

JOEL W. PALKA

CURRICULUM VITAE

CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor
School of Human Evolution and Social Change
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POSITIONS HELD

2018-present	Associate Prof., School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University (ASU)
2024-present	Affiliated faculty: Center for Biodiversity Outcomes; and Religious Studies, ASU
2018	Interim Director, Latin American and Latino Studies, UIC (Spring semester; summer)
2014-2018	Professor, Anthropology/Latin American and Latino Studies, University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC)
2016	Acting Director, Latin American and Latino Studies, UIC (Spring semester, summer)
2014-2015	Acting Department Head, Anthropology, University of Illinois-Chicago
2005-2014	Associate Professor, Anthropology and Latin American and Latino Studies, UIC
1999-2018	Adjunct Curator, Department of Anthropology, The Field Museum
1999-2005	Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Latin American and Latino Studies, UIC
1996-1999	Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Latin American Studies, UIC
1996-1999	Research Associate, Anthropology, The Field Museum
1995-1996	Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Vanderbilt University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mesoamerica; Maya archaeology and ethnohistory; unconquered Maya history and culture; aquaculture and fishing; pilgrimage; political collapse; Maya hieroglyphs and art; culture contact and culture change; social inequality; historical archaeology; colonialism in Latin America; Indigenous archaeology and history; anthropology of art; ceramics; ethnoarchaeology; religion and material culture

Director: Mensabak Archaeological Project (Proyecto Arqueológico Mensabak, Chiapas, México); 2004-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University, 1995
B.A./B.S., Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University, Summa Cum Laude, 1987

RESEARCH GRANTS

PI, NSF; Mid-Career Award; Maya aquaculture and sustainability, Mexico, 2023 (\$345,000; not funded)
PI, Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, Museo de los Altos, Mexico, 2022 (\$385,000; not funded)
PI, NSF; Maya archaeology and trade; Mexico 2022-2026 (2147118); \$212,000; 100% ASU allocation; sole PI)
PI, Kaplan Innovation Fund; Maya aquaculture and sustainability; Mexico 2022 (\$150,000; not funded)
PI, NSF HEGS; Maya aquaculture and sustainability; Mexico, 2021 (\$383,000; not funded)
PI, NSF DISES; Maya aquaculture and sustainability; Mexico (\$1.45 million; not funded)
PI, National Geographic: Sustainability, archaeology in Mexico, 2020 (\$76,640; not funded)
PI, Archaeological Institute of America-NEH, archaeology in Mexico, 2020 (\$47,000; not funded)
PI, National Science Foundation, archaeology in Mexico, 2020 (\$220,000; not funded)
PI, Society for American Archaeology, archaeology in Mexico, 2019 (\$19,000; not funded)
PI, Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, Museo/los Altos, Mexico, 2019 (\$385,000; not funded)
PI, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), fellowship/research in Mexico, 2018 (not funded)
Co-PI, NSF Collaborative Post-doctoral Research; archaeology 2017 (1715009 PI: Chris Hernandez; \$69,000)
Co-PI, National Science Foundation, research in Mexico, 2014 (\$155,000; PI: Santiago Juarez; not funded)
Co-PI, NSF Collaborative Post-doc Research; archaeology, 2013-14 (1409754 PI: Santiago Juarez \$226,220)

PI, American Philosophical Society, Franklin Grant, lab research in Mexico (PI), **2009** (\$7,000)
PI, Nat. Endowment for the Humanities, Research in Mexico, 2009-2013(RZ5098609; \$240,000;100% UIC)
 Co-PI, National Science Foundation, research in Guatemala (PI: Andrew Wyatt), 2010 (\$175,000; not funded)
 PI, National Science Foundation, research in Guatemala (PI), 2009 (\$165,000, not funded)
 PI, National Geographic Society, research in Chiapas, Mexico (PI), **2008-2009** (\$24,000; 100% UIC)
 PI, Nat. Science Foundation, research in Guatemala and Mexico (PI), **2005-2007 (0525847;** \$20,000; 100% UIC)
 PI, National Endowment for the Humanities stipend, research in Guatemala (PI), **2004** (\$5,000)
 PI, National Science Foundation, Early Career Award, research in Guatemala (PI), 2000 (\$500,000, not funded)
 PI, National Geographic Society grant, research in Guatemala (PI), **1998** (\$15,000)
 PI, National Endowment for the Humanities stipend, research in Guatemala (PI), **1998** (\$5,000)
 PI, Foundation for Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, research in Guatemala (PI), **1996** (\$10,000)
 Sigma Xi grant, research in Guatemala (PI), **1993** (\$2,500)
 Explorers Club grant, research in Guatemala (PI), **1993** (\$2,000)
 Fulbright Scholarship/Grant, research in Guatemala (PI), **1992** (\$13,000)
 Sigma Xi grant, research in Guatemala (PI), **1991** (\$2,500)

RESEARCH SUPPORT (Co-PI; non-peer review; non-research, small grants, internal funds, etc.)

PI, Inst. of Social Science Research/Inst. of Humanities Research; ASU; Mexican ceramics 2020-22 (\$8,000)

PI, Office of Social Science Research, UIC, Archaeology in Mexico (\$7,000), **2015**

PI, Provost Award for Faculty Research, Archaeology and lab work in Mexico (\$7,000.00), **2010**

PI, Office of Social Science Research (OSSR), UIC, Archaeology in Guatemala/Mexico (\$3,000), **2005**

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, UIC, Maya Hieroglyphic Photos/Research, 2002

Office of Social Science Research (OSSR), UIC, Maya Hieroglyphic Photos/Research, 2001

Grant in Aid of Research, Office of Research and Institute for the Humanities, UIC, 2000

The Field Museum, collection research grants, 1996-1999

Mellon Foundation Grant, Vanderbilt, Archaeobotanical Research, 1994

Vanderbilt Dissertation Improvement Grant, research in Guatemala, 1994

Vanderbilt Mellon Foundation grant, research in Guatemala, 1992

BOOKS

For 2026 Classic Maya Social Inequality, Networks, and Collapse at Dos Pilas, Petén, Guatemala,
 (University of Utah Press; March 2026).

2014 Maya Pilgrimage to Ritual Landscapes: Insights from Archaeology, Ethnohistory, Ethnography.
Archaeologies of Landscape in the Americas Series. University of New Mexico Press. (Choice
academic book of the year 2014; community collaborations).

2005 Unconquered Lacandon Maya: Ethnohistory and Archaeology of Indigenous Culture Change.
 University Press of Florida.

2000 Historical Dictionary of Ancient Mesoamerica. Scarecrow Press.

Completed/
 editing Caribes: Los mayas lakandones de Petén, Guatemala (senior author; with Ramón Folch, ASU
 graduate student as junior author; for Museo Popol Vuh, Guatemala City; for Fall 2026).

Submitted The Conquest-Period Southern Maya Lowlands: Documentary Information on Maya
Lifeways in Southern Mexico and Central America (submitted to the University Press of
 Colorado; for Spring/Summer 2027)

JOURNAL ARTICLES (peer review)

Accepted “Before and After Palenque: Maya Corporate Political Organization, Ritual Landscapes, and
 Community Dynamics at Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico.” (50% effort: leadership, writing, and
 editing; with junior author Santiago Juarez, former student). For Latin American Antiquity (2026).

- 2025 “Antes y después de Palenque: la colectividad maya en Mensabak, Chiapas, México.” (90% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; with junior authors Fabiola Sánchez, Santiago Juárez, and Josué Lozada; former students). Cuiculco: Revista de Ciencias Antropológicas 92:11-31. Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia de México.
- 2025 “Weaponry for Archaeologists” (20% effort: leadership, editing and writing; junior author, with Lawrence Keeley and former students Chris Hernandez (corresponding author), Nam Kim, James Meierhoff, and Aldo Foe). Journal of Anthropological Archaeology 80. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaa.2025.101717>
- In Review “Las peregrinaciones mayas lacandonas a través de la evidencia material y la aplicación de SIG.” Submitted to Arqueología under a special section on GIS in Mexican archaeology (25% effort: editing; with Josué Lozada, former student, as senior author; community collaborations).
- In Review “A Unique Classic Maya Greenstone Pendant from Highland Chiapas” (10% effort: writing; junior author with Angel Sánchez, Mayco Mayo, Guido Krempel, Alejandro Sheseña, and Martha Cuevas). Submitted to Mexicon.
- 2025 “New Amber Sources in Chiapas, Mexico.” (90% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; with junior author and my student Josué Gómez). Mexicon 47(3):58-61. (September 2025, originally June 2025; community collaborations).
- Accepted, if revised “Lacandon Perspectives of Ancient Maya Ruins.” For the special section: Mesoamerican Beliefs in Ancient Ruins. Latin American Antiquity (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; with Alice Balsanelli and Josué Lozada, a former student, as junior authors; community collaborations; for 2026).
- 2025 “A Lacandon Maya Natural History” (50% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; Alice Balsanelli: senior author; community collaborations). The Mayanist 7(1):1-18.
- 2024 “Maya Pilgrimage, Migration, and Community Connectivity at Ritual Landscapes at Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico.” Latin American Antiquity 35(2):464-482 (open access 2023; community collaborations).
- 2024 “A Small Rural Travel Stopover at the Late Postclassic Maya Site of Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico: Overland Trade, Cross-Cultural Interaction and Social Cohesion in the Countryside.” Cambridge Archaeological Journal 34(2):213-230 (open access 2023).
- 2024 “Ancestral Maya Domesticated Waterscapes, Ecological Aquaculture, and Integrated Subsistence.” Ancient Mesoamerica:35(1):208-236 (open access 2023; community collaborations).
- 2023 “Mesoamerican Warfare, Fortified Sanctuaries, and Protecting Divinities.” Journal of Anthropological Research 79(1):51-101.
- 2023 “Biografía, función, y análisis iconográfico de dos cilindros efígies procedentes de cuevas mayas de Laguna Pethá, Chiapas (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; junior authors: Josué Lozada (former student), Alejandro Sheseña, Eliseo Linares, Laure Dussubieux, Michael Glasscock, and Jeffrey Ferguson). Estudios de Cultura Maya LXII:147-189.
- 2021 “Not Just Counters: Clay Tokens and Ritual Materiality in the Ancient Near East.” Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory 28(2): 414-445.
- 2020 “Long-Term Collaborative Research with Lacandon Maya at Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico.” (Palka senior author 75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; with F. Sanchez, J. Lozada, R.J. McGee,

- C. Hernandez, S. Juarez, A. Balsanelli, and S. Salgado (3 former students, 1 current student; community collaborations). The Mayanist 2(1):1-20.
- 2016 "The Perduring Maya: New Archaeology on Early Colonial Transitions" (50% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; senior author: Maxine Oland; former student). Special section in Antiquity on Maya Archaeology, edited by Stephen Houston, pp. 1-15.
- 2015 "The Identity and Worship of Human Remains in Rock-Shelter Shrines among the Northern Lacandons of Mensabak" (25% effort: writing; senior authors: Andrea Cucina and Vera Tiesler; community collaborations). Estudios de Cultura Maya 45:141-169.
- 2009 "Historical Archaeology of Indigenous Culture Change in Mesoamerica" Journal of Archaeological Research, 17:297-346 (community collaborations).
- 2005 "Rock Paintings and Lacandon Maya Sacred Landscapes." Journal of the Precolumbian Art Research Institute 5(3):1-7.
- 2003 "Monument to a Matriarch: A Classic Maya Stela at the Art Institute of Chicago" (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; junior author: Jeff Buechler; former student). Mesoamerican Voices 1:41-64.
- 2003 "Domesticated Landscapes: The Subsistence Ecology of Plant and Animal Domestication". (15% effort: discussion and writing; with John Terrell [senior author], John Hart, Sibel Barut, et al.). Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory 10, 4:323-368.
- 2002 "Left/Right Symbolism and the Body in Ancient Maya Iconography and Culture." Latin American Antiquity, 13(4):419-443.
- 2001 "A Maya Carved Shell from Tula, Hidalgo, Mexico: A Comparative Study" (50% effort: discussion, writing, and editing; senior author: Don McVicker). Ancient Mesoamerica 12(2):175-197.
- 1999 "Classic Maya Parentage and Social Structure with Insights on Ancient Gender Ideology." For From the Ground Up: Beyond Gender Theory in Archaeology, edited by Nancy Wicker and Bettina Arnold, pp. 41-48. Oxford: BAR International.
- 1999 "Organización socio-política de los Mayas", In La Historia General de Guatemala, Vol. 1, 515-528. Guatemala: Fundación de Cultura y Desarrollo.
- 1998 "Lacandon Maya Culture Change and Survival in the Frontier of Expanding Guatemalan and Mexican States." In Studies in Culture Contact: Interaction, Culture Change and Archaeology. Ed. by James Cusick, pp. 457-475. Southern Illinois University Press.
- 1997 "Reconstructing Maya Social Organization and the Collapse at Dos Pilas, Guatemala." Article for a special section on Maya archaeology in Ancient Mesoamerica 8 (2): 293-306.
- 1997 "Classic Maya Defensive Systems and Warfare in the Petexbatun Region: Archaeological Evidence and Interpretations." Article in special section on Maya archaeology in Ancient Mesoamerica 8 (2):229-253 (20% effort: writing; senior authors: Arthur Demarest, Takeshi Inomata, Hector Escobedo, and Claudia Wolley).
- 1996 "Sociopolitical Implications of a New Emblem Glyph and Place Name in Classic Maya Inscriptions" (Latin American Antiquity 7(3):211-227.

- 1992 "The Hieroglyphic Stairway and Its Ancestors: Investigations of Copán Structure 10L-26" (25% effort: writing; senior authors: William Fash, Richard Williamson, and Carlos Rudy Larios). Ancient Mesoamerica 3 (1):105-115.
- BOOK CHAPTERS** (peer reviewed; edited volumes)
- Submitted "U lakik'uh. Agencia y movilidad de los dioses-incensarios de los mayas lacandones" (15% effort: writing; junior author with Josuhé Lozada, Ileana Edith Echauri Pérez, Alice Balsanelli, Angel Ramírez Luna, and Luis Gerardo Martínez Jardines; community collaborations). For La arqueología de la ontología indígena en Mesoamérica, editado por Josuhé Lozada. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- Submitted "Maya Cliff and Cave Burials in Tlalocan: Archaeological and Osteological Research at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico" (90% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; with Emily Brooks, graduate student as junior author; community collaborations). In Subterranean Bioarchaeology in the Maya Area, ed. by Michele Bleuze (for University Press of Florida).
- In Press "Mirador Mountain, Ritual Landscapes, and Maya Community Belonging at Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico" (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; junior authors: Josuhe Lozada (former student; community collaborations), Fabiola Sánchez, and Alice Balsanelli). In Place Making in Mesoamerica and the Southwest U.S., ed. by Ronald Fauseit and Gabriela Vail, University Press of Colorado (for 2026).
- In Review "Santuarios fortificados y deidades protectoras: la teología de la guerra en Mesoamérica." For Ensayos en Honor de Patricia Fournier, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e History, Mexico City.
- 2024 "Animism, Nonhuman Persons, and Ritual Landscapes in Lacandon Maya and Ancient Maya Social Life in Chiapas, Mexico ." In Archaeology in a Living Landscape, ed. by Brent Woodfill and Lucia Henderson (65% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; Junior author: Alice Balsanelli; community collaboraitons), pp. 153-181. University Press of Florida.
- 2023 "Maya Pilgrimage, Ritual Landscapes, and Relations with Deities in Chiapas, Mexico." In Geography of World Pilgrimages: Social, Cultural and Territorial Perspectives, ed. by Lucrecia López. (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; Junior authors Josuhé Lozada [former student] and Ramón Folch [student]; community collaborations), pp. 197-218. Springer Press.
- 2021 "Ritual Places, Pilgrimage, and Religion in Mesoamerica." In Landscape, Monuments, Arts, and Rituals Out of Eurasia in Bio-Cultural Perspectives, ed. by Naoko Matsumato, Saburo Sugiyama, and Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers, pp. 247-262. Okayama, Japan: Research Institute for the Dynamics of Civilization, Okayama University (community collaborations).
- 2020 "Lacandon Maya Culture Continuity and Change." In The Maya World, edited by Scott Hutson and Traci Ardren, pp.850-868. Routledge Press (community collaborations).
- 2020 "Pilgrimage in Colonial Latin America". Oxford Bibliographies (Online entries with abstracts; (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; senior author; with Ramon Folch: student). Oxford University Press.
- 2019 "Maya Warfare, Symbols, and Ritual Landscapes in Mesoamerica (50% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; junior author], with Chris Hernández; equal authorship/former student). In Seeking Conflict in Mesoamerica, edited by Shawn Morton and Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown, pp. 30-46. University Press of Colorado.
- 2018 "Archaeologies of Resistance." (25% effort: writing and editing; with Rani T. Alexander, Susan Kepecs, and Judith F. Zeitlan; equal authorship) In Colonial and Postcolonial Change in

- Mesoamerica: Archaeology as Historical Anthropology, edited by Rani T. Alexander and Susan Kepecs, pp. 73-96. University of New Mexico Press (November).
- 2018 “Religion and Ritual in Postconquest Mesoamerica.” (50% effort: writing and editing; with Judith F. Zeitlan; equal authorship) In Colonial and Postcolonial Change in Mesoamerica: Archaeology as Historical Anthropology, edited by Rani T. Alexander and Susan Kepecs, pp. 97-118. University of New Mexico Press (November; ASU affiliation; community collaborations).
- 2018 “Sociocultural Identities.” (25% effort: writing; with Judith F. Zeitlan, Patricia Fournier Garcia, and Janine Gasco; equal authorship) In Colonial and Postcolonial Change in Mesoamerica: Archaeology as Historical Anthropology, edited by Rani T. Alexander and Susan Kepecs, pp. 119-138. University of New Mexico Press (November; ASU affiliation; community collaborations).
- 2018 “Cross-Cultural Interaction and Lacandon Ethnogenesis in the Southern Maya Lowland Frontier, AD 1400 to the Present.” In Colonial and Postcolonial Change in Mesoamerica: Archaeology as Historical Anthropology, edited by Rani T. Alexander and Susan Kepecs, pp. 227-254. University of New Mexico Press (November; ASU affiliation; community collaborations).
- 2018 “Where There’s Fire, There’s Smoke: Lacandon Burning Rites and Ancient Maya Cremation.” In Smoke, Flames, and the Human Body in Mesoamerican Ritual Practice, edited by Vera Tiesler and Andrew Scherer, pp. 287-320. Dumbarton Oaks, June, UIC affiliation; community collaborations).
- 2017 “Real Tobacco for Real People: Nicotine and Lacandon Maya Trade.” In Substance and Seduction: Ingested Commodities in Early Modern Mesoamerica, edited by Stacey Schwartzkopf and Kathryn Sampeck, pp. 103-127. University of Texas Press (community collaborations).
- 2015 “The Huasteca in Mesoamerican Studies”, In Heartland in the Hinterlands: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Huasteca, edited by Kim Richter and Katherine Faust, pp. 214-223. University of Oklahoma Press.
- 2015 “Sitios sagrados de los mayas posclásicos e históricos en las tierras bajas de Chiapas, México (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; senior author, with Fabiola Sánchez Balderas; community collaborations). Enfoques en torno a la arqueología histórica de Mesoamérica: Homenaje a Thomas H. Charlton, ed. by Patricia Fournier García and Walberga Wiesheu, pp. 287-316, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City.
- 2010 “The Development of Maya Writing.” In Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond, edited by Christopher Woods, pp. 225-229. Oriental Institute Museum Publications, no. 32. University of Chicago.
- 2010 “You Are What You Drink in Honduras.” In Adventures in Eating: Anthropological Experiences In Dining from Around the World, edited by Helen Haines and Clare Sammells, pp. 263-274. University Press of Colorado (community collaborations).
- 2009 “Agency and Worldview of the Unconquered Lacandon Maya.” In Maya Worldviews at the Conquest, edited by Leslie Cecil and Timothy Pugh, pp. 262-278. University Press of Colorado (community collaborations).
- 2005 “Post-Colonial Conquest of the Southern Maya Lowlands and Lacandon Culture Change.” The Postclassic to Spanish Era Transition in Mesoamerica, edited by Rani Alexander and Susan Kepecs, pp. 183-202. University of New Mexico.

- 2003 “Social Status and Differential Processes of Abandonment at the Classic Maya Site of Dos Pilas, Peten, Guatemala.” In Abandonment of Centers and Villages in Precolumbian Middle America, ed. by Takeshi Inomata and Ron Webb, pp. 121-133. University of Utah Press.
- MONOGRAPH CHAPTERS** (non-peer review)
- In Press “La riqueza arqueológica de la Selva Lacandona” (50% effort: writing; with Josuhé Lozada; equal authorship; former student; community collaborations). In Diversidad Biológica y Cultural de la Selva Lacandona, ed. by Eduardo J. Naranjo. For ECOSUR (2025).
- 2025 “Matawil, the Maya Place of Origins: Relations Between Palenque and Metzabok as Evidenced Through Migrations, Material Culture, and Ecological Studies” (25% effort: writing; junior author, with Josuhé Lozada and Liseth Pérez). In Moving Maya: Circulations en espaces mayas de 250 apr. J-C a nos jours, ed. by Juliette Danfakha and Clarissa Cagnato, p. 95-115. Presses universitaires de Paris Nanterre.
- Submitted “Arqueología del Lago Sibál y la historia de sus tres cilindros efígie en el contexto de la cultura maya de Ocosingo” In Primer simposio de la arqueología de Tonina y sus alrededores, ed. by Angel Sánchez, for Entretejas Press (2025), (25% effort: writing; with Josuhé Lozada, former student, and Alice Balsanelli as senior authors).
- 2019 “La Cerámica del Posclásico Tardío en el suroeste de las Tierras Bajas Mayas: Una aproximación Desde el Proyecto Arqueológico Mensabak.” (25% effort: writing; co-authored with students Ruben Nuñez and Chris Hernandez, and Socorro Jiménez as senior author). In XXXII Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, 2018, edited by Bárbara Arroyo, Gloria Ajú Alvarez, and Luis Méndez Salinas, pp. 905-917. Guatemala City: Asociación Tikal.
- 2018 “El período posclásico en Chiapas y sus sitios arqueológicos más representativos” (50% effort: writing and editing; with Josuhé Lozada; equal authorship; former student). In Historia de Chiapas: Epoca Prehispánica, ed. by Eliseo Linares Villanueva, pp. 89-120. Editorial Entretejas, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico (December).
- 2017 “Cremaciones mayas y el simbolismo de quemar de los lacandones.” In Historia y Cultura: Ensayos en Homenaje a Carlos Navarrete Cáceres, ed. by Carlos Uriel del Carpio Penagos, Alejandro Sheseña Hernández, and Marx Navarro Castillo, pp. 247-258. Universidad de Artes y Ciencias de Chiapas, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico (community collaborations).
- 2017 “Maya Warfare, Sacred Places, and Divine Protection” (50% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; junior author, with Chris Hernandez; equal authorship; former student). In War and Peace: Conflict and Resolution in Archaeology: Proceedings of the 45th Annual Chacmool Archaeology Conference, ed. by Adam Benfer, pp. 73-85. University of Calgary.
- 2016 Un antiguo centro de peregrinación maya: El Mirador e Ixtabay en el Sistema Lagunar Metzabok, Chiapas, México. In XXIX Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, 2015, edited by Bárbara Arroyo, Luis Méndez Salinas, and Gloria Ajú Alvarez, pp. 959-972. Guatemala City: Asociación Tikal (community collaborations).
- 2013 “Peregrinaciones al paisaje ritual en la religión y cosmovisión maya en Lacandonia.” Religión maya: rasgos y desarrollo histórico, ed. by Alejandro Sheseña, pp. 109-140. UNICACH, México (community collaborations).
- 2013 “Sitios sagrados de los mayas posclásicos-históricos en el lago Mensabak, Chiapas, México.” Arqueología reciente de Chiapas (75% effort: leadership, writing and editing; senior author, with Fabiola Sanchez), ed. by Mary Pye and Lynne Lowe, pp. 341-360. New World Archaeological Foundation, No. 72. Brigham Young University (with Fabiola Sánchez; community collaborations).

- 2012 “Estudio tafonómico y bioarqueológico de restos humanos de lacandones, enterrados en santuarios de Cueva de la Laguna de Mensabak, Chiapas” (10% effort: writing; senior authors: Andrea Cucina, Vera Tiesler, Julio Chi Keb, and Shintaro Suzuki; Palka 15% effort; community collaborations). Los Investigadores de la Cultura Maya, 20, Vol. 1:33-46. Campeche, Mexico.
- 2011 “Mujeres y hombres en la cultura maya histórica en la Selva Lacandona, Chiapas.” Los Investigadores de la Cultura Maya, 19, Vol 2:221-246. Campeche, Mexico (community collaborations).
- 2007 “Archaeology as a Discipline: Ethnohistory.” In the Encyclopedia of Archaeology, section 103, edited by D. Pearsall. Academic Press.
- 1997 “Desarrollo, Interacción y Cambios Culturales en las Comunidades y Sistemas Agrícolas de los Lacandones de El Peten del Siglo XIX.” X Simposio de Arqueología de Guatemala, pp. 563-572. Guatemala: Ministerio de Cultura.
- 1993 “Resultados de Excavaciones en Unidades Residenciales de Dos Pilas.” (20% effort; writing junior authors: Hector Escobedo, Oswaldo Chinchilla, Lori Wright, Antonia Foias, and Kitty Emery) VI Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, 159-178. Guatemala: Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes, Instituto de Antropología e Historia.
- 1992 “Patrones Residenciales en la Comunidad de Dos Pilas: Una Capital Politico-Militar de la Zona Petexbatún” (50% effort: writing; junior authors: Héctor Escobedo and Oswaldo Chinchilla). In V Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, 173-184. Guatemala: Ministerio de Cultura.
- 1992 “Pedernales y Obsidianas Excéntricas en Tres Escondites Rituales de Dos Pilas” (50% effort: writing; senior autor: Héctor Escobedo). In IV Simposio de Arqueología Guatemalteca, 143-152. Guatemala: Ministerio de Cultura.
- 1992 “Excavaciones en Grupos Residenciales de Dos Pilas” (20% effort; junior authors: Takeshi Inomata, Teresa Robles, Stacey Symonds, and Lori Wright). In IV Simposio de Arqueología Guatemalteca, 141-142. Guatemala: Ministerio de Cultura.

ARTICLES (non-peer review)

- 2023 “Hallazgos sobre un nuevo estilo de cilindros efígies mayas de Laguna Pethá, Chiapas” (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; Senior author with Josuhé Lozada, former student, and Alejandro Sheseña). Arqueología Mexicana 179:78-83.
- 2023 “Tres cilindros efígies mayas en cerámica de Laguna Pethá, Chiapas: iconografía, cultura, sorpresas (75% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; Senior author with Josuhé Lozada, former student, and Alejandro Sheseña). Artificio, Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales 1 (8):2-11. (online Dec. 2022, but published in 2023).
- 2022 “La colaboración en el diseño de mecanismos exitosos para la repatriación de un cilindro efígie maya de cerámica a Chiapas, México (50% effort: writing; with Josuhé Lozada, former student; community collaborations). Revista de Arqueología Americana 40:21-33.
- 2022 “Manos ponderosas. Metodología participative para el estudio de las representaciones de manos en el arte rupestre de laguna Mensabak, Chiapas (50% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; with Josuhé Lozada, former student; community collaborations). International Journal of South American Archaeology 18(2):1-15.

- 2020 "Caritas en el arte rupestre en Chiapas" (50% effort: leadership, writing, and editing; with Josuhé Lozada, former student). Artificio, Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales.
- 2020 "Archaeology: Fate of the Unconquered Maya (Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico)" (leadership, contributor, and consulted with single author Zach Zorich on my project in Chiapas) Scientific American 323(40):70-79; October 2020.
- 2020 "La serpiente emplumada en Chiapas y la compactación de los símbolos." (50% effort: writing; junior author, with Josuhé Lozada; equal authorship; former student) Entretejas 6:7-17; Chiapas, Mexico.
- 2005 "Arte rupestre indígena y lugares sagrados Mayas Lacandones en las Tierras Bajas de Chiapas. Bolom 2:27-40.
- 2001 "Comment: Ancient Maya Defensive Barricades, Warfare, and Site Abandonment" Latin American Antiquity 12(4):427-430.
- 2001 "Una Concha Maya Grabada de Tula, Mexico" (50% effort: writing and editing; junior autor: Don McVicker), Utz'ib, 2(10):5-15.
- 1998 "Seeing Aztec History and Culture." Review essay on The Essential Codex Mendoza, Visual Anthropology 11:243-248.
- 1992 "Sitios Lacandones Yucatecos en la Región del Río Pasión, Petén, Guatemala" (50% effort: writing and editing; junior autor: Nora López). U'tzib 1 (3):1-12. Guatemala: Asociacion Tikal.

SELECT BOOK REVIEWS/ MISC. PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 Book review essay: Making a Place for the Future in Maya Guatemala by John Hawkins and Walter Randolph Adams. For American Association of Geographers Review of Books.
- 2025 Review of Kidnapped to the Underworld by Victor Montejo. For Journal of Anthropological Research.
- 2024 Review of Lacandon Maya in the Twenty-First Century: Indigenous Knowledge and Conservation in Mexico's Tropical Rainforest by James D. Nations. Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.
- 2022 Review of Paso de la Amada, an Early Mesoamerican Ceremonial Center, ed. by Richard Lesure. Antiquity 96(388):1034-1036.
- 2022 Review of Sorcery in Mesoamerica, ed. by Jeremy Coltman and John M.D. Pohl. American Anthropologist 124 (1):225-226.
- 2020 Review of Idolizing Mary: Maya-Catholic Icons in Yucatán, Mexico by Amara Solari. For Renaissance Quarterly.
- 2020 Review of La Consentida: Settlement, Subsistence, and Social Organization in a Formative Mesoamerican Community, by Guy Hepp. Hispanic American Historical Review 100(3):546-548.
- 2019 Review of Archaeological Perspectives on the Itza Maya, by Prudence Rice and Don Rice. Journal of Interdisciplinary History.
- 2017 Review of Mayan Tales from Chiapas, Mexico, by Robert Laughlin. American Anthropologist.

- 2015 Review of Lightning in the Andes and Mesoamerica: Pre-Colombian, Colonial, and Contemporary Perspectives, by John Staller and Brian Stross. Latin American Antiquity.
- 2015 Review of The Spectacle of the Late Maya Court: Reflections on the Murals of Bonampak, by Mary Miller and Claudia Brittenham. Visual Anthropology.
- 2015 Review of Maya Lords and Lordship: The Formation of Maya Colonial Society in Yucatán, 1350-1600, by Sergio Quezada. Journal of Interdisciplinary History (in press).
- 2014 Review of Strange Lands and Different Peoples: Spaniards and Indians in Colonial Guatemala, by W. George Lovell and Christopher H. Lutz. American Anthropologist (in press).
- 2010 Reviews of Reinventing the Lacandon by Brian Gollnick and Cuentos y mitología de los lacandones by Didier Boremanse. Mesoamerica 52:206-209.
- 2009 Reviews of The Social Experience of Childhood in Ancient Mesoamerica ed. by Traci Ardren and Scott Hutson, and Constructions of Childhood in Ancient Greece and Italy edited by Ada Cohen and Jeremy Rutter. Current Anthropology 50(2):272-274.
- 2008 Review of Decolonizing Development: Colonial Power and the Maya by Joel Wainwright. Professional Geographer 61(4):565-567.
- 2008 Review of Copan: The History of an Ancient Maya Kingdom. Current Anthropology 49(1):158-160.
- 2005 Review of The Terminal Classic in the Maya Lowlands: Collapse, Transition, and Transformation. Edited by Arthur Demarest, Prudence Rice, and Don Rice. For The Americas 61(4):706-707.
- 2000 Review of The Lords of Tikal by Peter Harrison. For Latin American Antiquity 11 (1):99-101.
- 1999 Review of Cycles of the Sun, Mysteries of the Moon: the Calendar in Mesoamerican Civilization by Vincent Malmstrom. For Ethnohistory 46 (1):177-178.
- 1989 Review of La Introducción a la Arqueología de Copán. In Mesoamerica, Vol. 18:479-483. Antigua, Guatemala: CIRMA.

RESEARCH REPORTS

- 2012-2024 Resultados del Proyecto Arqueológico Mensabak, Chiapas. Reports to the Institute of Anthropology and History, Mexico City (editor).
- 2007 “Resultados del Proyecto Maya Historico en Mensabak, Chiapas.” Report for the Institute of Anthropology and History, Mexico City.
- 1999 “Lacandon Archaeological Project: Report of the 1998 Field Season.” Report to the National Geographic Society.
- 1997 Proyecto Arqueológico Lacandón: Las Investigaciones Arqueológicas de 1996 en El Petén, Guatemala. Report to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala.
- 1996 “The Final Conquest: Contact and Lacandon Maya Culture Change in Post-Colonial Peten, Guatemala.” Report to the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies.

- 1992 El Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Petexbatún: Informe Preliminar #4, (edited with Arthur Demarest, Héctor Escobedo, and Takeshi Inomata). Vanderbilt University.
- 1992 "Introducción y Conclusión: Excavaciones en Dos Pilas." In El Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Petexbatún: Informe #4. Arthur Demarest et al, editor. Vanderbilt University.
- 1992 "Op. DP37: Excavaciones en el Gr. O5- 2" (with Fernando Moscoso). In El Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Petexbatún: Informe #4. Arthur Demarest et al, editors. Vanderbilt University.
- 1991 "Op. 32A: Un Posible Contexto Post-Colapso." In El Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Petexbatún: Informe #3, Arthur Demarest et al, editors. Vanderbilt University.
- 1991 "El Patrón de Asentamiento de Dos Pilas." In El Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Petexbatún: Informe #3, Arthur Demarest et al, editors. Vanderbilt University.
- 1990 "Op. DP15: Excavaciones en el Gr. K4-1." In El Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Petexbatún: Informe #2. Arthur Demarest and Stephen Houston, eds. Vanderbilt.
- 1989 "Op. 2: Excavaciones en la Plaza Central, Dos Pilas." In El Proyecto Arqueológico Regional Petexbatún: Informe #1. Arthur Demarest and Stephen Houston, editors. Vanderbilt University.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (conference/academic; selection)

- 2025 "Protecting Deities and Fortified Sanctuaries: Religion in Mesoamerican Warfare." Invited lecture for Dartmouth College, Department of Religious Studies (May 2025).
- 2025 "Protecting Deities and Fortified Sanctuaries: Religion in Mesoamerican Warfare." For the session "For Conquest or Defense? The Fortresses and Fortified Centers of Mesoamerica," organized by Cameron McNeil for the annual Society of American Archaeology meeting, Denver.
- 2025 "Maya Cliff and Cave Burials in Tlalocan: Archaeological and Osteological Research at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico." For the session "Black as Night, Dark as Death: Bioarchaeology of the Mesoamerican Subterranean," organized by Michele Bleuze for the annual Society of American Archaeology meeting, Denver (senior author: Emily Brooks, ASU graduate student).
- 2025 "Los antecedentes de las danzas de carnaval en la arqueología de Mensabak." For the symposium: Encuentros de estudios y saberes sobre artes rituales: El Carnaval, organized by Alizé Lacoste, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, sede San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, México (senior author; with Josué Gómez, student at UNICACH, Chiapas, as junior author).
- 2025 "An Archaeology of Maya Souls: Ritual Landscapes at Menabak, Chiapas, Mexico." The Mesoamerican Meetings. University of Texas-Austin (invited lecture).
- 2024 "Protección de las deidades y santuarios fortificados: la etnohistoria, etnografía, y arqueología de la guerra mesoamericana." Invited lecture, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Symposium: Homenaje a Patricia Fournier Garcia, organized by Rafael Fierro (invited lecture).
- 2024 "Return to Aztlan: Aztec Pachuca Green Obsidian in Maya Sites at Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico." Symposium: The Elemental Analysis Facility at the Field Museum: Celebrating 20 Years, Society of American Archaeology annual meeting, New Orleans, organized by Ryan Williams.
- 2024 "Analyzing Research in Hydro-Ecological Systems of the Maya in Petén, Guatemala." Discussant in Symposium: Hydro-Ecological System of the Maya in Petén, Guatemala, organized by Yuko Shiratori. Society of American Archaeology annual meeting, New Orleans.

- 2023 “Acuicultura Ecológica y La Subsistencia Integrada en Mesoamérica.” Invited lecture, Department of Social Sciences and Archaeology, Colegio de San Luis Potosí, Mexico.
- 2023 “Acuicultura ecológica y subsistencia integrada en Mensabak, Chiapas, y Mesomérica.” Invited lecture for XI Coloquio Interno del Posgrado en Arqueología, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City.
- 2023 “A Rural Travel Stopover at the Late Postclassic Maya Site of Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico: Overland Trade, Cross-Cultural Interaction, and Social Cohesion in the Chiapas Frontier.” Invited for the session: New Frontiers in Chiapas Archaeology, organized by Elizabeth Parris and Caitlin Early for the annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology, Portland, Oregon (with Fabiola Sánchez).
- 2023 “Agency and Pilgrimage in a Living Landscape: Contemporary Lacandon Maya Visits to Ancient Ruins.” Invited for the session: The Vibrancy of Ruins: Ruination Studies In Ancient Mesoamerica, organized by Roberto Rosaldo-Ramirez and Arthur Joyce for the annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology, Portland, Oregon (with Josué Lozada and Alice Balsanelli).
- 2022 “Maya acuicultura ecológica y subsistencia integrada en Mensabak, Chiapas.” In Primer Simposio sobre Mensabak, Museo de Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico, organized by Josué Gómez.
- 2022 “Ecological Aquaculture and Domesticated Waterscapes in Ancient Maya Society, Subsistence, and Art.” 2022 Jashemski Lecture for the American Institute of Archaeology, Pueblo Grande Museum, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2022 “Maya Domesticated Waterscapes and Integrated Subsistence.” Society for American Archaeology Conference, Chicago. Invited presentation in a session in honor of Wendy Ashmore organized by Christina Halperin.
- 2021 “Los cilindros efigies mayas de la Selva Lacandona: Estudios, debates, sorpresas.” In Un mar de recuerdos: Celebración de la vida y obra de Guillermo Bernal. Virtual conference organized by Roberto Romero y Octavio Esparza; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- 2020 “La acuicultura maya, conservación, y sustentabilidad en Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico. Annual conference of the Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protejidas de México (CONANP). Invited speaker, transmitted internationally through Facebook. Sergio Montes, organizer.
- 2020 “Large-scale Waterworks, Fisheries, and Sustainability in Ancient Maya Civilization: Comparative Insights on Food and Urbanism” (Invited speaker and conference participant). Out of Eurasia Conference, organized by Saburo Sugiyama. February, Teotihuacan, Mexico.
- 2020 “Construcciones monumentales, paisaje ritual, y la peregrinación en las comunidades mesoamericanas: El caso de Mensabak, Chiapas.” Fuera de Eurasia, organized by Saburo Sugiyama, Templo Mayor, February, Mexico City.
- 2019 “The Tale of the Protohistoric Maya Ceramic Urns at Lake Pethá, Chiapas, Mexico: Data, Iconography, Surprises.” Ceramic Ecology Session, American Anthropological Association annual conference, organized by Kostalena Michelaki and Sandra Varela; Vancouver.
- 2019 “Retorno a Mensabak: Maya Pilgrimage and Migration in the Founding of Settlements at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico.” AZ SW Mesoamericanist Meeting. Northern Arizona University.

- 2019 “Peregrinar y Migración en Mesoamérica: El Caso del Lago Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico.” Invited lecture in the Maya Studies Department and Social Science Department, Universidad Autónoma de México.
- 2019 “La Tecnología y La Arqueología de la Cultura Maya en Mensabak, Chiapas.” Congreso Internacional de los Mayistas. Chetumal, Mexico.
- 2019 “Los Paisajes Rituales en las Lagunas en La Selva Lacandona, Chiapas.” Invited lecture, keynote address. Na Bolom Cultural Center, San Cristobal, Mexico.
- 2018 “The Tale of Two Maya Ceramic Urns: Data, Interpretations, Surprises”. For the AZ-SW Mesoamericanists Meeting, Dec. 2018. Arizona State University, Tempe. Organizer: Palka.
- 2018 “Tobacco and Changes in Lacandon Maya Trade and Culture since the 19th Century”. For “Post-Independence Culture Change in Mesoamerica”, organized by Rani Alexander. Society for Historical Archaeology.
- 2017 “Paisaje ritual y los asentamientos en Laguna Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico” Mesa Redonda de Palenque (invited lecture for Palenque Round Table)
- 2017 “Mesopotamian Clay Tokens, Pilgrimage, and Religious Interaction”. For the session “Archaeologies of Pilgrimage and Interaction”, organized by B. Jacob Skousen. Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2017 “Lacandon Burning Rituals and Maya Cremation Symbolism.” Midwest Mesoamericanists Meeting, Wayne State University.
- 2016 “Chakaktun: Un santuario monumental de peregrinos mayas en Mensabak, Chiapas, México”. Primera Conferencia del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Tuxtla Gutiérrez (invited).
- 2016 “The Importance of Tobacco in Lacandon Maya Economics and Culture Change”. Department of Anthropology, Cornell University (invited).
- 2015 “Lacandon Maya Burning Rituals and Maya Cremations”. Smoke, Flames, and the Body in Mesoamerica, organized by Vera Tiesler and Andrew Scherer. Dumbarton Oaks symposium.
- 2015 “Cremaciones mayas y el simbolismo de quemar en la cultura lacandona”. Conferencia en Honor de Carlos Navarrete, UNICACH, Tuxtla Gutiérrez.
- 2015 “Durable Words, Permanent Materials, and the Development of Maya Writing”. Symposium on the Origins of Writing, Organized by Chris Woods and Edward Shauneesy. Beijing, China.
- 2014 “Enduring Words: Early Maya Writing in Stone.” For the conference: Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World’s First Writing Systems, organized by Christopher Woods and Edward Shaughnessy, University of Chicago, Nov. 2014.
- 2014 Real Tobacco for the Real People: Nicotine in Historic Lowland Maya Trade. In the session: Indulgences in Historic Mesoamerica, American Society of Ethnohistory, Indianapolis, IN., organized by Stacey Schwartzkopf and Katherine Sampeck, Oct. 2014.
- 2013 “Peregrinaciones de los lacandones y sus antepasados en el context de la América indígena.” For the session “La arqueología de la Edad de Oro en la península yucateca” organized by Héctor Hernández for the Noveno Congreso Internacional de Mayistas, Campeche, Yucatan.

- 2013 "Death and Lacandon Maya Settlement Abandonment." In the session Living Abandonment: The Social Process of Detachment from Place. Organized by Patricia McAnany and Maxime Lamoureux St.-Hilaire. Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archaeology, Honolulu.
- 2012 Chak Aktuun: A Monumental Maya Pilgrimage Shrine at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico. Public Lecture, Dumbarton Oaks.
- 2012 "Maya Pilgrimage to Ritual Landscapes" Institute for the Humanities, UIC.
- 2012 Peregrinaciones al paisaje ritual en la religión maya. Session on Maya religion and world view, Organized by Alejandro Sheseña for the Conferencia Interamericana, San Cristobal, Mexico
- 2012 "Protohistoric Maya Households and Community at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico." In the Session "Household Autonomy in Mesoamerica" organized by Eliabeth Parris and Emiliano Gallaga. Society of American Archaeology, Memphis, TN.
- 2010 "The Origins of Maya Writing and the Permanence of Script." Symposium on Script Origins, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago.
- 2009 "Exploring the Vann Archive and the Unconquered Maya in Mexico." Marilyn Crandell Schleg Memorial Lecture. Albion College.
- 2008 "Long Term Culture Change of the Lacandon Maya." Culture Change and Historical Archaeology in Mesoamerica, SAA Annual Meeting, Vancouver; organizers: Rani Alexander/Susan Kepecs.
- 2006 "Changes in Historic Lacandon Maya Social and Economic Life (1775-1975)." In the SAA session "Long Term Change and Continuities in Post-Conquest Mesoamerican Societies." SAA Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2006 "Lacandon Maya Demographic Upheaval (Was Disease the Culprit?)." Midwest Mesoamericanist Meeting, Beloit College/Logan Museum.
- 2005 "Lacandon Maya Perceptions of Ancient Maya Ruins." In "The Past in Mesoamerican Societies," organized by Kam Manahan and Byron Hammon. American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2005 "The Causes of Lacandon Maya Demographic Change in the Nineteenth Century" In "Post Colonial Mesoamerican Cultures," organized by Janine Gasco and Rani Alexander. American Society for Ethnohistory, Santa Fe.
- 2005 "Rock Art in Chiapas, Mexico, and Lacandon Maya Sacred Landscapes." Midwest Mesoamericanist Meetings, Bloomington, IN.
- 2004 "Lacandon Maya World View in the Second Conquest of the 19th Century." In the Session "Maya World View at the Conquest" organized by Tim Pugh and Leslie Cecil, Society of American Archaeology, Montreal.
- 2002 "Maya Use of *Kakaw* and the Social Life of Chocolate." The Field Museum. For the exhibit "Chocolate!"
- 2002 "Culture Contact and Lacandon Maya Culture Change in the Rainforests of 19th-Century Peten, Guatemala." Society of Historical Archaeology, Mobile, Alabama (organized session "Historical Archaeology of the Maya World" by Olivia Ng).

- 2001 "Peten the Final Frontier: Archaeology of the 19th-Century Lacandon Maya and the Post-Colonial Conquest of the Rainforests of Northern Guatemala." Society for American Archaeology Meetings, New Orleans (organized session).
- 2000 "Southpaws and Derechistas in Classic Maya Society: Evidence for Dual Symbolic Classification in Ancient Mesoamerica." For Midwest Mesoamericanist Meetings, Univ. of Illinois-Urbana, March 2000.
- 1999 "Final Conquest of the Maya Lowlands and Lacandon Adaptation and Survival in Nineteenth-Century Guatemala." Meetings of the American Anthropological Society, Chicago (organized session).
- 1999 "Maya Political Organization from Written Texts." For the annual meetings of the Society of American Archaeology, Chicago; Workshop on Maya Hieroglyphs (invited).
- 1999 "Nineteenth-Century Maya Settlements and Archaeology at Tikal, Guatemala," (with Hattula Moholy-Nagy). For the Midwest Mesoamericanist Meetings, University of Illinois-Chicago, organized by Joel Palka, Ellen Baird, and Virginia Miller.
- 1998 "Classic Maya Marriage Alliances and Male-Female Site Transference: Evidence from Hieroglyphic Texts." Gender and Archaeology Conference, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (invited).
- 1998 "Differential Processes of Site Abandonment Through Social Rank and Status at the Classic Maya Site of Dos Pilas, Peten, Guatemala." Society of American Archaeologists, Seattle (organized session).
- 1997 "Ancient Maya Painted Pottery and Hieroglyphs: Implications for Social and Political Structure." Archaeology Institute of America, Milwaukee (invited).
- 1997 "Classic Maya Art and Social Structure." Chicago Primitive Art Society, Field Museum (invited).
- 1997 "La Conquista Final: Historical Archaeology of Culture Contact and Lacandon Maya Culture Change in 19th-century Guatemala." Midwest Mesoamericanist Meetings, University of Michigan.
- 1996 "Classic Maya Hieroglyphic Writing and Ancient Political Structure." Northwestern University Anthropology Colloquia (invited).
- 1996 "New Insights on Classic Maya Socio-political Organization from Hieroglyphic Texts." Meeting of the Midwestern Mesoamericanists. Univ. of Wisc.-Madison.
- 1996 "Arqueologia y cambio cultural de los Lacandones." Guatemala City. Symposium in Guatemalan Archaeology, National Museum of Guatemala.
- 1996 "Fine Ceramics in Burials at Dos Pilas, Guatemala, and the Implications for Ancient Maya Social Organization." For the Society of American Archaeology meeting, New Orleans.
- 1996 "Archaeology and Classic Maya Religion." Invited speaker of Social Sciences, Western Kentucky University.
- 1995 "Maya Social Inequality and Transformation at Dos Pilas, Peten, Guatemala." Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. (organized session).

- 1995 "Historical Archaeology and Culture Change of the Lacandon Maya of Guatemala." Society for American Archaeology, Minneapolis MN.
- 1995 "Lacandon Maya Culture Change and Survival in the Frontier of Expanding Guatemalan and Mexican States." For the session: Studies in Culture Contact: Interaction, Culture Change and Archaeology. 12th CAI Visiting Scholar's Conference, Southern Illinois University.
- 1994 "Domestic Architecture, Artifacts, and Maya Social Inequality at Dos Pilas, Guatemala." Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Atlanta (organized session).
- 1993 "Changes in Settlements and Culture of the Nineteenth-Century Lacandón Maya." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Bloomington, IN.
- 1992 "Los Resultados de las Excavaciones de Dos Pilas de la Temporada de 1992." VI Simposio de Arqueología Guatemalteca. Guatemala City.
- 1991 "Settlement Pattern Excavations at Dos Pilas, Guatemala." 47th International Congress of Americanists. New Orleans (organized session).
- 1991 "Los Patrones de Asentamiento y Excavaciones en Dos Pilas." V Simposio de Arqueología Guatemalteca. Guatemala City.

PUBLIC TALKS AND PROGRAMS (selection)

- 2025 El Paisaje Ritual en la Arqueología Maya en Mensabak. Webinar organized by CONANP, which manages the Metzabok (Mensabak) ecological reserve in Chiapas, Mexico (covered by Mexican newspapers, such as Cuarto Poder).
- 2025 Arqueología de la peregrinación al paisaje ritual en Mensabak. For the screening of the National Geographic Video "Lost Cities Revealed with Albert Lin: Cradle of the Maya" (Palka: main video consultant and lead archaeologist). Presented at the Museo Regional de Antropología, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas (invited lecture and video presentation).
- 2024 Book presentation: Las Casas de los Dioses: Arte Rupestre en Mensabak, Chiapas, Josué Lozada Toledo. Museo Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City. Invited speaker (also in 2025).
- 2024 Presentation of the National Geographic Video "Lost Cities Revealed with Albert Lin: Cradle of the Maya" (Palka: main consultant and lead archaeologist in the video). Presented with discussion to the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.
- 2024 Mesoamerican Warfare, Protecting Divinities, and Fortified Sanctuaries: The Archaeology of Indigenous Religion and War in Mexico and Central America. Arizona Archaeological Society, Foothills chapter, April 2024.
- 2024 Ecological Aquaculture and Domesticated Waterscapes in Ancestral Maya Society, Subsistence, and Art in Chiapas, Mexico: A Comparative Perspective. Invited Lecture: Archaeological Institute of America, New York chapter.
- 2023 Acuicultura Ecológica y Subsistencia Integrada en Mesoamérica. Invited public lecture. Museo Popol Vuh, Guatemala City, September 2023.
- 2023 Ancestral Maya Domesticated Waterscapes, Ecological Aquaculture, and Integrated Subsistence." Arizona Archaeological Society, Foothills chapter, March 2023.
- 2021 Invited guest to the Grandeza de México events in Mexico City by President Andrés López

- Obrador for my organization of the repatriation of a Maya ceramic effigy urn from Albion College, Michigan, to Mexico; September 15 and 16: National Museum of Anthropology and National Palace, Mexico City.
- 2020 Maya Pilgrimage to Ritual Landscapes in Art, Archaeology, and History. Minnesota Maya Society (organized through Zoom).
- 2020 Viewing the film “Raiders of the Lost Ark.” Led discussion of the good and the bad of Indiana Jones for archaeology. ASU outreach to undergraduate and graduate students, Zoom session, September.
- 2019 ASU at the Capitol “Mesoamerican Roots in Contemporary Cultures in Mexico and Arizona” Organizer.
- 2019 “So You Want to be an Archaeologist?!” Open Door Day, Arizona State University, Feb. 2019
- 2017 “Ancient Maya Head Shaping and Social Identity.” Latino Cultural Center, UIC
- 2016 “What is an Archaeologist?” Young Scientists’ Day, Mann Elementary, Oak Park.
- 2014 “Chocolate in Ancient Maya Culture”, Latino Cultural Center, UIC, and the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago. Lecture series: Chocolate: Drink of the Gods, Food of Mortals, organized by Rosa Cabrera, Joel Palka, and Mario Lucero.
- 2013 “The Discovery of a Major Maya Pilgrimage Shrine at Lake Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico.” Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, Chicago.
- 2013 “Ancestral Landscapes and Pilgrimage in Lacandon Maya Culture.” 31st Maya Weekend. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.
- 2012 The Maya Calendar and 2012. Adler Planetarium, Chicago.
- 2012 2012 and the Maya Calendar. South Suburban Archaeological Society, Chicago.
- 2011 “Fossils in Ancient Mesoamerican Cultures.” Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, Chicago.
- 2010 “Maya Hieroglyphs and Culture.” Moraine Valley Community College, Chicago.
- 2010 “Maya Hieroglyphs and Culture” and “Aztecs of Mexico.” Celebrity Cruises.
- 2009 “Unconquered Maya Archaeological Sites in Chiapas, Mexico.” Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, Chicago.
- 2007 “Recent Discoveries in Maya Archaeology.” Mexican Tourism Board, Navy Pier, Chicago.
- 2005 “Archaeology of the Nineteenth-Century Lacandon Maya.” South Suburban Archaeology Society, Chicago.
- 2005 “Unconquered Lacandon Maya.” Mexican Fine Arts Museum, Chicago. Lectures in the Lectures in the Community Series (UIC, LALS).
- 2005 “Los Lacandones de Peten, Guatemala.” St. Augustine College, Chicago. Lectures in the Community Series (UIC, LALS).
- 2004 “Historical Archaeology of Lacandon Maya Culture Change.” Chicago Archaeological Society.

- 2002 “Chocolate and the Ancient Maya.” Lunch and Learn Program for 6th graders and their teachers, Milwaukee Public Museum.
- 2002 “The Lacandon Maya: Culture Contact and Culture Change.” Public Symposium on Ancient Mesoamerica, Burpee Museum, Rockford IL.
- 2001 “The Maya Collapse at the Ancient Site of Dos Pilas, Guatemala.” South Suburban Anthropological Association, Chicago.
- 2000 “Archaeology at the Maya Site of Dos Pilas, Guatemala.” Chicago Archaeological Society.
- 1998 “Ancient Maya Archaeology.” Whittier Primary School, Oak Park IL.
- 1997 “New Insights on Ancient Maya Pottery from Dos Pilas, Guatemala.” Archaeological Institute of America, Milwaukee chapter.
- 1996 “Excavaciones en el Sitio Maya de Dos Pilas, Guatemala.” Tikal Association, Guatemala City.
- 1996 “Arqueologia Taina.” Boy Scouts, San Juan chapter, Puerto Rico.

ACADEMIC HONORS

UIC Humanities Institute Scholar 2011-2012
 The Academy of Geography and History of Guatemala (elected member 2006)
 UIC Humanities Institute Scholar 2000-2001
 Fulbright Scholar, USIS/Guatemala 1992
 Summa Cum Laude, Northern Illinois University (NIU), 1987
 Honors in Anthropology, N.I.U., 1987
 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, N.I.U., 1987
 Outstanding Undergraduate in Anthropology, N.I.U., 1987
 Dean's Award in Anthropology, N.I.U., 1987
 Dean's List, N.I.U., 1985-1987

FELLOWSHIPS

Amerindian Foundation, Dragoon AZ, member of a four-day panel seminar on “Place Making in Mesoamerica and the U.S. Southwest”
 Institute for the Humanities Fellowship (UIC), writing sabbatical, 2011-2012
 School of American Research, Santa Fe, Member of Week-long Panel seminar on “Historical Archaeology in Mesoamerica: New Approaches” organized by Rani Alexander and Susan Kepecs, 2010.
 Institute for the Humanities Fellowship (UIC), writing sabbatical, 2000-2001

EDITOR

Mesoamerican Voices (2002-2009). Journal of the Chicago Maya Society (peer-review).

RESEARCH

- 2016-present Director of Chiapas Ceramic Ethnoarchaeology Project examining the production of waning production of domestic pottery; creation of museum collections in Mexico
- 2004-present Director of Archaeological, Ethnohistory, and Ethnographic Project examining unconquered historic Maya culture change and ecological aquaculture in the lowland rainforest of Guatemala and Chiapas; research in collaboration with Lacandon Maya in Mensabak (Metzabok), Chiapas, and several colleagues and students.

2001-2004	Director/Organizer of the Web based “Maya Monument and Hieroglyphic Text Photographic Archive and Research.” Based at UIC Maya Archaeology Lab.
1993-2003	Director of Lacandón Maya Ethnohistoric and Historical Archaeology Project, Guatemala. Design and direct research on cross-cultural contact situations and indigenous culture change.
1996	Co-director of Mississippian household archaeology, Traveler's Rest, TN (with Dr. Kevin Smith).
1995	Conducted field research in historic Germantown in Nashville with archaeologist/director Jennifer Bartlett
1994	Archaeologist/Supervisor; The Hermitage, Nashville TN, Historical archaeology of slave cabins at A. Jackson's plantation which examines Afro-American culture change before and after emancipation (Director: Larry McKee).
1993	Archaeologist; State of Tennessee Project. Volunteer for rescue archaeology in a large Mississippian site; Dr. Kevin Smith, director.
1991-1992	Director of Settlement Pattern Studies, Dos Pilas, Guatemala. Devised and directed research and excavation strategy for Dos Pilas Project. Study of Classic Maya Collapse and Socio-economic status. Designed analysis of artifacts. Petexbatún Regional Project; Dr. Arthur Demarest, project director.
1990-1991	Field Director of Excavations at Dos Pilas, Guatemala. Plan, direct, and supervise excavations at the site. Research on Classic Maya Households. Petexbatún Regional Project; Dr. Arthur Demarest, director.
1989-1990	Archaeologist and Researcher, Dos Pilas, Guatemala. Supervised excavations at Classic Maya site. Studied Classic Maya households and post-collapse occupation. Petexbatún Regional Project; Dr. Arthur Demarest, project director.
1990	Archaeologist, Tennessee Dept. of Conservation. Excavation in village of Late Mississippian Culture. Tennessee Conservation Archaeology. Nick Fielder, John Broster, and Steve Spears, directors.
1988-1989	Archaeologist and Researcher, Copán, Honduras. Directed excavations in monumental architecture in study of culture history of Classic Period elites. Copán Acropolis Project, Dr. William Fash, director.
1986-1988	Excavation Supervisor, Copán, Honduras. Supervision of excavations in monumental architecture for research on Maya sculpture and warfare. Copán Mosaics Project, Dr. William Fash, director.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS AND CONSULTATION

- 3,000 Years of Mexican and Central American Culture, SHESC gallery, ASU; (Exhibit director; Spring 2022)
- Arqueología en las casas de los dioses: hallazgos en Mensabak, Chiapas (traveling exhibit co-organized with Josué Lozada; for the Institute of Anthropology and History museums in Mexico City and Tuxtla Gutierrez and Palenque, Chiapas; 2022-2024)
- Cerámica Doméstica/Domestic Ceramics (2019-2020); Contributor; (Museo de los Altos, San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico; November 2019-March 2020)
- Chocolate Exhibit; The Field Museum (1998-2001; Contributor; Consultant)
- Hall of the Americas Exhibit; The Field Museum (2002-2005; Contributor; Consultant)

COURSES

Mortuary Archaeology (graduate seminar; developed course content; ASU)
Chiefdoms (graduate seminar; developed course content; ASU)
Anthropology of Art (undergraduate; developed course content; created online course; ASU)
Pyramids and Hieroglyphs: Mesoamerican Prehistory (online; developed course content; ASU)
Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (undergraduate; developed course content; ASU)
Ethnoarchaeology (graduate seminar; developed course content; ASU and UIC)
Study Abroad: Chiapas, Mexico (undergraduate research; UIC)
Writing in Anthropology (undergraduate seminar; UIC)
Pirates in Latin America (undergraduate seminar; UIC)
Anthropology and Art (undergraduate seminar; Honors College core; UIC)
Introduction to Latin America in a World Context (undergraduate; UIC)
Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica (undergraduate; UIC)
Art of the Ancient Americas (undergraduate; new course; UIC)
Settlement, Trade, and Urbanism: (graduate and undergraduate; Vanderbilt)
Ethnography of Mesoamerica (undergraduate; UIC)
Rise and Fall of the Classic Maya (graduate and undergraduate seminar; UIC)
Maya Hieroglyphic Writing, Language, and Culture (graduate and undergraduate seminar; new course; UIC)
Aztec Culture and Language (graduate/undergraduate seminar; UIC)
Maya Ethnography (graduate and undergraduate seminar; UIC)
Core Course in Archaeological Theory and Methods (graduate core; UIC)
Culture Contact and Indigenous Culture Change in Latin America (graduate/ undergraduate; new course; UIC)
Latin America Before 1860 (undergraduate; UIC)
History and Culture in Central America (undergraduate; UIC)
Indigenous Culture Change in Latin America (undergraduate; new course; UIC)
Indigenous-European Interaction in Latin America (undergraduate; new course; UIC)
Community Museums in Latin America (undergraduate/ graduate seminar; UIC)
Maya Religion (undergraduate/ graduate; UIC)
Ancient Maya Art and Culture (graduate/ undergraduate seminar; UIC)
The World of Art, Culture, and Identity (Honors undergraduate; UIC)
Introduction to Archaeology and Physical Anthropology (undergraduate; UIC)

TEACHING AWARDS

Nominated for ASU Graduate Mentor Award (2021-2024)
Nominated for UIC Silver Circle Award (2004)
Nominated for UIC Flame Teaching Recognition Award (2004)

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD INSTRUCTION

U.S., Mexican, and Norwegian graduate student and U.S. and Mexican undergraduate student training in archaeology and laboratory research at Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico; 2004-present

Vanderbilt University Archaeology Field School, Mississippian Indian Village, Nashville, TN; 1996

Germantown, Nashville TN: -Instructed undergraduates in archaeological methods and theory in field research; Vanderbilt University (1995)

Dos Pilas, Guatemala: -Vanderbilt University; assisted Prof. Arthur Demarest and Dr. Juan Antonio Valdez (University of San Carlos, Guatemala) with students learning excavation techniques, settlement pattern studies, and Maya archaeology (1991-1992).

Copán, Honduras: -Northern Illinois University; assisted Prof. William Fash in courses on excavation techniques and Maya art and archaeology (1987-1988).

The Hermitage, Nashville TN: -Supervisor and instruction of interns in excavations of slave cabin; Dr. Larry McKee, Director, Hermitage Archaeology Program

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Fluent

Lacandon Mayan: Intermediate

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Society for American Archaeology

Colegio de Chiapas

COMMITTEES/ PANELS/ POSTS (Discipline)

2023-2026 NSF Panel Reviewer for Senior Archaeology Grant Proposals (3-year term)
2023-2026 SAA Dissertation Award Committee
2023 Society of American Archaeology Advisory Group: Sen. Mark Kelly (AZ), National Historic Preservation Act and Fund
2018-present Head Organizer: AZ SW Mesoamericanist Meetings (faculty and graduate student presentations)
2012-2018 Head Organizer: Midwest Mesoamericanist Meetings
2015-2020 Expert Written Testimonies for Chuj Maya Immigration Cases; Hughes Soco Piers Resnick Law; Chicago, IL.
2014 Panelist and Reviewer; National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Grant proposals
2008-2018 Honors College Faculty Advisor
2011-2014 Chair, Committee on the Americas (COA), Society of American Archaeology
2008-2011 Director of Undergraduate Studies (UIC, Anthropology)
2008-2009 Director of Graduate Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies Program (UIC)
2006-2014 Committee on the Americas, Society for American Archaeology
1999 Panelist for National Endowment of Humanities Summer Research Stipends.
1999-2001 Student Paper Award Committee, Society for American Archaeology

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2025-2026 Archaeology Approach Head, SHESC, ASU
2025-2026 Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Anthropology Organization, ASU
2025-2026 Tenure committee, SHESC, ASU
2025 Search Committee, spousal hire, SHESC, ASU
2020 Interim Director of Graduate Studies, SHESC, ASU
2023-2026 Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee, CLAS, ASU
2023-2025 Executive Committee, SHESC, ASU
2019-2022 Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee, CLAS, ASU
2018-2022 Personnel Committee, SHESC, ASU
2019 Awards Committee, SHESC, ASU (Chair; Graduate student awards; Faculty Research Grants)
2018-2020 Chair, SHESC Annual Student Academic Awards committee, ASU
2019-2021 Academic Standards Committee, CLAS, ASU
2015-2018 Educational Policy Committee (UIC, Honors College)
Faculty Senate, UIC (2015-2018)
Acting Director, Latin American and Latino Studies Program, UIC, Spring 2016
Faculty Senate, Department of Anthropology, UIC, 2014-2017
Acting Head, Department of Anthropology, UIC, 2014
Search Committee, Archaeology position (UIC Anthropology) 2008
Search Committee, Latin American Studies position (UIC Latin American Studies; Chair)
Research Mentor, Proviso Math and Science Academy high school students, 2008-2012
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UIC, Liberal Arts/ Sciences and Chancellor's Office) 2009-2018)
1999-2016 Panel for UIC Graduate Student Fulbright Scholarship Candidates
2005-2008 Faculty Senate (UIC)
2007-2008 Chair, Educational Policy Committee (UIC, LAS)
2005-2008 Educational Policy Committee (UIC, LAS)
2004-2006 Campus Research Board Committee (UIC)
2001-2004 Graduate Awards Committee (UIC)
Recruited students for field research in Mexico (undergraduate and graduate; 1996-present)

PEER REVIEW (selection)

Journals: Latin American Antiquity; American Anthropologist; Current Anthropology; Ancient Mesoamerica; Antiquity; Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Cambridge Archaeological Journal; Arqueología; Anthropos; Estudios de Cultura Maya; Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture; Itinerarios: Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture; Visual Anthropology; Journal of Conflict Archaeology; Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory; Cambridge Archaeological Journal; Revista Arqueología Americana

Books: University of New Mexico Press; University Press of Florida; University of Arizona Press; University of Oklahoma Press; Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; University of Utah Press; University Press of Colorado; University of Alabama Press; Brill Press

Grants: National Science Foundation (also Archaeology Panel 2023-2026); National Endowment for the Humanities; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; National Science Centre of Poland

Tenure and promotion cases: Tulane University; McGill University; University of Alabama

Program review: BA (licenciatura) and Archaeology Department, Universidad de Artes y Cultura de Chiapas; Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico; 2021.

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

Dissertation Committee Chair/co-Chair: ASU, SHESC 4 students

Dissertation Committee member: ASU, SHESC 3 students; Art History 1 student; Design 1 student

External Dissertation Committee Member: 2 students

PhDs graduated (Chair: UIC or co-Chair with Northwestern U): 8 (4 from underrepresented groups)

PhDs graduated (Committee member: UIC; Northwestern U; Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia-Mexico City): 7 (3 from underrepresented groups)

PUBLIC OUTREACH (selection)

Arizona Archaeological Society Member, Desert Foothills Chapter (2020-present)

Solving Problems in Archaeology; The TechHoppers; Middle School children and Girl Scouts; Roosevelt Island, New York, 10-15-2025, online discussions for student projects.

Arizona PBS: In the Americas with David Yetman; Ritual Landscapes, Aquaculture, and Lacandon Maya Life at Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico (forthcoming documentary).

Viewing of Lost Cities with Albert Lin: Cradle of the Maya, Metzabok, Chiapas, Mexico.

Lost Cities Revealed with Albert Lin (S1 E1): Cradle of the Maya (Mensabak, Chiapas, Mexico, as a Maya Origin City (National Geographic and Disney; November 15, 2023). Duties: lead archaeology collaborator and advisor: create the storyline, acquire field permits, coordinate Maya community and Mexican archaeologist collaborations, advise the film team in the field, undertake research and filming in Chiapas, and consult with the directors, producers, and editors of the film team

Viewing of and commentary on: 'Lost Cities with Albert Lin: Cradle of the Maya,' National Geographic video, ASU: 2-22-24; National Institute of Anthropology Museum, Tuxtla, Chiapas, Mexico

Open Door at ASU (2023-2024); What is your Maya Sign?! Talk to the public about Maya culture and calendars; convert people's birthdays to the ancient Maya calendar and print it out for them

Homecoming, ASU (2023-2024), What is your Maya sign? Covert birthdays to ancient Maya calendar; give astrology based on the contemporary Maya calendar in Guatemala

Society of American Archaeology consulting team for AZ Senator Mark Kelly: the importance of archaeology, archaeological sites, and Native American community collaboration for Arizona (July 2023)

Events and Press Releases for repatriation of Maya ceramic effigy cylinder to Mexico (Albion College and Mexico City Presidential Palace and National Anthropology Museum; September 2021)

3,000 Years of Mexican and Central American Culture; Exhibit in SHESC building lobby and ASU West Campus (Spring 2022).

NPR Phoenix: History of the Chupacabra in Latin America! (March 2023)

NPR: What is an Alux in Mexico?! (March 2023)