Ch'orti': La vida social de las bolsas de maguey en el oriente de Guatemala*. Oral Presentation. Guatemala Scholars Network.
- 2024 *Placing Ethnic Difference: The Economy of Handmade Production in the Ch'orti' Maya Area*. Oral Presentation. Conference of Latin American Geography.
- 2023 *The Archives of San Bernardino Patzún: Maya Kaqchikel Historical Relics*. Oral Presentation. Latin American Studies Association Congress.
- 2021 *COVID-19's Impact on Central American Communities: Transnational Truths and Anthropological Responsibilities*. American Anthropological Association Meeting.
- 2015 *Exploring the Impact of Development Networking Processes in the Ch'orti' Maya Area*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2015 *Proliferación de Intervenciones para el Desarrollo en la Región Ch'orti'*. Guatemala Scholars Network Conference.
- 2015 *Understanding Political Empowerment: Experiences of Community Leaders in Guatemala*. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting.

UNIVERSITY COLLOQUIA

- 2024 *The Atypical Maya Dress: Clothing, Gender, and Indigenous Identities in Eastern Guatemala*. Gender Seminar. Hall Center for the Humanities. University of Kansas.
- 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.

- 2022 *Women and Indigenous Identities in a Kaqchikel Maya Town*. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Research Symposium. University of Kansas.
- 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ANTH 105: Introduction to Anthropology. This online course introduces the major concepts and methodologies of the four fields of anthropology. I taught this course as an online instructor at Albion College in 2020.

ANTH 108: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. This course examines the social construction of gender, race, ethnicity, class, kinship, and religion in the United States and beyond. I taught this course as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kansas.

ANTH 160/360: Varieties of Human Experience. This course examines how people around the world are culturally and economically interconnected through the global market. I taught this course as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kansas.

ANTH 201: Culture and Health. This course examines how people understand and experience health, wellbeing, and disease across cultural contexts. I taught this course as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kansas.

ANTH 320: Language and Culture in Society. This course examines language variation in the United States, including socialization and ideologies regarding language standardization. I taught this course as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kansas.

ANTH 587: Multidisciplinary Field School in Partnership with the Ch'orti' People. This two-week study abroad course examines indigenous identities, development, and Ch'orti' history. I taught this course as a teaching assistant at the University of Kansas.

TEACHING AWARDS

- 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.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Anthropological Association
- Latin American Studies Association
- Guatemala Scholars Network

LANGUAGES

- English, near-native proficiency
- Spanish, native proficiency
- Kaqchikel Maya, conversational proficiency

DIGITAL PROJECTS

2022 *Qanatab'äl: Escribamos la Historia de Patzún*. Digital history project launched by **Silvia Sanchez Diaz**. <https://qanatabal.org/>

SERVICE

- 2023 Board member of the International Teaching Assistant Learning Community (ITALC) at the KU Center for Teaching Excellence.
- 2022 Member of the Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) Program Committee.
- 2022 Member of the KU Faculty Research Committee.
- 2021 President of KU Latin American Graduate Organization.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

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

Professor Robert Borofsky
Center for a Public Anthropology
Email: borofsky@publicanthropology.org