

Helen Burgos-Ellis

University of California, Los Angeles
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Art History, University of California, Los Angeles, 2015
Major Areas of Study: Pre-Columbian, Colonial, and Modern Latin American Art
M.A., Latin American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, 2009
Major Areas of Study: History, Paleography, and Latin-American Literature
Graduated with Departmental Honors
B.A., History, University of California, Los Angeles, 1998
Graduated with College Honors (highest academic recognition the College of Letters and Science confers)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Chicana/o Studies Department, 2016–Present
Lecturer, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), Art History Department, Fall 2018–Present
Lecturer, California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), Chicana/o Studies Department, 2015–18
Research Assistant, Getty Research Institute, Scholars Program, 2015–18
Teaching Assistant, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Art History Department, 2010–11
Teaching Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Writing Programs Department, 2008–09

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Aztec Science: Plant Sexuality, Pollination, and Maize's Origin in the pre-Columbian Codex Borgia. Boulder, CO: University of Colorado Press, in preparation.

Refereed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Pollen: The Sexual Lives of Plants in Mesoamerica,” in *Natural Things: Ecologies of Knowledge in the Early Modern World*, edited by McKenzie Cooley with foreword by Alan Mikhail, in preparation.

Conference Proceedings

“Innocents Abroad? Representations of Aztecs Traveling in Europe in the Age of Exploration,” in *Tornaviaje: España-Nueva España*, edited by Ilona Katzew and Fernando Quiles (Seville: Universo Barroco Iberoamericano), in preparation.

“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, 68–76. Museo Histórico Nacional, Ministerio de Educación de Chile, 2016

Book Reviews

“The *Codex Mexicanus*: A Guide to Life in Late Sixteenth-Century New Spain, Lori Bornazian Diel. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2018,” in *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture* 1, no. 4 (2019). In press.

Encyclopedia Entries/Web-Based Publications

“Codex Borgia,” in *Smarthistory*, 2017: <https://smarthistory.org/codex-borgia/>; and Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-americas/early-cultures/aztec-mexica/a/codex-borgia>

Editorial Boards

Mester Literary Journal, 2008–09. *Sexuality, Desire and Diversity: Searching for the Human Identity*, Joanna Dávila, Editor-in-Chief, 38 (2009). Regents of the University of California: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/45j341v8>

Mester Literary Journal, 2007–08. *Writing and Rewriting: The Dynamics of Competing Voices*, Chak Han Laura Lee, Editor-in-Chief, 37 (2008). Regents of the University of California: <https://archive.org/stream/mesteruniv37univ#page/n3/mode/2up>

GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Center for Effective Teaching and Learning, California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), Course Redesign, 2016–17 (paid award on course development and teaching strategies)

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

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

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

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

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

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

2019 “Innocents Abroad? Representations of Aztecs Traveling in Europe in the Age of Exploration,” Symposium *El tornaviaje*, chairs: Ilona Katzew and Fernando Quiles, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain (invited)

2016 Visual Representations of Plant Knowledge in Pre-Columbian, Early Colonial, and Early Modern European Art session, College Art Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC (chaired)

- 2016 “Transforming a Common Grass into Corn: A Scientific Achievement Recorded in Aztec Art,” Visual Representations of Plant Knowledge in Pre-Columbian, Early Colonial, and Early Modern European Art session, College Art Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC (invited)
- 2016 “¿Usaban los Aztecas el Ácido Sulfúrico? La Evidencia Que Proveen las Seis Páginas Quemadas del Manuscrito Precolombino *Códice Borgia*,” IX Jornadas de Historia del Arte, Museo de Historia Natural de Valparaíso and Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago, Chile. (invited)
- 2015 “A Tale of Two Cities: Revelations from Pakal and the Warrior Priest’s Tombs,” The Realm of the Vision Serpent: A Symposium in Homage to Linda Schele, California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), presented in the Body and Bones in the Ancient Americas session, chair: Martin Berger (invited)
- 2012 “Sexual Reproduction of Maize on Page 28 of the *Codex Borgia*,” American Society for Ethnohistory, Springfield, MO, presented in the New Research on Mesoamerican Pictorial Manuscripts session, chair: Elizabeth Hill Boone (invited)
- 2009 “How Globalization Has Affected Indigenous Life in El Salvador,” Regional Identity in Times of Globalization and Diaspora Conference, presented in the Frontiers of the Indigenous session, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (invited)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at UCLA, 2015–

Aztec Art
 Mesoamerican Literatures
 Representations of Indigenous Peoples in the Americas
 Public Art in Los Angeles (Fall 2016)
 Introduction to Pre-Columbian Art (as a TA in 2011)
 Renaissance and Baroque Art and Ideology (as a TA in 2010)
 Art of India and Southeast Asia (as a TA in 2010)
 English Composition and Rhetoric (as a TA in 2008–09)

Courses taught at CSULB, 2018–

Foundations of Art History: Latin American Arts and Architecture
 Pre-Columbian Art: Mesoamerica and Andes 1,000 BCE to Spanish Conquest

Courses taught at CSULA (2015–17)

Mesoamerican Literatures
 Chicana/o Literature
 Latinas/os and the Law

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

UCLA Freshman Alumni Scholarship Program, Volunteer Reader and Reviewer of Undergraduate Admission Applications for Merit Based Scholarships, 2019
 UCLA Alumni Mentor Program, UCLA ONE Mentor, advising current graduate and undergraduate students, 2018–Present

UCLA Latin American Institute, “From Maya to Aztec: Mesoamerica K-12 Workshop,” opening speech and two additional lectures on Mesoamerica presented at the workshop *From Maya to Aztec: Mesoamerica K-12 Workshop*, 2019

UCLA Latin American Institute, “The Untold Story of Maize: Mesoamericans and Plant Domestication.” Presented at the workshop *Maize Meets Tortilla Chips: History and Culture of Corn*, 2019

MEChA de UCLA. Delivered lecture at the 19th Annual Raza Weekend. Title of Lecture: “Wisdom and Learning from Generation to Generation,” 2018

USC, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, Served as Judge for Social Justice Series: Social Justice Debates on the 1968 East LA Walkouts, September 30, 2018

Association for Latin American Art, Executive Committee and Secretary-Treasurer, 2017–

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

UCLA, Executive Committee, Graduate Student Association, Department of Art History, 2010–11

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH

César Chávez Learning Academies-Technology Preparatory Academy, San Fernando, CA. Delivered lecture: “Mesoamerican Scientific Breakthroughs in Chemistry and Plant Domestication” in Ms. Verónica López’s four high school chemistry courses (juniors and seniors), May 28, 2019

Marlborough School for Girls, Los Angeles, CA. Invited speaker at the Marlborough Lecture Series 2011. Title of speech: “Exploring Classic Maya Art and Architecture. Focus on the Tomb of K’inich Janaab Pakal at Palenque,” April 22, 2011

Marlborough School for Girls, Los Angeles, CA. Invited speaker at the Marlborough Lecture Series 2010. Title of speech: “Conducting Research in the Humanities. Central Mexican Painted Manuscripts, Focus on the *Codex Borgia*,” October 12, 2010

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native speaker), English (fluent)

French, Italian, Nahuatl, Portuguese (proficient)

German and Latin (reading knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Ethnohistory

Association for Latin American Art, Secretary Treasurer and Executive Committee 2017–

College Art Association

History of Science Society

The Philosophy of Science Association

Survival International for Tribal Peoples

REFERENCES

Cecelia F. Klein, Professor Emerita

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University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Department of Art History
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Charlene Villaseñor Black, Professor

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Carolyn Dean, Professor

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Sabine Schlosser, Scholar Program Associate

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Kevin Terraciano, Professor

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Dell Upton, Professor

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