

Rachael Root

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EDUCATION

- 2023 Ph.D. Integrative Anthropological Sciences, University of Central Florida
Dissertation: *"They Dare to Continue:" Coloniality of Distance at Universidad de Oriente, Yucatan*
Committee: Beatriz Reyes-Foster (Chair), Nesselte Falu, David N. Boote, Ty Matejowsky
- 2023 Global, International and Comparative Education Graduate Certificate
2023 Geographic Information Systems Graduate Certificate
- 2016 M.A. Anthropology, University of Central Florida
Thesis: *Navigating Sociotechnical Power Structures: Dynamics of Conflict in World of Warcraft's Player versus Player Events*
Committee: Joanna Mishtal (Chair), Ty Matejowsky (co-adviser), Natalie Underberg-Goode
- 2014 B.A. Anthropology, University of Central Florida
Florida Atlantic University Ethnographic Field School: *Socioeconomic Roles of Mini Tiendas in Salango, Manabí Province, Ecuador*
Organizer: Michael S. Harris
- 2007 A.A. Associate in Arts, Eastern Florida State College
2002 A.S. Computer Programming & Analysis, Eastern Florida State College

PUBLICATIONS

- Root, Rachael. (Accepted). Anthropology is Worldbuilding: Rogue Praxes of Imaginative and Playful Pedagogy. *Teaching Anthropology* (Forthcoming Winter 2026).
- Root, Rachael. (2023). Bridging anthropological theory: Accumulating and Containing Wealth in *World of Warcraft*. *Critique of Anthropology* 43(1), 66-83.
- Holmstrom, J., Daws, C., **Root, R.**, Robkin, J. (Under Review). Anthropology Mentorship Program for and by Graduate Students: A Pilot Study. *Teaching and Learning Anthropology*.

EMPLOYMENT

- Since 5/24 Adjunct Lecturer, University of Central Florida
- 08/23-05/24 Visiting Lecturer, University of Central Florida
- 08/20-08/23 Graduate Teaching Associate (Instructor of Record), University of Central Florida

- 08/19-08/23 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Central Florida
- 8/22 - 12/22 Graduate Research Assistant, University of Central Florida
- 08/16-12/18 Adjunct Lecturer, College of Education, University of Central Florida
(with First Year Experience, Student Development and Enrollment Services, and Global UCF's Global Achievement Academy)
- 08/16-8/18 Adjunct Professor, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences (West Campus),
Social Sciences & Physical Education (East Campus), Valencia College
- 01/17-05/17 Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida
- 08/16-05/19 Supporting Instructor, Global Achievement Academy, Shorelight LLC. University
of Central Florida
- 08/14-05/16 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Central Florida
- 01/14-05/14 Tutor, University Writing Center, University of Central Florida

Student Project Committees

- 05/25-05/26 Chair, Honors Undergraduate Thesis Project: *Listening to the Cemí: An
Exploration of Taíno Spirituality Culture Through Artifact Analysis and Digital
Archives*. Richardson, Jordan.
- 05/25-05/26 Second Chair, Honors Undergraduate Thesis Project: *Ai-thropology: A Study of
Artificial Intelligence Use in Anthropology*. Junod, Carly

Service to Discipline/Institution

- 12/24-12/26 Guest Editor, "Praxis, Pedagogy, and Pop Culture" Special Journal Issue, *Teaching
Anthropology*.
- 08/23-05/24 Member, Undergraduate Student Committee. Department of Anthropology,
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- 11/20-08/23 Co-Organizer, Peer Mentor, Anthropology Mentorship Program (Graduate),
Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida.
- 10/20-08/23 Student Member, International Committee, College of Community Innovation
and Education. University of Central Florida.
- 10/22-04/23 L.E.A.R.N. Graduate Research Mentor to freshmen students in science majors.
10/19-04/20 University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- 08-12/22 Editorial Intern, *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*.

Editor: Beatriz Reyes-Foster.

- Annually since 06/2022 Judge, The Global Undergraduate Awards Program. Category of Social Sciences: Anthropology & Cultural Studies.
<https://globalundergraduate.awardsplatform.com/>
- 2022 Peer Reviewer, *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*.
- 11/21 Panel Organizer, “Educating Responsibly? Constructing “Successful” Identities for Indigenous and Minority Persons through Non-Compulsory Education in the Americas.” American Anthropological Association Meeting. Baltimore, MD.
- 08-10/20 Copy Editor, *Student Anthropologist*. Journal of the National Association of Student Anthropologists (NASA), a section of the American Anthropological Association.
- 01 – 04/15 Organizer, Undergraduate Anthropology Working with Articles Series Workshops, Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida

Courses Taught and Built/Substantially Revised (As Instructor of Record)

- *SLS 1282 Foundation of American University Life*, in-person
- *SLS 1501 Student Life Skills*, in-person
- *ANT 2000 Introductory Anthropology*, in-person, mixed, and online modes
- *ANT 2410 Cultural Anthropology*, in-person, mixed, and online modes
- *ANT 2511 Biological Anthropology*, in-person, mixed, and online modes
- *ANT 3302 Sex, Gender, and Culture*, online
- *ANT 3241 Magic, Ritual, and Belief*, online
- *ANT 4034 History of Anthropological Thought*, mixed
- *ANT 4802 Ethnographic Methods*, mixed

Courses Assisted as Graduate Teaching Assistant

- *ANT 2410 Cultural Anthropology*, Vance Geiger
- *ANT 2511 Human Species*, Lana Williams
- *ANT 3212 Peoples of the World*, Sandra Wheeler
- *ANT 3245 Native American Religion*, Vance Geiger
- *ANT 3302 Sex, Gender, and Culture*, Joanna Mishtal
- *ANT 3312 Ethnography of North American Indians*, Vance Geiger
- *ANT 3610 Language & Culture*, Nessette Falu
- *ANT 4034 History of Anthropological Thought*, Joanna Mishtal; Lana Williams
- *ANT 4408 Culture, Disease, and Healing*, Joanna Mishtal; Shana Harris
- *ANT 4480 Global Health*, Joanna Mishtal

Courses built and moderated using Canvas and Blackboard learning management systems.

AWARDS, CERTIFICATIONS, FUNDING

Teaching Certifications & Training

- April 2026 High Impact Course: Research-Intensive designation for ANT 4802: Ethnographic Research and Field Methods, Office of Undergraduate Studies, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Nov 2024 Excellence in Teaching Certification. Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Nov 2024 Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals for Educators. Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- July 2018 Online Course Development Certification. Interactive Distributed Learning, IDL 6543. University of Central Florida, Orlando FL.
- June 2018 Sustainability Certification: Thinking Critically About Quality of Life. Destinations 2018. Valencia Community College, Orlando FL.
- June 2017 Technology-Enhanced Active Learning Certification. Destinations 2017. Valencia Community College, Orlando FL.
- May 2017 Digital Professor Certification. Valencia Community College, Orlando FL.
- May 2017 Associate Faculty Certification. Valencia Community College, Orlando FL.
- July 2015 Preparing Tomorrow's Faculty, University of Central Florida, Orlando FL.

Teaching Awards & Funding

- May 2017 Adjunct Instructor Grant, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Central Florida, Orlando FL.
- Feb 2016 Honorable Mention, Excellence by a Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, College of Sciences, University of Central Florida, Orlando FL.

Research & Graduate Funding

- May 2020 Lambda Alpha Graduate Research Grant Award
Exploring the Intersections of Higher Education and Indigenous Identity in Yucatan, MX. (\$2,000 grant for dissertation research).
- Jan 2020 Trevor Colbourn Anthropological Endowment Fund, University of Central Florida.
Dissertation Research: Exploring the Intersections of Indigenous Identity and Higher Education. Furloughed due to COVID-19. (\$1,250 for research).
- Apr 2019 Trevor Colbourn Anthropological Endowment Fund, University of Central Florida.

Preliminary Research: Indigenous Attrition in Higher Education in the state of Yucatán, México. (\$1,800 for preliminary research and language training)

Aug. 2018 UCF College of Sciences Fellow 2018-2019. College of Graduate Studies. University of Central Florida, Orlando FL.
(Tuition waiver and annual stipend).

Discipline & Other Skill Certifications

2024 CITI Certified Social / Behavioral: Research Investigators & Personnel (since 2014)
2024 CITI Certified Social / Behavioral: Responsible Conduct of Research (since 2014)
2019 Foreign Language Achievement Testing Service – Spanish
Level 101-102: Pass
Level 201: Pass
2014 Anthropology Writing Workshop, University of Central Florida
2014 Ethnographic Field School, Florida Atlantic University

PRESENTATIONS

Paid Presentations

Sept 2022 Root, Rachael. *Migration and Global Systems*. Guest Lecture, ANT 104 Anthropological Inquiries, Grinnell University.

Invited Presentations

Jan 2021 Root, Rachael. *Higher Education, Attrition, and Identity in Yucatán, México: Preliminary Research findings & COVID-19 Considerations*. Anthropology Brown Bag Series, University of Central Florida.

Nov 2020 Root, Rachael. *Higher Education, Attrition, and Identity in Yucatán, México: Preliminary Research findings & COVID-19 Considerations*. Brown Bag Zoom Series, University of Missouri.

Jan 2019 Panel Participant. *The Great Apes and Us: Partners in Survival*. Conversations on Justice, Justice Week. Organized by Tyler Branz. Valencia Community College, West Campus.

Nov 2018 Panel Participant. *Global Achievement Academy Program for International Students: What We Have Learned*. International University Academic Directors Visit, Global UCF, University of Central Florida.

Conference Presentations

Nov 2024 Root, Rachael. *Anthropology is Worldbuilding: The Importance of Imagination and Play in Pedagogical Praxis*. Invited Discussant, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL.

Apr 2022 Root, Rachael. *Intersectionality and Interculturality: Aligning UNESCO's GCE Framework with Intercultural University Structures and Participatory Methods*. Roundtable Discussion, American Educators Research Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA.

- Nov 2021 Root, Rachael. *Internal Colonial Geographies and Institutional Invisibility in Higher Education, Yucatan State*. Paper, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.
- May 2020 Root, Rachael. *Higher education, attrition, and identity in Yucatan, Mexico: Preliminary research findings*. Paper, Latin American Studies Association. Virtual Conference due to COVID-19.
- Mar 2020 Root, Rachael. *Institutional Invisibility: Exploring the Intersections of Higher Education Attrition and Indigenous Identity*. Cancelled due to COVID-19. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting. Accepted for 2021.
- Mar 2019 Root, Rachael. *Accumulating and Containing Wealth and Prestige in World of Warcraft*. Paper, Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) Annual Meeting, University of Central Florida, Orlando FL.
- Mar 2016 Root, Rachael. *Navigating Conflicts: Agency and Resistance in World of Warcraft's Player versus Player Events*. Paper, Pop Culture Association / American Culture Association Annual Conference (PCA/ACA), Seattle, WA.
- Nov 2015 Root, Rachael. *Navigating Conflicts of Agency and Power: Tensions and Dynamics in World of Warcraft's Player Versus Player Modes*. Paper, Annual American Anthropological Association Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Mar 2015 Root, Rachael. *Socioeconomic roles of mini tiendas in Salango, Manabí Province, Ecuador*. Poster, Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) Annual Meeting, University of Lexington, Lexington, KY.
- Invited Guest Lectures**
- Mar 2021 Root, Rachael. *Preparing for & Conducting Interviews*. Guest Lecture, HSA 6119 Health Care Organization and Management, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Mar 2020 Root, Rachael. *Digital Technologies for Ethnographic Research*. Guest Lecture and Demonstration, ANG 6498 Ethnographic Methods, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Feb 2020 Root, Rachael. *Exploring the Intersections of Indigenous Identity and Institutional Invisibility in Yucatan, Mexico: Preliminary Findings*. Guest Lecture, ANT 3610 Language and Culture, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Mar 2016 Root, Rachael. *Virtual Anthropology: Theoretical Applications in Online Gaming*. Guest Lecture, ANT 4034 History of Anthropological Thought, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Feb 2016 Root, Rachael. *Gender and Sexuality in Video Games*. Guest Lecture, ANT 3302 Sex, Gender, and Culture, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

- Sept 2015 Root, Rachael. *Issues of Gender and Video Games*. Guest Lecture, ANT 3302 Sex, Gender, and Culture, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- April 2015 Root, Rachael. *Virtual Anthropology: Theory and Method in the World of Gaming*. Guest Lecture, ANT 4034 History of Anthropological Thought, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- May 2015 Graduate Anthropology Association. *What is Anthropology?* Two-Part 6th Grade class activities and presentation. Lockhart Middle School, Orlando, FL.

FIELDWORK AND IRB EXPERIENCE

- 05 – 12/ 22 Valladolid, Yucatán, México
Resumption of pandemic-disrupted in-person dissertation fieldwork; data collected using ethnographic and geospatial methods. Analysis ongoing.
- 03/2022 Research Exemption for altered Dissertation Project
Internal Review Board, University of Central Florida
Digital and distanced ethnographic project altered to in-person data collection due to waning COVID-19 pandemic. In-person fieldwork to resume in 2022.
- 08/21-09/21 Mérida and Valladolid, Yucatán, México
Fieldwork. Disruptions due to COVID-19 and institutional restrictions on travel.
- 05/19-07/19 Mérida and Valladolid, Yucatán, México
Preliminary dissertation fieldwork consisting of Spanish language immersion training, establishing social relationships, recruiting participants, and visiting potential field sites.
- 05/15-04/16 World of Warcraft
In-game study of video game players within player versus player environments for master's thesis. Utilized digital and traditional ethnographic methods including participant observation, interviewing, transcribing, video recording, and text and digital artifact analysis.
- 06/14–08/14 Salango, Ecuador
On-site study of *mini tiendas* (small businesses run out of the family home) and their sociocultural and familial contexts. Utilized ethnographic methods including participant observation, interviewing, transcribing, and translating.