

Helen Burgos Ellis

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CURRICULUM VITAE (December 2017)

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Art History, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 2015
Major Areas of Study: Pre-Columbian and Colonial Latin American Art
Dissertation: Maize, Ehecatl-Quetzalcoatl, and Grass Imagery: Science in the Central Mexican *Codex Borgia*
Committee: Cecelia F. Klein (Chair), Charlene Villaseñor Black, John M. D. Pohl, Kevin Terraciano, and Dell Upton
- M.A., Latin American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 2009
Major Areas of Study: History and Spanish-American Literature
Honors: Graduated with Departmental Honors
- B.A., History, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 1998
Honors: Graduated with College Honors

EMPLOYMENT AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Getty Research Institute (GRI), Scholars Program, Research Assistant, 2015–18
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, Visiting Faculty, 2016–18
Representations of Indigenous Peoples in the Americas (CHS 169), Fall 2017
Mesoamerican Literatures (CHS 142), Winter 2018 (forthcoming)
Aztec Art (CHS 188-5), Spring 2016, Winter 2017, and Spring 2018 (forthcoming)
Public Art in Los Angeles (CHS 188-3), Fall 2016
- California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies Department, Adjunct Faculty, 2015–17
The Constitution, Equity, and Chicana(o) and Latina(o), Spring 2017 and Fall 2017
Latina(o) Images in Media, Social Media, and Digital Communication Systems, Spring 2017
Chicana(o) Literature (CLS 4020), Fall 2016
Modern Mexican Literature in Translation (CHS 201), Winter and Spring 2016
Literatures of Mesoamerica (CHS 400), Fall 2015

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Department of Art History, Teaching Fellow, 2010–11
Introduction to Pre-Columbian Art (Cecelia F. Klein), Spring 2011
Renaissance and Baroque Art and Ideology (Charlene Villaseñor Black), Winter 2010
Art of India and Southeast Asia (Robert Brown), Fall 2010

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Writing Programs Department, Teaching Fellow, 2008–09
English Composition, Rhetoric, and Language (English 3), five consecutive quarters—Winter 2008 through Spring 2009

Main Teaching and Research Interests

Pre-Columbian and Early Colonial Art and Architecture of Mesoamerica and the Andes; Quetzalcoatl; Indigenous Manuscripts; Colonial Manuscripts and Chronicles of Mesoamerica and the Andes; indigenous peoples (from pre-Columbian to the present), Mexican literature and history (from pre-Columbian to the present); History of the Book; Paleography of Sixteenth Century Spanish and Nahuatl Text; Maize (corn) Imagery; Plant Imagery; Scientific Literature on the Origin and Development of Maize; History of Science; Botany; Botanical and other Plant Imagery and Representations; Interaction Between Art and Science; Scientific Revolution; the Spanish Empire; Early Modern Europe; Art Historical Theories and Methodologies.

FELLOWSHIPS

Edward Dickson History of Art Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2012–13

Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research/IIIE Fellowship Funded by the Mellon Foundation 2011–12
Academic Affiliation: Visiting Investigator and Member of the Seminario Proyecto La Pintura Mural Prehispánica en México, Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award, University of California, Los Angeles, Graduate Division, Summer 2011

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award, University of California, Los Angeles, Graduate Division, Summer 2010

Edward Dickson History of Art Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2009–10

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago, Chile
“¿Usaban los Aztecas el Ácido Sulfúrico? La Evidencia Que Proveen las Seis Páginas Quemadas del Manuscrito Precolombino *Códice Borgia*.” Paper presented at the IX Jornadas de Historia del Arte, Museo de Historia Natural de Valparaíso, Chile, October 7, 2016.

College Art Association (CAA), Annual Conference, Washington, DC

"Transforming a Common Grass into Corn: A Scientific Achievement Recorded in Aztec Art."
Paper presented at the session Visual Representations of Plant Knowledge in Pre-Columbian,
Early Colonial, and Early Modern European Art, Helen Ellis, Chair, February 6, 2016.

California State University, Los Angeles, CA. In the Realm of the Vision Serpent: A Symposium in Homage
to Linda Schele

"A Tale of Two Cities: Revelations from Pakal and the Warrior Priest's Tombs." Paper presented at
the session Body and Bones in the Ancient Americas, Martin Berger, Chair, April 10, 2015.

American Society for Ethnohistory Annual Meeting, Springfield, MO

"Sexual Reproduction of Maize on Page 28 of the *Codex Borgia*." Paper presented at the session
New Research on Mesoamerican Pictorial Manuscripts, Elizabeth Hill Boone, Chair, November 8,
2012.

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Regional Identity in Times of Globalization and Diaspora Conference

"How Globalization Has Affected Indigenous Life in El Salvador." Paper presented at the session
Frontiers of the Indigenous, April 2, 2009.

CONFERENCES (Chaired)

College Art Association, CAA 104th Annual Conference, Washington, DC

Session Chaired: Visual Representations of Plant Knowledge in Pre-Columbian, Early Colonial, and
Early Modern European Art, February 6, 2016.

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Mester Literary Journal, Editor 2008–09

Sexuality, Desire and Diversity: Searching for the Human Identity, Joanna Dávila, Editor-in-Chief,
vol. 38 (2009). Regents of the University of California, online at
<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/45j341v8>

Mester Literary Journal, Editor, 2007–08

Writing and Rewriting: The Dynamics of Competing Voices, Chak Han Laura Lee, Editor-in-Chief,
vol. 37 (2008). Regents of the University of California, online at
<https://archive.org/stream/mesteruniv37univ#page/n3/mode/2up>

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

"Codex Borgia," in *Smarthistory*, September 11, 2017. <https://smarthistory.org/codex-borgia/>; and Khan
Academy, September 2017. [https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-americas/early-
cultures/aztec-mexica/a/codex-borgia](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-americas/early-cultures/aztec-mexica/a/codex-borgia)

“Did the Aztecs use Sulfuric Acid? The Evidence Provided by the Six Burned Pages of the Pre-Columbian *Codex Borgia*” in *La Historia del Arte en diálogo con otras disciplinas. IX Jornadas de Historia del Arte*, edited by Raquel Abella, Angela Brandão, and Fernando Guzmán. Museo Histórico Nacional, Ministerio de Educación de Chile, 2016.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Secretary-Treasurer, Association for Latin American Art (ALAA), 2017–20.

Faculty Search Committee, Department of Art History, University of California, Los Angeles, 2010–11.

Executive Committee, Graduate Student Association, Department of Art History, University of California, Los Angeles, 2010–11.

Marlborough School, Los Angeles, CA

“Exploring Classic Maya Art and Architecture. Focus on the Tomb of K’inich Janaab Pakal at Palenque,” Invited speaker at the Marlborough Lecture Series, April 22, 2011.

Marlborough School, Los Angeles, CA

“Conducting Research in the Humanities. Central Mexican Painted Manuscripts, Focus on the *Codex Borgia*,” Invited speaker at the Marlborough Lecture Series, October 12, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for Ethnohistory

Association of Latin American Art (ALAA)

College Art Association (CAA)

History of Science Society, and

The Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)

Survival International <https://www.survivalinternational.org>

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

English, French, Italian, Latin, Nahuatl, Portuguese, and Spanish (native speaker)

REFERENCES

Cecelia F. Klein, Professor Emerita

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University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

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Carolyn Dean, Professor

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University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)
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Alex Espinoza, Department Chair

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John M. D. Pohl, Visiting Professor

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Kevin Terraciano, Professor

Director, Latin American Institute

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Charlene Villaseñor Black, Professor

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