

# TIMOTHY W. KNOWLTON

Associate Professor of Anthropology

Berry College

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## Education

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### **Doctor of Philosophy, Tulane University, 2004**

Anthropology

Dissertation: "Dialogism in the Languages of Colonial Maya Creation Myths"

Dissertation Advisor: Victoria R. Bricker, Ph.D.

### **Master of Arts, Tulane University, 2003**

Anthropology

### **Bachelor of Arts, Oklahoma Baptist University, 2000**

Anthropology and Museum Management

*Magna Cum Laude* with Honors

Honors Thesis: "The Classic Maya Star Jaguar"

### **Research Languages**

Spanish

Yucatec Maya

Kaqchikel Maya

Classic Maya ("Hieroglyphic")

Nahuatl (Aztec)

### **Additional Postgraduate Education in Research Methods**

National Science Foundation Courses on Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology

2015 -*Cultural Domain Analysis*

2010 -*Text Analysis*

-*Methods in Ethno-ecology*

-*Geospatial Analysis*

2009 -*Behavior Measurement in Naturalistic Settings*

-*Network Analysis*

-*Systematic Techniques for Gathering and Analyzing Video Data*

Sanisera Necropolis Excavations (Menorca, Spain)

2009 *Field and Laboratory Methods in Bioarchaeology and Physical Anthropology*

# Scholarship

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## MONOGRAPH

- 2010 *Maya Creation Myths: Words and Worlds of the Chilam Balam*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2016 Nqab'än Repetir las Mismas Palabras: Entextualization as Ideological Constraint in a Bilingual Kaqchikel Maya Wedding. *The Latin Americanist* 60(1):47-61.
- 2015 Inscribing the Miraculous Place: Writing and Ritual Communication in the Chapel of a Guatemalan Popular Saint. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 25(3): 239-255.
- 2015 The Maya Goddess of Painting, Writing and Decorated Textiles. *The PARI Journal* 16(2): 31-41.
- 2015 Literacy and Healing: Semiotic Ideologies and the Entextualization of Colonial Maya Incantations. *Ethnohistory* 62(3): 573-595.
- 2012 Ethnicity, God Concepts, and the Indigenization of a Guatemalan Popular Saint. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 68(2):223-247.
- 2012 Some Historical Continuities in Lowland Maya Magical Speech Genres: Keying Shamanic Performance. In *Parallel Worlds: Genre, Discourse, and Poetics in Contemporary, Colonial, and Classic Maya Literature*, Kerry Hull and Michael D. Carrasco (eds). Pp. 253-269. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.
- 2010 (and Gabrielle Vail). Hybrid Cosmologies in Mesoamerica: A Reevaluation of the *Yax Cheel Cab*, a Maya World Tree. *Ethnohistory* 57(4):709-739.
- 2010 Nahua Vocables in a Maya Song of the Fall of Chichén Itzá: Music and Social Memory in the Construction of Yucatecan Ethnicities. In *Astronomers, Scribes, and Priests: Intellectual Interchange between the Northern Maya Lowlands and Highland Mexico in the Late Postclassic Period*. Pp. 243-261. Washington D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks.
- 2009 Composition and Artistry in a Classical Yucatecan Maya Creation Myth: Prehispanic Ritual Narratives and Their Colonial Transmission. In *The Maya and their Sacred Narratives: Text and Context of Maya Mythologies*. Geneviève Le Fort, Raphaël Gardiol, Sebastian Matteo and Christophe Helmke (eds.). Pp. 111-121. Germany: Verlag Anton Saurwein.
- 2008 Dynamics of Indigenous Language Ideologies in the Colonial Redaction of a Yucatec Maya Cosmological Text. *Anthropological Linguistics* 50(1):90-112.
- 2006 From Old World Ideogram to Maya Hieroglyph: A Case Study of Writing Systems in a Colonial Context. In *The Bricker Almanac: A Festschrift in Honor of Harvey and Victoria Bricker*, special publication of *Human Mosaic: A Journal of the Social Sciences* 36 (1): 93-97.
- 2003 Seasonal Implications of Maya Eclipse and Rain Iconography in the Dresden Codex. *Journal for the History of Astronomy* 34: 291-303.

2002 Diphrastric Kennings in Mayan Hieroglyphic Literature. *Mexicon* 24(1):9-13.

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PRESS

in press, Filth and Healing in Yucatan: Interpreting *Ix Hun Ahau*, a Maya Goddess. *Ancient Mesoamerica*.

### EDITED VOLUME

2006 (with Gabrielle Vail and Markus Eberl) *The Bricker Almanac: A Festschrift in Honor of Harvey and Victoria Bricker*, special publication of *Human Mosaic: A Journal of the Social Sciences* 36 (1).

### DIGITAL VIDEOS FILMED AND PRODUCED

2009a (and Lauren Prater) *Ri Laj Mam: Tz'utujil Maya Holy Week in Guatemala*. 17 min. Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University.

<http://www.tulane.edu/~mari/recent.html>

2009b (and Stephanie Carson) *Mayas Saving Maya Culture/Indígenas Mayas rescatan su propia cultura: La Asociación Gran Señor Tepepul Chuitinamit*. 22 minutes. The Archaeological Legacy Institute. <http://www.archaeologychannel.org>

### BOOK REVIEWS (Solicited by Journal)

2015 Review of Paul M. Worley: *Telling and Being Told: Storytelling and Cultural Control in Contemporary Yucatec Maya Literatures*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. *American Anthropologist* 117(4): 881-882.

2014 Review of T.S. Harvey: *Wellness Beyond Words: Maya Compositions of Speech and Silence in Medical Care*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 24(2):244-246.

2013 Review of Elizabeth Boone and Gary Urton (eds.): *Their Way of Writing: Scripts, Signs and Pictographies in Pre-Columbian America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. *American Anthropologist* 115(4):680-681.

2011 Review of Gunsenheimer, Antje, Tsubasa Okoshi Harada, and John F. Chuchiak (eds.): *Text and Context. Yucatec Maya Literature in a Diachronic Perspective – Texto y contexto. La literatura maya yucateca en perspectiva diacrónica*. Aachen: Shaker Verlag, 2009. *Anthropos* 106:247-249.

### CONFERENCE PAPERS & INVITED WORKSHOPS

2015 “Perinatal Rites in the Ritual of the Bacabs, a Colonial Maya Manuscript.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Las Vegas, November 7, 2015.

2015 “Nqab’án Repetir las Mismas Palabras: Entextualization as Ideological Constraint in a Bilingual Kaqchikel Maya Wedding.” Presented at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Charleston, March 13, 2015.

- 2013 "Reading the Miraculous Place: The Semiotics of Votive Texts in the Chapel of a Guatemalan Popular Saint." Presented in the session "Exploring the Boundaries of the Ethnography of Reading: Locating Readability at the Intersections of Text, Object and Performance" at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 20, 2013.
- 2013 "Mesoamerican Chronotopes and the Hybrid Maya Cosmogonies of Colonial Yucatán." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, New Orleans, September 14, 2013.
- 2013 "Codeswitching and Interdiscursivity in Kaqchikel Maya Wedding Speeches." Presented at the International Conference on Mesoamerican Linguistics, CSU Fullerton, February 23, 2013.
- 2012 "Healing Scripts: Semiotic Ideologies and Maya Shamanism in Colonial Yucatán." Presented in the session "Healing Discourse in the Cultural Borderlands of Illness" at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 16, 2012.
- 2012 "Literacy and Shamanic Healing: Semiotic Ideologies and the Entextualization of Colonial Maya Incantations." Presented at the Wenner-Gren Foundation workshop "Colonial Mesoamerican Indigenous Literacy" at the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, RI, June 15-17, 2012.
- 2012 "The Incantations in the Glyphs and the Glyphs in the Incantations: Ancient Maya Texts and the Ritual of the Bacabs." Presented at the closed topical seminar "Rhetorical Structures and Literary Aspects of Classic Maya Texts" at the University of Texas at Austin Maya Meetings. Casa Herrera, La Antigua, Guatemala, March 11, 2012.
- 2012 "Authoritative Discourse and Colonial Diglossia in Contemporary Kaqchikel Maya Wedding Speeches." Presented at the joint meeting of the Linguistic Society of America and the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Portland, January 6, 2012.
- 2011 "Deixis and Cosmology in the Ritual of the Bacabs." Presented at the session "Modes of Space and Time in Postclassic and Colonial Maya Documents" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Pasadena, October 22, 2011.
- 2010 "Folk Saint as Metaphor of the Nation: Maya and Ladino Genealogies of San Simón in Post-Conflict Guatemala." Presented at the session "Local Subjectivities in Contemporary Latin American Contexts" at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 18, 2010.
- 2009 (with Gabrielle Vail) "A Re-evaluation of Ethnohistoric Sources Concerning the Yax Cheel Cab." Presented at the session "Indigenous Literacy in Mesoamerica and the Colonial World" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, New Orleans, October 1, 2009.
- 2009 "The Genres of Classical Yucatecan Maya Creation Myths: *V Thanil, Kay, Kahlay*." Presented at the Sixth Annual Tulane Maya Symposium, New Orleans, Feb 7, 2008.
- 2008 "The Poetics of Maya Magic: *Than* texts." Paper presented at the session

- "Parallel Worlds: Genre, Discourse, and Poetics in Contemporary, Colonial, and Classic Maya Literature" at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, Nov 22, 2008.
- 2008 "“Back Then When There Was No Sky’: The Antiquity of Celestial References in Classical Yucatecan Creation Myths.” Paper presented at the session “Celestial References in Mesoamerican Creation Myths.” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, Canada, March 27.
- 2007 “Composition and Artistry in a Classical Yucatecan Maya Creation Myth: Prehispanic Ritual Narratives and Their Colonial Transmission.” Paper presented at Symposium “The Maya and their Sacred Narratives: Text and Context of Maya Mythologies” at the annual European Maya Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, December 11, 2007.
- 2006 “Mayan Gods and Fallen Angels: Dialogic Transformations of the Popol Wuj Myth in Colonial Yucatán.” Presented at the session “ Mesoamerican Encounters: Contact among Indigenous Cultures in the Late Postclassic and Colonial Periods,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, November 1-5, 2006.
- 2006 “Nahua Vocables in the ‘Song of the Fall of Chichén Itzá’: Music and Social Memory in the Construction of Yucatecan Ethnicities.” Invited paper to be presented at “Astronomers, Scribes, and Priests: Intellectual Interchange between the Northern Maya Lowlands and Highland Mexico in the Late Postclassic Period,” Dumbarton Oaks Symposium, October 6-7, 2006.
- 2004 “Creation and Cosmology in the Books of Chilam Balam.” Workshop presented at the Third Annual Tulane Maya Symposium, October 31, 2004.
- 2004 “Apocalypse by the Numbers: Maya Calendrical Divination and Colonial Christian Eschatology.” Presented at the session “At the Crossroads of Magic and Science,” 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, December 17, 2004.
- 1999 "Wayob, Warfare, and World Renewal: The Classic Maya Star-Jaguar," presented at the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, November 13, 1999.

#### CONFERENCE SESSION ORGANIZED

- 2008 “Celestial References in Mesoamerican Creation Myths.” Session at the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, Canada, March 27.

## Grants & Fellowships

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- 2014-2015 Dumbarton Oaks (Trustees for Harvard University) Fellowship in Pre-Columbian Studies (\$28,000).
- 2013 Faculty Development Grant, Berry College (\$3000) for ethnographic research on contemporary medical concepts and practices of Yucatec Maya *hmeen* (indigenous healers).

- 2012 Faculty Summer Stipend, Berry College (\$3500), for linguistic anthropological research on colonial Yucatec Maya medical incantations.
- 2012 Faculty Development Grant, Berry College (\$530.60), to attend the workshop Narrative Structures in Maya Texts, UT Austin Maya meetings.
- 2011 Faculty Development Grant, Berry College (\$2469.40), for sociolinguistic research on bilingualism in Kaqchikel Maya wedding speeches.
- 2010 Faculty Development Research Grant, Berry College (\$2000), for research on contemporary highland Maya sacred sites in Guatemala.
- 2009 International Programs Cultural Immersion and Professional Growth Grant, Berry College (\$4292).
- 2008 Faculty Summer Stipend, Berry College (\$3500), for archival research in Mexico.
- 2007 Faculty Development Grant, Berry College (\$1220).
- 2005-2006 Dumbarton Oaks (Trustees for Harvard University) Visiting Scholar Fellowship in Pre-Columbian Studies (\$32,000).
- 2005 (Spring) Middle American Research Institute (MARI) grant to conduct field research and filming of Tz'utujil ritual in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala (\$1000).
- 2004 (Summer) Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) grant in Kaqchikel Maya (\$2300).
- 2003 (Fall) Mesoamerican Ethnohistory Fund research grant for archival research into Colonial Yucatec Maya myth and identity formation at the Ayer Collection in American Indian Linguistics, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, USA (\$600).
- 2003 (Summer) Mesoamerican Ethnohistory Fund research grant for archival research into Colonial Yucatec Maya creation narratives at the Sylvanus Morley Collection of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM, USA (\$600).
- 2002 (Summer) Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) grant in Kaqchikel Maya (\$2300).
- 2001 (Summer) Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) grant in Kaqchikel Maya (\$2300).
- 2000-2003 Research Assistantship, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University.
- 2000-2003 Graduate School Fellowship (Full Tuition & Stipend), Tulane University.

## Teaching

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### Berry College

- 2013-present Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Sociology & Anthropology
- 2007-2013 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

**Courses Taught:** Cultural Anthropology (ANT 200), Origins of Human Behavior (ANT210), Peoples of Latin America & the Caribbean (ANT/LCS 301), Culture and Communication (ANT315/450); Topic: From Hieroglyphs to Txtng (ANT360); Magic, Science & Religion (ANT/REL450/ANT365);

Applying Anthropology (ANT 380), Anthropology of the Body (ANT 330), Globalization & Local Communities (ANT 340); ANT/SOC 480WI: Senior Project.

**Directed Studies:** Ethnicity in Latin America & the Caribbean (Spring 2014); Medical Anthropology (Spring 2013); Natural History of Language (Spring 2011); Visual Anthropology (Spring 2009; Fall 2009); Sacred Landscapes of the Native Americas (Fall 2007).

2006-2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

**Courses Taught:** Cultural Anthropology (ANT 200), Sociolinguistics (ENG 419WI), Globalization & Local Communities (ANT 340), Introduction to Latin America & the Caribbean (ANT 450)

#### Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

2005-2006 Dumbarton Oaks Visiting Professor

**Courses Taught:** Epigrafía Maya, Antropología de las Religiones

#### Loyola University (New Orleans)

2005 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Religious Studies

**Courses Taught:** Death: Comparative Views (RELSU169), Native American Religions (RELSV167)

#### Tulane University

2003-2005 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

**Courses Taught:** Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 102), Anthropology of Women and Men (ANTH 203), Myth and Life (ANTH 210)

## Related Experience

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#### ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD RESEARCH

2013-2014 Contemporary Medical Concepts and Practices of Yucatec Maya *Hmeen* (indigenous healers): Yucatán, Mexico, June-July (2013); March (2014).

2011 Bilingualism in Kaqchikel Maya Wedding Speeches: Guatemala, July.

2010 Contemporary Maya Sacred Landscapes: Ethnographic site documentation in Tz'utujil-speaking regions of Lake Atitlán, Guatemala, June-July.

2006 Maya spirituality and popular Catholicism: participant observation and semi-structured interviews of religious specialists, central highlands of Guatemala, June- July.

2005 Maya spirituality and popular Catholicism: participant observation and structured interviews of visit

- 2005 Maya spirituality and popular Catholicism: participant observation and semi-structured interviews, Santiago Atitlan, March.
- 2004 Maya spirituality and popular Catholicism: participant observation and semi-structured interviews of religious specialists, central highlands of Guatemala, June-August
- 2002 Maya spirituality and popular Catholicism: participant observation and semi-structured interviews of religious specialists, central highlands of Guatemala, June-August
- 2001 Maya spirituality and popular Catholicism: participant observation and semi-structured interviews of religious specialists, central highlands of Guatemala, June-August

#### **ETHNOGRAPHIC CONSULTANT**

- 2004 e-Kaqchikel Project, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University, January - August 2004
- 2003 Consumer research, SmartRevenue, directed by Steve Barnett. November-December.

#### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

- 2005 *Cosmology and Cultures* Project, Oklahoma Baptist University Planetarium, *Astronomical Manuscripts of the Ancient Maya* educational program, January-July.
- 2000 Exhibit research and design, "Arts of the Ancient Americas" Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art.

## **Service & Committees**

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#### **University Service, Berry College**

- 2013-2014 General Education Assessment Committee
- 2012-2014 Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Committee
- 2011-2014 Judicial Board Appeals Panel
- 2011-2014 National & International Scholarships & Fellowships Committee
- 2011-2013 Berry College United Way Committee
- 2009-2012 Institutional Review Board Committee (Chair, Fall 2010-Spring 2012)
- 2009-2014 Traffic Violations Committee
- 2009-2011 Faculty Development Committee
- 2007-present Latin American & Caribbean Studies Advisory Committee
- 2008 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Sociology Search Committee
- 2007-2008 Who's Who Advisory Committee

#### **Reviewer for Academic Journals**

- 2013-present Reviewer for *American Anthropologist*, Wiley-Blackwell Publishers.
- 2013-present Reviewer for the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, Wiley-Blackwell Publishers.
- 2011-present Reviewer for the journal *Ethnohistory*, Duke University Press



# References

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Dr. Victoria R. Bricker  
Professor Emeritus, Tulane University  
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New Orleans, LA 70118  
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Dr. Judith Maxwell  
Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Tulane University  
101 Dinwiddie Hall  
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Dr. Walter E. Little  
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology  
State University of New York at Albany  
Arts & Sciences Building, Room 245  
1400 Washington Avenue  
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Dr. Dennis Tedlock  
McNulty Professor in the Poetics Program  
Research Professor of Anthropology  
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Dr. Anthony Aveni  
Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor of Astronomy, Anthropology & Native  
American Studies  
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