

# Silvia Sanchez Diaz

Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas

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## EDUCATION

- 2025 Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas. Dissertation title, *Ch'orti' Maya Handmade: Making a Living as an Indigenous Woman in Eastern Guatemala*.
- 2024 Graduate Certificate. Museum Studies Program, University of Kansas.
- 2016 M.A. Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas.
- 2012 Licenciatura. Summa Cum Laude. Departamento de Antropología y Sociología. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.
- 2012 B.A. Department of Anthropology and Sociology. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal 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 Funding, Competition, and Corruption in the Ch'orti' Maya Area
- 2012 Sólo para ir pasando... experiencias de pobreza y lazos matrimoniales en una familia extensa de Lelá Chancó, Camotán.

### Research Published Online

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

### **Manuscripts in progress**

*Development in the Ch'orti' Maya Area*. This manuscript investigates how modernization policies and development projects have shaped Ch'orti' Maya livelihoods in the last century.

*Qanatab'äl: A Digital History Platform*. This manuscript illustrates how anthropologists can contribute to educating indigenous youth in Guatemala through a digital history project.

*Portraying the Eastern Maya*. This manuscript discusses the challenges of portraying gender, indigeneity, and dexterous work in an online exhibit about handmade objects.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2023 Carroll Clark Graduate Student Summer Research Award. Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas.
- 2022 Allan Hanson Excellence in Anthropological Teaching Award. Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas.

### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

#### **Research**

- 2022 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. Wenner-Gren Foundation.
- 2021 Digital Humanities Fellowship. Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas.
- 2018 Charles Stansifer Fellowship. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas.
- 2017 Doctoral Research Fellowship. Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas.
- 2017 Summer Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant. Office of International Programs, University of Kansas.

2015 Field Research Grant. Tinker Foundation.

### **Language Acquisition**

2022 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship. Department of Education.

2021 Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic-Year Fellowship. Department of Education.

2021 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship. Department of Education.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Papers Presented**

2024 *Placing Ethnic Difference: The Economy of Handmade Production in the Ch'orti' Maya Area.* Conference of Latin American Geography.

2023 *The Archives of San Bernardino Patzún: Maya Kaqchikel Historical Relics.* Latin American Studies Association.

2021 *COVID-19's Impact on Central American Communities: Transnational Truths and Anthropological Responsibilities.* American Anthropological Association.

2015 *Exploring the Impact of Development Networking Processes in the Ch'orti' Maya Area.* American Anthropological Association.

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

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

#### **Campus Talks**

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.* Graduate Research Symposium. KU Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

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

- 2020 *Indigenous Livelihoods and Economic Diversification in Rural Guatemala*. Graduate Research Symposium. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas.
- 2017 *Navigating the Global Development Industry: Experiences of NGO Workers in Guatemala*. Graduate Research Symposium. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas.
- 2016 The Social Life of Development Supplies in Guatemala's Ch'orti' Maya Area. Merienda Speaker Series. Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Kansas.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2023 Intern. Metropolitan State University of Denver, United States. Curated an online exhibit about the changing role of indigenous artisanal production in Eastern Guatemala
- 2013 Research Assistant. Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en los Sistemas de Salud, Guatemala. Collected and analyzed ethnographic data for various research projects about the right to health in Guatemala.
- 2012 Research Consultant. Campaña Guatemala Sin Hambre, Guatemala. Conducted life stories and participant observation for a research project about the social impacts of malnutrition in Eastern Guatemala.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas (2014 - )**

*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 the livelihoods of indigenous people have shifted as remote regions of the world gradually participate in the market economy.

*Culture and Health*. This course examines understandings and experiences of health, wellbeing, and disease across cultures, with particular emphasis in investigating health inequalities.

*Language and Culture in Society*. This course examines how society grapples with language variation in the United States, including ideologies and the politics of standardization.

### **Online Instructor, Albion College (2020)**

*Introduction to Anthropology.* This online course introduces the major concepts and methodologies of cultural, linguistic, and biological anthropology, as well as archaeology.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2022 Program committee. Society for Economic Anthropology, American Anthropological Association

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

2022 Executive Dean search committee. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Kansas.

2021 Latin American Graduate Organization. University of Kansas

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish. Native proficiency.

English. Advanced academic proficiency.

Kaqchikel Maya (indigenous language spoken in Guatemala). Intermediate proficiency.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. American Anthropological Association.

Society for Economic Anthropology. American Anthropological Association.

Latin American Studies Association.

Guatemala Scholars Network.