

Catherine Whittaker, PhD

Assistant Professor in Anthropology, Goethe University Frankfurt
Visiting Scholar in Anthropology, University of California San Diego
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Latin America and U.S. Latino/as; structural violence, gender, racialization, Indigeneity, coloniality, power, migration, vigilance; ethnographic research methods

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in Social and Cultural Anthropology, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany (since April 2021)

Visiting Scholar, Anthropology, University of California San Diego, USA (2020-2022)

EDUCATION

- 2014-2019 University of Edinburgh, School of Social and Political Science
PhD Social Anthropology – awarded in April 2019
- 2012-2013 London School of Economics (LSE), Department of Social Anthropology
MSc Social Anthropology
- 2011-2012 University of Oxford, School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography
MSc Cognitive & Evolutionary Anthropology
- 2008-2011 University of Bonn, Institute VII, Germany
BA Latin American & Indigenous American Studies

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Sep. '19-Mar. '21 Postdoctoral Researcher, LMU Munich
Collaborative Research Center (SFB 1369) "Cultures of Vigilance."
German Research Council (DFG)-funded
Project: "**The vigilance of those mistaken for migrants in the U.S.-Mexican border area**" (2019-2023, PI: E. Dürr).
- Mar. '19-Sep. '19 Research Fellow, Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society, and Rule of Law (CISRUL), University of Aberdeen, UK
UK Economic and Social Research Council-funded
Project: "**Societal Responses to Crime-Related Violence and Institutional Fragility**" (2017-2019, PI: T. Stack).

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- 2016-2018 Tutor and Guest Lecturer, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, UK.
- 2015 Visiting research student, Anthropological Studies Institute, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City.

AWARDS

- 2020 LMU Mentoring excellence (ideational and financial support in preparation for a professorship)
- 2018 **Radcliffe-Brown/ Sutasoma Award** of the Royal Anthropological Institute (\$ 532, merit-based dissertation writing-up award)
- 2016 **Emerging Leader in Anthropology Award**, National Association of Student Anthropologists, American Anthropological Association (\$ 610)
- 2016 3-Minute-Thesis People's Choice Award, University of Edinburgh (\$60)
- 2014 Special Award, Anthropology Department, Univ. of Edinburgh (\$ 7,650)

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2021 Fokus A|B seed grant of the Goethe University Frankfurt for developing a large grant application, "Militarized Masculinity: Transnational and Intersectional Perspectives" (\$ 6,960)
- 2017 Research student-led special project grant for one-day event, "Introducing Occult Anthropology: An Anthropology of Religion Symposium," University of Edinburgh (\$ 995)
- 2016 Conference attendance grants for gender studies researchers, Fran Trust, Foundation Scotland (2x \$ 640)
- 2015 **Scholarship of the Mexican Government, SRE** (~ \$ 11,500)
- 2014 School Teaching Studentship, Anthropology, U Manchester (declined)
- 2008–2013 **German Academic Scholarship Foundation Scholarship** (~ \$ 16,000)
- 2009–2011 **North Rhineland-Westphalia Scholarship** (~ \$ 12,000)
- 2010 German Academic Exchange Grant (DAAD) (~ \$ 570)

EMPIRICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Mar. 2022* Four-week exploratory fieldwork on militarized masculinities in San Diego, CA, USA: planning for a large grant application.
- Aug.-Oct. '21 Two-month ethnographic fieldwork on gang violence in San Diego, CA.
- July 2021 Online student survey on diversity and discrimination at the Social and Cultural Anthropology department, Goethe University Frankfurt.
- Feb.-Nov. '20 10-month ethnographic fieldwork and digital ethnography in San Diego, California, on the watchfulness of Latinos who are subject to racist discrimination and structural violence.

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Spring 2019	Three-week ethnographic fieldwork in Michoacán, Mexico, on intersectional inequalities within activism.
Summer 2017	Two-month research mapping the research output of key social work knowledge-broker organizations in Scotland.
Sep. 14-Jan. 16	15-month ethnographic fieldwork in the rural Indigenous south of Mexico City, on local understandings of gender violence.
March 2014	Two-month ethnographic fieldwork on Scottish slam poets.
Summer 2012	Survey-based study of religious group bias (UK/ Germany).
Feb.-Mar. '10	Two-month ethnographic field school in Yucatán: studied municipal elections in a rural Maya town, Teabo.

PUBLICATIONS

Dissertation

2019 *Warrior Women: Contested Understandings of Violence and Gender in Highland Mexico*. Manuscript submitted to the University of Edinburgh, UK.

Monographs in preparation

Loving Violence: Rethinking Gender, Violence, and Power in Indigenous Mexico. Latino Vigilance and Subjectivity in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands. (With E. Dürr, J. Alderman, and C. Luiprecht; manuscript completed by Aug. 2022).
Becoming Vigilant Subjects (With E. Dürr, J. Alderman, C. Brenner, I. Götz, H. Michel, A. Rugel, B. Röder, and A. Zelenskaia; manuscript completed by July 2022)

Special Issues

In review "The Negotiation of Authenticity and the Representation of Cultural Heritage in the Americas." Co-edited with A. Gunsenheimer and S. Schütze, *INDIANA*.
In review "Vigilance." Co-edited with E. Dürr and A. Ivasiuc, *Conflict & Society*.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2021 "Aztecs Are Not Indigenous: Anthropology and the Politics of Indigeneity" *Annals of Anthropological Practice* 44(2): 173-179. (Special issue: Ethics in Mesoamericanist research, ed. by W. Little and M. Rees)
<https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/napa.12147>

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- 2020 "Felt Power: Can Indigenous Mexican Women Finally Be Powerful?" *Feminist Anthropology* 1(2): 288-303.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/fea2.12016>
- 2016 "Sahagún reloaded? The Priest, His Pyramid, and Deliberate Syncretism in Milpa Alta." *Mexicon: Journal of Mesoamerican Studies* 38(2): 33-35.
- In review* "Beyond the *Dead Zone*: The Meanings of Loving Violence in Highland Mexico."
- In review* "Vigilance, Knowledge, and De/Colonization: Protesting While Latin@ in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands." (With E. Dürr.)
- In prep.* "Bordering Criminality: Business, Gangs and Violent Masculine Capital in Barrio Logan."

Book Chapters

- 2022 "Interwoven Violence: Gender-Based Violence, Haunting, and Violence Research in Milpa Alta, Mexico City," in *Researching Gender-based Violence: Embodied and Intersectional Approaches*, ed. by A. Petillo and H. Hlavka, New York City: New York University Press.
- 2022 "A Room of Their Own: Barriers to women's activism against the continuum of violence in Michoacán, Mexico," in *Citizens Against Crime and Violence: A Comparative Ethnography of Societal Responses in Michoacán, Mexico*, ed. by T. Stack, New Brunswick: Rutgers.
- 2019 "The *cosmopolitics* of rights and violence in Central Mexico," in *Anthropological contributions for sustainable futures: Research and interventions in the fields of environmental needs, gender equity, human rights and knowledge in South America and the United Kingdom*, ed. by S. Alzugaray and J. Taks, pp. 12-15. Montevideo: University of the Republic of Uruguay Press.
<https://www.fhuce.edu.uy/images/comunicacion/publicaciones/TaksAlzugaray-2019-06-23-todo.pdf>
- 2017 "Suckling the snake: Motherly goddess worship and serpent symbolism among contemporary Nahua," in *Motherhood/s and polytheism*, ed. by G. Pedrucci, F. Pasche, and M. Scapini, pp. 495-504. Bologna: Pàtron.
- In review* "Barriers to women's activism in Michoacán: Struggling against the continuum of violence" (in Spanish), in [book title TBA], ed. by E. Guerra. Aguascalientes: Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas.
- In review* "Knowledge and Vigilance against Racist and Colonialist Violence in the Mexican-U.S. Borderlands" (in Spanish), in [book title TBA], ed. by Astrid Windus et al. Berlin: Bibliotheca Ibero-Americana.
- In review* "Watchfulness as a Chicano way of life: Decolonization of time and space in the US-Mexican borderlands" (in German, with E. Dürr).

Working paper

- 2020 "Introduction" and "Vigilance" (with E. Dürr) in *A multidisciplinary review essay of Francisco Cantú's book, The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border*, *Vintage, London, 2019*, ed. by E. Dürr and C. Whittaker, Munich: Working Paper des SFB 1369 ,Vigilanzkulturen' 3.
<https://www.en.sfb1369.uni-muenchen.de/research/publications/working-papers/working-paper-3-20/index.html>

Reviews

- 2016 "American Anthropological Kinship: 114th American Anthropological Association annual meeting." *Anthropology Today* 31(1): 28.
- 2016 "Utopias of Crime: Review of the Maurice Halbwachs Summer Institute." *Allegra Lab: Anthropology, Law, Art, World* blog
<http://allegralaboratory.net/utopias-of-crime-review-of-the-mauricehalbwachs-summer-institute-2016/>

Public Outreach

- Dec. 2022 "Newly appointed: Catherine Whittaker, Assistant Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology" (in German). Video, Goethe University Frankfurt YouTube-Channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iz1u1KbjjMw&t=52s>
- Oct. 2021 "Go back to your country! Vigilance, Knowledge, and Coloniality in the US-Mexican Borderlands" (in German). *ila: Das Lateinamerika-Magazin* 449: 4-6. <https://ila-web.de/ausgaben/449#undefined>
- Sep. 2020 "I am Conducting Surveillance Even As I Research It": Interview with Bryce Newell (with Alena Zelenskaia) *Vigilanz Hypotheses* blog
<https://vigilanz.hypotheses.org/535>
- Aug. 2020 "When Did You Realize You're White?" *Vigilanz Hypotheses* blog
<https://vigilanz.hypotheses.org/508>
- Mar. 2020 "Mexico's Everyday Crisis: Spectacular Violence, Invisible Women" *The Globe Post* <https://theglobepost.com/2020/03/13/mexico-violence-women/>
- Feb. 2020 "How might citizens fight criminal violence in Michoacán, Mexico? 3 Lessons from the Activism in Regions of Violence Project" *Latin American Diaries*
<https://latinamericandiaries.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2020/02/19/societal-responses-to-crime-and-violence-in-mexico/>
- Sep. 2019 "Why 'macho culture' is not to blame for violence against women in Mexico" *The Conversation UK* <https://theconversation.com/why-macho-culture-is-not-to-blame-for-violence-against-women-in-mexico-122900>

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- Sep. 2017 "Beyond victims and perpetrators: The hidden side of VAW" Centre for Research on Families and Relationships blog (University of Edinburgh) <http://crfrblog.blogspot.co.uk/2017/09/beyond-victims-andperpetrators-hidden.html>
- June 2016 "The Aztecs are back! Paradoxes of deliberate syncretism in Mexican Catholicism today." *Mexicolore* <http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/spanish-conquest/the-aztecs-are-back>

INVITED SPEAKER

Academic

- Jun. 2022 "Liminal Criminality in the US-Mexican Borderlands: Cops, Gangs, and Immigrants between Violence and Vigilance." Institute for Anthropology and African Studies (IFEAS), University of Mainz, Germany.
- Mar. 2022 "Staying *Trucha* in San Diego: Watchfulness as a Way of Life." Critical Anthropology Workshop, University of California San Diego, USA.
- May 2021 "De/colonial Vigilance: The #FreeThemAll Movement in Times of Black Lives Matter." (With E. Dürr.) *Colloquium Americanum*, Goethe University.
- Apr. 2021 "(In)security and Vigilance in the US-Mexican Borderlands: Watchful Citizens and Political Subject Formation." (With E. Dürr.) *AnthroLab*, Philipps University Marburg, Germany.
- Apr. 2021 "Beyond Victims: From GBV to Felt Power." Gender-Based Violence Studies seminar, University of Arizona, USA.
- Oct. 2018 "Dangerous Affects: Love, Violence, and Gender Roles in Milpa Alta, Mexico City" (in German). Seminar series paper at the Institute for Anthropology of the Americas, University of Bonn, Germany.
- May 2018 "Dialogical *cosmopolitics*. Rethinking violence, gender, and indigeneity in Highland Mexico." Seminar series paper at the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Newcastle University, UK.

Public

- Feb. 2022 "Update to the U.S. Government Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally." Key stakeholder consultation, U.S. State Department/ USAID (virtual).
- Nov. 2017 "Women's Rights and Spirituality in Highland Mexico." *Gender in Development*, Edinburgh Mercy Corps event, University of Edinburgh.
- July 2017 "Evidence and where to find it" Scottish Government, end-of internship seminar for social researchers, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

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Dec. 2015 "'Victims' or 'fighters'? Suggestions for re-imagining strategies to counter gender violence" (in Spanish). Public symposium, Inmujeres (Mexican Women's Institute) in Tecómitl, Milpa Alta, Mexico City.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION & PARTICIPATION

Conferences and symposia organized

2017 Organizer, *Introducing Occult Anthropology: An Anthropology of Religion Symposium* (1-day workshop), University of Edinburgh, April 28, 2017.

2017 Co-organizer, *Scottish Training in Anthropological Research 3: Decolonizing Anthropology* (two-day workshop), University of Edinburgh, Nov. 4-5, 2017.

Workshops organized

2022 Co-organizer, *Watchfulness in Borderlands*, LMU Munich, July 19-20, 2022. (with Eveline Dürr and Jonathan Alderman).

2022 Co-organizer, *Marginalized and Militarized Masculinities in the US*, Goethe University Frankfurt, July, details TBA (with S. Wendt).

Roundtables and Panels organized

May 2022 Panel "When the Watched Become Watchful: Vigilance, Subject Formation, and Resistance in the Americas" (with J. Alderman). *Latin American Studies Association Congress*, San Francisco, CA, USA (virtual).

Nov. 2021 Roundtable "Keeping the Fire Burning: Protests and Revolutionary Love" (with V. Hänsch). *American Anthropological Association annual meeting*, Baltimore, ML, USA.

Oct. 2021 Panel "Anthropocenic Realities, Relations, and Subjectivities: Negotiating Responsibility, Justice and Governance in Times of Climate Vigilance" (with L. Otto and S. Klepp), *German Anthropological Association Conference*, Bremen, Germany (virtual).

Oct. 2020 Panel "Vigilant Border Bodies: Borders as aesthetic and material embodiments of vigilance" (in German, with E. Dürr). *B/Ordering Cultures Conference*, Europa University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany (virtual).

Nov. 2018 Panel "Navigating Gender in the Public & Private Sphere in Latin America." *American Anthropological Association meeting*, San José, CA.

Roundtable presentations

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- Nov. 2018 "Participatory Research and Ethics in Mesoamerican Fieldwork." *American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual meeting*, San José, CA, USA.
- Mar. 2018 "Intersectional Entanglements: A Roundtable on Gender-Based Violence." *Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia.

Papers presented (selection)

- May 2022 "Becoming Chican@s: Watchful Resistance, Surveillance and Criminalization in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands." *Latin American Studies Association Congress*, San Francisco, CA, USA (virtual).
- Jan. 2022 "Struggling to Make Aztlán: Vigilance among San Diegan Chican@s." *Mesoamerican Studies Conference*, Hamburg, Germany (virtual).
- Jun. 2021 "Knowledge and vigilance against racist and colonialist violence in the Mexican-US borderlands" (in Spanish). *German Latin American Research Working Group (ADLAF)-Conference* (virtual).
- Oct. 2020 „A Bridge that Divides: Hostile Infrastructures and Vigilance in a Californian Border City." (With E. Dürr, LMU Munich.) *B/Ordering Cultures Conference*, Europa University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder (virtual).
- Nov. 2019 "Vigilance & the (un)making of U.S. citizenship among Latinxs in San Diego." *American Anthropological Association conference*, Vancouver.
- Oct. 2019 "Aztecs Are Not Indigenous: Nahuatl and Negotiations of Authenticity." *German Anthropological Association (DGSKA) Conference*, Konstanz.
- Nov. 2018 "In Love and Violence: Rethinking Intimate Violence in Highland Mexico." *American Anthropological Association annual meeting*, San José, CA, USA.
- Apr. 2018 "Dialogical Cosmopolitics: State feminism & spiritual warriorhood in Mexico." *Latin American Studies Association Congress*, Barcelona, Spain.
- Mar. 2018 "Beyond Victims: VAW, Local Knowledge, & Spiritual Warriorhood." *Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, USA.
- July 2016 "Of Virgins, Vipers, and Witches: Dangerous Motherhood in Central Mexican Cosmology Today." *European Association of Social Anthropology Conference*, University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy.
- July 2016 "The violence of interpretation: Pitfalls & opportunities of anthropological interventions in the VAW conversation." *Association of Social Anthropologists Conference*, University of Durham, UK.
- Oct. 2015 "Gender Violence: A universal phenomenon?" (in Spanish) *ALA Conference of the Latin American Anthropological Assoc.*, Mexico City.

Discussant

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- June 2019 Workshop discussant, *Conceptualizing "Political"* (2-day, interdisciplinary workshop), CISRUL, University of Aberdeen, UK.
- June 2019 "The danger of romanticizing activism" (in Spanish). *Seminario: Las organizaciones civiles en contextos de violencia*, Colegio de Michoacán, Zamora, Mexico.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION & EDITORIAL WORK

- 2019-22 Reviewer, *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie/Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ethos, Feminist Anthropology, Urban Studies, Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*
- 2014 Editor, *Hydra* (interdisciplinary social science online journal)
- 2009-2013 Bibliographer, *Mexicon*, Anton Saurwein Verlag, Munich
- 2008-2009 Junior Editor, *<du-machst.de>* online magazine, "Europe & the World"-section, Civic Education Agency (bpb), Bonn, Germany

DEPARTMENTAL & FACULTY SERVICE

Goethe University Frankfurt

- 2022 Equal Opportunities Officer, Historical and Philosophical Sciences Faculty.
- 2022 Member of the Student Experience Commission, Faculty.
- 2022 Anthropology student recruitment/ standardized grading working group.
- 2021 Member of the Faculty Fund Distribution Commission for Quality Control in Teaching as the Social and Cultural Anthropology Representative.
- 2021 Vice-Chair of the Doctoral Commission, Social and Cultural Anthropology.
- 2021 Organizer, *Diversity Working Group*, Social and Cultural Anthropology.
- 2021 Co-Founder, *Ethnographic Writing Circle* (with M. Göpfert).

University of Edinburgh

2016-2018 PhD representative, Social Anthropology.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

PhD supervision, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Goethe University Frankfurt

- Mar. 2022-*present* Friederike Hesselmann: Felt Power and Resilience of Bolivian Care-Workers in Spain during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Oct. 2021-*present* Mathias Hartmann: Reimagining Anthropology via a Digital Latin America Museum;

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Akemi Jill Matsumura Vásquez: Building family relationships in the professional trajectories of skilled Peruvian women in Germany.

Master's theses supervision

Nov. 2021-*present* Claire Sinsch (Anthropology, EHESS Paris/ Goethe University): The "openness" of borders and feelings of Heimat within the EU.

May 2021-*present* Clara Becker (Anthropology, EHESS Paris/ Goethe University): Gendered habitus, materiality and space in German and French elementary schools.

Teacher training

Didactic workshop certificates, Goethe University Frankfurt (2021):

Diversity-friendly teaching at universities
Writing tools and tasks in digital teaching
Alternatives to presentations in seminars

Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy/Advance HE (AFHEA) via the Edinburgh Teaching Award (EdTA) Level 1 program, Univ. of Edinburgh (Dec. 2017)

Courses organized

UG seminar organizer, Goethe Univ. Frankfurt (25 students/ seminar, 2021-present):

Introduction to the Anthropology of Mobility and Diversity
Introduction to the Anthropology of Violence
Methods module: Fieldwork Theory and Research Methods
Project-based Reading
What does identity mean in the immigrant nation Germany? (w. Z. Gallant)

Lectures

Goethe University Frankfurt: UG course *Introduction to the Anthropology Department*, (Jun. 2021);

LMU Munich: PG course *Urban Anthropology*, (May 2020);

University of Edinburgh: PG/UG courses *Ritual & Religion* (2018), *Anthropological Theory* (2018), *Latin American Anthropology* (2017).

Tutor in Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh, 2016-2018

LANGUAGES

<i>Native speaker</i>	English and German
<i>Fluent</i>	Spanish and Italian
<i>Basic knowledge</i>	French and Nahuatl
<i>Retrievable knowledge</i>	Maya, K'ichee', Latin, Ancient Greek, and Middle Egyptian

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & NETWORKS

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
Society for Mesoamerican Studies (Mesoamerika-Gesellschaft)
COST Action CA20134 „Traces as Research Agenda for Climate Change, Technology Studies, and Social Justice (TRACTS)“: Traces and Social Justice Working Group
American Anthropological Association (AAA): Society of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA); Assoc. of Feminist Anthropologists (AFA)
German Anthropological Association (DGSKA): Regional Studies Mesoamerica; Gender & Sexualities Working Group; Urban Anthropology Working Group
European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA): Gender-Based Violence TIG
Cornelia Goethe Centrum, Goethe University Frankfurt: gender studies network