

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Alanna Cant

Email: ac2245@cam.ac.uk

Website: www.alannacant.com

ORCID ID: orcid.org/0000-0002-7549-0062

Academic Profile

Alanna Cant is a social anthropologist specialising in material culture, art, heritage, and religion in Latin America, with a particular emphasis on Mexico. Her previous research considered aesthetics and the production of value in the markets for Mexican ethnic arts and craftwork. Her current research connects historical and ethnographic research by investigating the material cultures of Catholicism and heritage conservation in rural Mexico, for which she was awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship from the European Commission. She is currently Lecturer in Social Anthropology in the Department of Archaeology, at the University of Reading.

Education

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

Employment

Current	Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. Duties include: programme director of the BA in Archaeology and Anthropology degree; preparation and delivery of lectures and assessments; pastoral care and advice to students; admissions tutor.
10/2017 - 08/2019	Sessional Lecturer and Undergraduate Supervisor, Department of Anthropology, University of Cambridge
10/2017 - 08/2019	Sessional Lecturer and Postgraduate Supervisor and Examiner, Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge
02/2019 - 08/2019	Impact Development Officer, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Duties included researching and documenting impact for the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Anthropology; Coordinating the Department's Impact and Environment Statements for the REF.
01/2019 - 08/2019	Student Recruitment and Outreach Officer, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge. Duties included organising and promoting multiple and ongoing outreach and recruitment events, such as multi-day teacher training workshops, school visits, themed study days, film competitions, and public lectures.
12/2016 - 11/2018	Marie Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent

10/2013 - 11/2016	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo [including Statutory Parental Leave, Norway, 10/2015 - 11/2016]
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
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

Monograph

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

Peer Reviewed Articles

2020 (forthcoming). Participatory Research in Mesoamerica and Data Protection in Europe (and elsewhere).’ *Annals of Anthropological Practice*.

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.](#)

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.](#)

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters

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.

2021(forthcoming). ‘The Politics of Craft and Working Without Skill: reconsidering craftsmanship and the community of practice.’ In [*Craft is Political: Economic, Social and Technological Contexts*](#), edited by D. Wood. London: Bloomsbury
 In Preparation: Working Without Skill in the Craft Community. In *Craft Is Political*, edited by D. Wood.

Book Reviews and Research Reports

2018. Review of 'A Goddess in Motion: Visual Creativity in the Cult of Maria Lionza' by Roger Canals [*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 24\(4\)](#).

2018. 'What Can Witchcraft Do in Mexico?' [*Anthropology News* 59\(6\)](#) November/December.

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: 48-49.

Grants and Awards

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].
2012	Raymond Firth Prize for student research seminar on anthropological theory. Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics [£250].
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].
2005	Globalisation and Development Dissertation Award, University of Warwick [£300].

Public Engagement

10/08/2018 Public Lecture "Artesanías into Ethnic Art: Oaxacan Woodcarving Aesthetics in Global Economies of Culture" The Quentin Blake Society for Arts and Humanities. Downing College, Cambridge

20/07/2018 Organiser, Chair and Speaker public lectures event "Researching Religious Heritage at Kent." Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, Canterbury, UK

Teaching and Supervision

Lecturing and Teaching:

- ***Contemporary World Cultures: Introduction to Social Anthropology.*** Module convenor and lecturer (undergraduate). Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. 2019-2020; current
- ***The Anthropology of Heritage and Cultural Property.*** Module convenor and lecturer (undergraduate). Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. 2019-2020; current
- ***Contemporary Issues and Debates in Heritage and Cultural Property.*** Module convenor and lecturer (postgraduate). Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. 2019-2020; current
- ***Contemporary Issues in Human Geography.*** Lecturer (undergraduate). Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Reading; current
- ***Archaeology and heritage: past, present and future.*** Sessional Lecturer (undergraduate and postgraduate). Department of Archaeology, University of Reading; current
- ***Anthropology of Media and Visual Culture.*** Sessional Lecturer, (undergraduate and postgraduate). Department of Anthropology, University of Cambridge. 2017 - 2018; 2018 - 2019
- ***Culture and Indigeneity in Latin America.*** Sessional Lecturer (postgraduate). Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge. 2017 - 2018; 2018 - 2019
- ***Anthropology of Creativity.*** Sessional Lecturer (undergraduate), School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent. 2017
- ***Anthropology of Art and Material Culture*** Convenor and Lecturer (postgraduate). Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. 2013
- ***Culture and Globalisation: Perspectives from Anthropology.*** Course Teacher (undergraduate) London School of Economics. 2011
- ***Kinship, Sex and Gender.*** Course Teacher (undergraduate). London School of Economics. 2010 – 2011

Supervision and Examination:

- **PhD Supervisor.** Henrietta Hammant. Department of Archaeology, University of Reading 2020-Current
- **Chair, PhD Advisory Committee.** Alesia Koush, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. 2019-Current
- **Chair, PhD Advisory Committee.** Madison Johnson, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Reading. 2019-Current
- **Undergraduate Supervisor.** Department of Anthropology, University of Cambridge. 2018 - 2019
- **MPhil Supervisor and Examiner.** Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge. 2018 and 2019
- **MA dissertation examiner (oral defence).** University of Oslo. 2015
- **PhD midterm evaluation examiner (oral defence).** University of Oslo. 2014

Selected Academic Seminars and Public Lectures

- 11/05/2019 'The Face of the Saint: Abduction, immanence and the problem of identity in a Mexican saint's image.' Exuvia: Distributing the Self in Images and Objects Conference, CRASSH, Cambridge
- 19/02/2019 'Drawing the Sacred In and Out: Catholic aesthetics and the negotiation of proximity in Mexico.' Senior Research Seminar, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent
- 11/12/2018 'San Jacinto or San José? History, knowledge and the mis/recognition of Catholic saints in Oaxaca, Mexico.' Religion and Society Seminar, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University
- 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 Jose, USA
- 10/08/2018 Public Lecture: "Artesanías into Ethnic Art: Oaxacan Woodcarving Aesthetics in Global Economies of Culture" The Quentin Blake Society for Arts and Humanities. Downing College, Cambridge
- 20/07/2018 Organiser and Speaker: Public Lectures Event 'Researching Religious Heritage at Kent.' Beane House of Art and Knowledge, Canterbury, UK
- 03/06/2018 'Aesthetics, Authority and 'Scales' of Belonging in Lived Mexican Catholicism.' Royal Anthropological Institute Annual Conference, London
- 13/03/2017 'On The Object Itself: Oaxacan woodcarvers and the allure of their art.' Department of Anthropology, University of Manchester
- 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
- 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
- 03/08/2014 'Art, Craft and Aesthetic Practice in Oaxacan Woodcarving (Mexico).' European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) 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 Public Lecture: 'Ethnographic problems and artisanal solutions: fieldwork with artisans, objects and aesthetics in Oaxaca, Mexico.' Horniman Museum, London
- 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

Professional Certification and Development Courses

09/2020	Associate Fellowship of the HEA: Recognition reference PR200337
2019 – 2020	University of Reading's Academic Practice Programme, EDMAP 1 and EDMAP 2
06/2019	'Delivering Engaging Sessions for Schools', University of Cambridge
02/2019	'Using the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT)', University of Cambridge
01/2019	'Methods and Sources for Historical Research Course', Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London
11/2018	'Archival Research 101', American Anthropological Association
09/2018	'Effective Supervising', Researcher Development Program, University of Cambridge
07/2018	'Career Management for Early Career Academic Researchers', Future Learn with the University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh and University of Sheffield
04/2018	'Digital Research Resources at the British Library', British Library Labs Roadshow

Selected Professional Service and Memberships

Peer Reviewer, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute; American Ethnologist; History and Anthropology; Journal of Latin American Studies; Entangled Religions; Relaciones: Estudios de Historia y Sociedad

Member, Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA)

Member, American Anthropological Association (AAA) and The Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)

Member, Instituto Welte para Estudios Oaxaqueños (Welte Institute for Oaxacan Studies)

Member, European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Member, "Anthropos and the Material: Challenges to Anthropology," Norway, 2013 - 2018

Volunteer, London Anthropology Day, British Museum, London, 2010 and 2011

Anthropology in London Conference Organising Committee, University of London, 2009 - 2010

Field Research

2017	6 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico on topic of heritage and material religion
2015	7 weeks of exploratory ethnographic fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico on topic of heritage and material religion.
2008 - 2009	21 months of ethnographic research in Oaxaca, Mexico on topic of aesthetics, artisanship and ethnic art

Language Skills

English: Fluent/First Language

Spanish: Fluent

German and Norwegian: Beginner