

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Alanna Cant

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Academic Profile

Alanna Cant is a social anthropologist specialising in material culture, art, heritage, and religion in Mexico and the United Kingdom. Her research has considered aesthetics and the production of value in the markets for Mexican ethnic arts and craftwork, and the economic, social and religious values of Roman Catholic heritage in Mexico and England and Wales. She is currently Lecturer in Anthropology in the Department of Archaeology, at the University of Reading.

Education

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| 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

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| Current | Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. Duties include: programme director of the BA in Archaeology and Anthropology degree; school director for recruitment and admissions; 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. |

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| 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 & Book Chapter

2023. 'Writing Practices' and Writing 'Practices': Observation and struggle in fieldnotes about artisanal work. In *Encountering Craft Methodological Approaches from Anthropology, Art History, and Design*, Chandan Bose and Mira Mohsini (eds.). Abingdon: Routledge

2021. '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

2020. 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](#).

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.](#)

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

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| 2023-2024 | British Academy Innovation Fellowship (Path A: Researcher Led) [£83,549.60 over 1 year] |
| 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]. |

Engagement & Impact

- 2024 What a new plan to save the UK's Churches says about their purpose in society. [The Conversation](#), February 7, 2024.
- 2022 Interview with art conservator and artist Jesus Guevara Rico. [The Artery podcast](#).
- 2022 What is a Church For? [video resource] [Human Stories](#).
- 2022 2022. The Best Books About People Who Make Things For A Living. [Shepherd.com](#)
- 2020 2020. Expert comment: Washington Redskins name change shows cultural rights at odds with profit-making. [University of Reading News](#).
- 2020 Public Lecture "*Convivencia*: lightness and darkness in Mexico's Day of the Dead", part of [GLOW: WITH THE MERL](#), 2020 Being Human Festival.
- 2008 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
- 2018 Organiser, Chair and Speaker public lectures event "Researching Religious Heritage at Kent." Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, Canterbury, UK

Selected Academic Seminars, Workshops and Public Lectures

- 20/02/2024 Material Historicity: the (mis)recognition of a Catholic saint in Mexico. Research Seminar. Department of Anthropology, Brunel University.
- 11/04/2023 "Afterlives: Afterlives: an invitation to speculative ethnography" workshop with Iza Kavedžija and Sera Park. Association of Social Anthropologist Meetings, SOAS
- 11/11/2022 San Jacinto or San Jose? Material Historicity and the (mis)recognition of a Catholic Saint in Oaxaca, Mexico. Senior Research Seminar, University of Cambridge
- 08/07/2022 Working paper. Christianity and Time Workshop, UCL
- 23/10/2019 'Drawing the Sacred In and Out: Catholic aesthetics and the negotiation of proximity in Mexico.' Research Seminar, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol
- 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.' Beaney 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

Current Teaching

Contemporary World Cultures: Introduction to Social Anthropology. Module convenor and lecturer (undergraduate). Department of Archaeology, University of Reading.

The Anthropology of Heritage and Cultural Property. Module convenor and lecturer (undergraduate). Department of Archaeology, University of Reading.

Contemporary Issues and Debates in Heritage and Cultural Property. Module convenor and lecturer (postgraduate). Department of Archaeology, University of Reading.

+ Further departmental teaching delivery on topics such as legacies of colonialism, the anthropology of death, ethnographic research and research impact

Previous Teaching

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

Postgraduate Supervision & Examination

PhD Supervision

- Anqi Mao. Department of Archaeology, University of Reading 2023-Current
“Communicating tangible and intangible cultural heritage and social change under the Pandemic: Linxia brick carving in China”
- Henrietta Hammant. Department of Archaeology, University of Reading 2020-Current
“Museum objects and the ‘heroes’ of early British Antarctic exploration.”

Other

- **Chair, PhD Advisory Committee. Farah Benbouabdellah** Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. 2022-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

Professional Certification and Development Courses

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| 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 |

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| 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

- Co-chair (with Naomi Haynes): UK Network for the Anthropology of Christianity (UKNAC)
- Member, SouthWest Anthropology Network (SWAN)
- 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

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| 2023-2024 | 1 year of interview and ethnographic research in England on the topic of heritage funding and Roman Catholic heritage |
| 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 |