

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Alanna Cant

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Academic Profile

Alanna Cant is a social anthropologist specialising on the politics of art, heritage and religion in Latin America, with a particular emphasis on Mexico. She has conducted fieldwork in the state of Oaxaca with woodcarvers and the dealers, bureaucrats and clients that support Mexican art and craft markets. Her current research is funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (Horizon 2020). It considers the restoration of 16th century Catholic churches in Mexican indigenous communities in order to address key debates on the politics and practices of heritage and religion in Mexico.

Education

PhD Social Anthropology	2012	Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics
MSc Social Anthropology	2006	Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics
MA in Globalisation and Development Studies	2004	Department of Politics and International Studies University of Warwick
BA (Honours) Social Cultural Anthropology, with Minor in Latin American Studies	2002	Department of Anthropology, University of Calgary, Canada

Academic Posts

Current	Marie Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Anthropology and Conservation University of Kent
Current	Sessional Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Cambridge
Current	Sessional Lecturer, Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge
09/2015 – 11/2016	Research Affiliate, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo [Statutory Parental Leave, Norway]
10/2013 – 09/2015	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo
09/2012 – 09/2013	Research Affiliate, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany
02/2013 – 09/2013	Adjunct Lecturer, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany

- 05/2010 – 09/2013 Editorial Assistant, The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI)
- 07/2011 – 08/2011 Graduate Teaching Assistant, London School of Economics Summer School
- 09/2010 – 05/2011 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics
- 09/2007- 01/2008 Research Assistant, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics

Peer Reviewed Publications

2019 (in press) Monograph: *The Value of Aesthetics: Oaxacan Artisans in Global Economies of Culture*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

2018. "Making" Hierarchies of Labour in Mexican Artisanal Workshops.' [Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 24\(S1\): S61-S74.](#)

2016. 'The Art of Indigeneity: Aesthetics and Competition in Mexican Economies of Culture.' [Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology 81\(1\): 152-177.](#)

2016. 'Who Authors Crafts? Producing woodcarvings and authorship in Oaxaca, Mexico.' In [Critical Craft: Technology, Globalization, and Capitalism](#), edited by Clare Wilkinson-Weber and Alicia Ory de Nicola. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 19-34.

2015. 'The Allure of Art and Intellectual Property: Artisans and industrial replicas in Mexican cultural economies.' [Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 21\(4\): 820-837.](#)

2015. 'One Image, Two Stories: Ethnographic and Touristic Photography and the Practice of Craft in Mexico' [Visual Anthropology 28\(4\): 277-285.](#)

Under review: 'Aesthetics of Work: Mexican artisans and the uncertain value of skill.' *Anthropological Quarterly*

In Preparation: Special issue on 'Aesthetics and Religious Collectivities,' co-edited with Timothy Carroll.

Book Reviews and Research Reports

Forthcoming. Review of 'A Goddess in Motion: Visual Creativity in the Cult of Maria Lionza' *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*

2018. 'Saints of the Shaking Earth.' Guest post on [The Religion Factor](#), the Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalization, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Groningen

2016. Review of 'The Business of Creativity: Toward an Anthropology of Worth by Brian Moeran.' [American Ethnologist 43\(1\): 203-204.](#)

2015. Review of 'Locations of Envy: An ethnography of Aguabuena Potters' by Daniella Castellanos Montes [Dissertation Reviews Archive number 11187](#).

2014. Review of 'The Making of Asmat Art: Indigenous Art in a World Perspective' by Nick Stanley [Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 20\(2\):372-373](#).

2014. Review of 'World Art: An Introduction to the Art in Artefacts' by Ben Burt [Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 20\(3\): 583-584](#).

2012. American aesthetics and Chinese copies: the new politics of artisanship in Oaxaca, Mexico *Anthropology News* 53(10) [December 2012]: 48-49

Grants

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| 2016 – 2018 | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Research Grant (Horizon 2020), European Commission [€183,454 (approx. £156,000) over 2 years] |
| 2013 – 2015 | University of Oslo Writing Fellowship in Anthropology, Norway [approx. £77,850 over 2 years] |
| 2009 – 2010 | LSE Research Studentship, London School of Economics [£8,000 over 2 years] |
| 2008 – 2009 | Emslie Horniman Fund for Ethnographic Research, Royal Anthropological Institute [£6,900 over 1 year] |

Selected Seminars and Presentations

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| 15/11/2018 | 13 Grains of Maize: material religion and history in the 'deep local' of witchcraft in Oaxaca, Mexico. American Anthropological Association Meetings, San José, USA |
| 03/06/2018 | Aesthetics, Authority and 'Scales' of Belonging in Lived Mexican Catholicism. Royal Anthropological Institute Conference, London |
| 30/05/2018 | 'San Jacinto or San José? Historicity and the mis/recognition of Catholic saints in church art. Anthropology of Christianity Writing Retreat, Cumberland Lodge |
| 04/04/2017 | 'On The Object Itself: Oaxacan woodcarvers and the allure of their art.' Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex |
| 13/03/2017 | 'On The Object Itself: Oaxacan woodcarvers and the allure of their art.' Department of Anthropology, University of Manchester |
| 07/03/2017 | 'On The Object Itself: Oaxacan woodcarvers and the allure of their art.' School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent |

- 07/05/2016 'Craft Without Artisanry? Talented, skilful and unskilful work in Mexican woodcarving.' Rethinking Skill: New Ethnographic Perspectives on Expertise Workshop. University of Kent.
- 20/10/2015 'The Allure of Intellectual Property in Mexico's Economies of Culture.' School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent
- 12/06/2015 'Authorship, Ownership and Emergent Artisanal Subjectivities in Oaxacan Woodcarving.' 'The Reconfiguration of Labour' Workshop, University of Oslo
- 27/03/2015 'Tonas de Oaxaca: Connecting neoliberal desires and anthropological imaginations through intellectual property.' Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA) Spring Meetings, Oaxaca, Mexico
- 10/09/2014 'Practicing Aesthetics: Oaxacan artisans in global economies of culture.' Institute Seminar. Department of Anthropology, University of Oslo
- 03/08/2014 'Art, Craft and Aesthetic Practice in Oaxacan Woodcarving (Mexico).' European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) biannual meetings, Tallinn, Estonia
- 21/06/2014 'Bodily skills, affective relations and inequality in Mexican craft production.' Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA) meetings, Edinburgh
- 25/10/2013 'Ethnographic problems and artisanal solutions: fieldwork with artisans, objects and aesthetics in Oaxaca, Mexico.' Emslie Horniman Memorial Workshop, Royal Anthropological Institute
- 08/02/2013 'Persuasive Evidence: When tourists and anthropologists produce the same images of craft practices.' 'Documenting Craft Making: Visual Methods and Anthropological Research' workshop. Kulturhistorisk Museum, University of Oslo
- 26/07/2012 'Who Authors Crafts? Producing woodcarvings and authorship in Oaxaca, Mexico.' 'Taking Stock: Anthropology, Craft and Artisans in the 21st Century.' Wenner-Gren Foundation Workshop. Washington State University
- 28/01/2012 'The Auras of Tourist Art: Made in China factory copies and the politics of Mexican craft production.' Anthropology Research Seminar, Brunel University
- 19/11/2011 'The Ruins Are Important Once Again: Competing explanations of history, place and ancestors in Oaxaca.' American Anthropological Association Meetings, Montreal, Canada
- 08/10/2011 'Made in China: Factory copies and the auras of Mexican tourist art.' Research Seminar on Anthropological Theory. Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics
- 22/06/2011 'Mi hijo es muy flojo': Skill, talent and personhood in the production of Oaxacan woodcarving.' University of London Anthropology of Latin America Workshop
- 25/05/2011 'Places of the Past or Places of the Present? Memories, knowledge and the ruins in San Martín Tilcajete, Mexico.' 'Materiality, Memory and Cultural Heritage' Conference. Istanbul, Turkey

Teaching

- 2019 Sessional lecturer for “Indigeneity in Latin America.” Centre for Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge. Topics: “Art and the making of indigeneity in Mexico” and “Christianity and Indigeneity in Mexico and the Andes.”
- 2018/19 Sessional lecturer for “Anthropology of Media and Visual Culture.” Department of Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Undergraduate course on the role of media and visual forms in contemporary social life. Topics: “Is aesthetics useful for anthropology?” and “Politics and aesthetics”
- 2018 Sessional lecturer for “Race and Indigeneity in Latin America.” Centre for Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge. Topic: “Art and the making of indigeneity in Mexico.”
- 2017 Sessional lecturer for “Anthropology of Creativity.” University of Kent. Topic: Creativity and economic competition in Mexico’s craft economies.
- 2013 Convenor and lecturer for “Anthropology of Art and Material Culture.” Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. Advanced Master’s course on the role of art and material culture within the history of anthropology, as well as contemporary debates surrounding topics such as art production, skill transmission and materiality.
- 2011 Course Teacher for “Culture and Globalisation: Perspectives from Anthropology.” London School of Economics. Introduction to social anthropology within the context of current debates concerning globalization. Topics include: migration, development, tourism, and militarism.
- 2010/11 Course Teacher for “Kinship, Sex and Gender.” London School of Economics. Theoretical course concerning this history and current debates in the anthropological study of kinship and how it relates to sex and gender. Topics include: Foucault and the body, sexuality, masculinity and new reproductive technologies.

Prizes and Awards

- 2012 Raymond Firth Prize for best student research seminar on anthropological theory. Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics
- 2005 Globalisation and Development Dissertation Award, University of Warwick

Professional Service, Mentorship and Memberships

- 2012 –
Current Peer reviewer Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI); American Ethnologist; HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory; History and Anthropology; Relaciones: Estudios de Historia y Sociedad
- 2000 –
Current Member The American Anthropological Association (AAA)

2000 – Current	Member The Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology
2008 – Current	Member Instituto Welte para Estudios Oaxaqueños (Welte Institute for Oaxacan Studies)
2013 – Current	Member 'Anthropos and the Material: Challenges to Anthropology Economic Practices' network. University of Oslo, Norway
2014 – Current	Member European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
2015	Examiner for MA dissertation (oral defence), University of Oslo
2014	Examiner for PhD midterm evaluation (oral defence), University of Oslo
2014	Workshop for PhDs on academic publishing, University of Oslo
2014/15	Mentor to PhD students working in Mexico and the Caribbean, University of Oslo
2011/12	Mentor to LSE's Anthropology Outreach undergraduate programme, London
2010/11	LSE Representative at London Anthropology Day, British Museum, London
2010	Visiting Scholar at Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, New York
2009/10	Research Student Representative, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics
2009/10	Anthropology in London Conference Organising Committee, University of London
2009/10	Chair, University of London Anthropology of Latin America seminar
2006/07	Co-chair, Ethnographic Film Series, Department of Anthropology, LSE

Field Research

2017	6 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico on topic of church restorations.
2015	6 weeks' pilot study in Oaxaca, Mexico on topic of church restorations.
2008/09	21 months of ethnographic research in Oaxaca, Mexico on topic of ethnic art

Language Skills

English: Fluent/First Language
Spanish: Excellent in speaking; proficient in writing and reading
German and Norwegian: Beginner