

# ***Silvia Sanchez Diaz***

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Department of Anthropology | University of Kansas

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## **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. Guatemala.
- 2012           **Psychosocial Support Facilitator.** Campaña Guatemala Sin Hambre. Guatemala.

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## **EDUCATION**

- **Ph.D. in Anthropology with a graduate specialization in Museum Studies.** University of Kansas. Preliminary title of dissertation: *Ch'orti' Maya Pathways toward Gender Equality: Reimagining Indigenous Livelihoods and Identities at the Margins of the Global Economy*. Committee Chair: Brent E. 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 E. 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 with a minor in Sociology.** Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Indigenous livelihoods and identities
- Gender, ethnicity, and race
- Health, education, and development
- Petty commodity production
- The social life of things
- Guatemala

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## 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 review.
- 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.

### DIGITAL PROJECTS

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

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

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## RESEARCH FUNDING

### EXTERNAL AWARDS

- 2025 *Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant*. National Science Foundation, Cultural Anthropology Program. \$27,576. Not awarded.
- 2023 *Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship*. Department of Education. \$11,850. Awarded and declined.
- 2023 *Dissertation Innovation Fellowship*. Mellon/ACLS Foundation. \$42,000. Not awarded.
- 2022 *Dissertation Fieldwork Grant*. Wenner-Gren Foundation. \$19,979. Awarded.
- 2022 *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship*. U.S. Department of Education. \$7,500. Awarded.
- 2021 *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship*. U.S. Department of Education. \$16,600 stipend and \$10,000 tuition. Awarded
- 2021 *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship*. U.S. Department of Education. \$5,000. Awarded.

### 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. Awarded.
- 2017 *Summer Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant*. Office of International Programs, University of Kansas. \$1,500. Awarded.
- 2015 *Field Research Grant*. Tinker Foundation. \$1,500. Awarded.

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## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

*Professor Brent Metz*  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Kansas  
Email: [bmetz@ku.edu](mailto:bmetz@ku.edu)

*Professor Robert Borofsky*  
Center for a Public Anthropology  
Email: [borofsky@publicanthropology.org](mailto:borofsky@publicanthropology.org)

*Professor Judith Maxwell*  
Department of Anthropology  
Tulane University  
Email: [maxwell@tulane.edu](mailto:maxwell@tulane.edu)