

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**CRYSTAL SHEEDY**  
(Updated 08/13/2019)

**DEPARTMENT:** Social Sciences  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
840 Wood Street  
Clarion, PA 16214

**EMAIL:** csheedy[at]clarion.edu

**EDUCATION:**

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Degree, Field</i>	<i>Year</i>
University at Albany-SUNY	PhD, Anthropology	2019
Texas State University-San Marcos	MA, Anthropology	2011
SUNY Cortland	BA <i>magna cum laude</i> , Anthropology	2008

**DISSERTATION:** The Everyday Sacred: A Symbolic Analysis of Contemporary Yucatec Maya Women's Daily Realities

As a collaborative effort between myself and the Maya women with whom I worked, who live in Xocén, my dissertation seeks to illuminate the sacred world of Maya women, as well as dismantle the insidious narrative that younger generations of Mayas are losing their culture. Instrumental to this process is the use of decolonial methods and descriptive theoretical premises that allowed me to analyze Maya women's discursive speech, referred to as both *chismes* and *heridos* in Spanish, which can be translated as gossip, as well as the speech genre of *u t'aan nukuch máak*, advice of the elders, in the context of women's everyday routines, where *tusbeel*, responsibilities, serves as the dominant symbol. From these efforts, I not only reveal the retention of symbolic knowledge amongst current generations of Mayas, but I also demonstrate how Maya women's sacred world encompass their everyday lives.

**ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK:**

Mexico - Yucatán Peninsula, village of Xocén

Post-Dissertation Research: June to July 2019

Dissertation Research: January to September 2016, November to December 2016; July 2014; June to July 2013; July 2012

This field research, conducted in the Maya language, focuses on Maya women's resistance to cultural change. This work demonstrates that in everyday indigenous speech genres, Maya women are actively maintaining and preserving their past cultural ideologies and practices as they and their daughters' transition into the neoliberal economy.

Master's Research: June to August 2011; July to August 2010

My past fieldwork examined how the changing economy and migratory practices of individuals from an extended family in Xocén, Yucatán affected members of the family's cultural practices and gender roles.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

### **Book Chapter:**

- 2018 "Speaking in Tongues: The Importance of Speaking Indigenous Languages in Health Care." In *Maternal Health, Pregnancy-Related Morbidity and Death Among Indigenous Women of Mexico & Central America: An Anthropological, Epidemiological and Biomedical Approach*, ed. David Schwartz, 51-61. Springer Nature.

### **In Preparation:**

- 2019 *U T'aan Nukuch Máak* (Advice of the Elders): An Entrance into Maya Women's Symbolic World

## **AWARDS AND HONORS:**

- 2018 Runner Up, Annual Student Essay Prize, Society for the Anthropology of Religion.  
Paper Title: "*U T'aan Nukuch Máak* (Advice of the Elders): An Entrance into Maya Women's Symbolic World"
- 2018 Honorable Mention, John Gumperz Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize, Society for Linguistic Anthropology.  
Paper Title: "*U T'aan Nukuch Máak* (Advice of the Elders): An Entrance into Maya Women's Symbolic World"
- 2018 The David Scotchmer Essay Award, The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies at the University at Albany-SUNY.
- 2018 Central States Anthropological Society Mentoring Initiative Award for "The Professor Is In."
- 2016 Carrie Hunter-Tate Award, National Association of Student Anthropologists (NASA).
- 2016 Honorable Mention, Society for Linguistic Anthropology Annual Student Essay Prize.  
Paper Title: "Chismes is the Curse of Small Villages": Situating Two Maya Women's Moral Identities in a Changing World.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:**

- 2018 The Christine E. Bose and Edna Acosta-Belen IFW Feminist Research Award, Initiatives for Women, University at Albany, SUNY (\$500)
- 2016 Professional Development Grant from the Graduate Student Association (GSA) at the University at Albany, SUNY (\$607)
- 2015-2016 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, "Mayas in the Global Economy: Gender, Work, and Household Change and Continuity" (\$19,886)

- 2015-2016 Firebird Fellowship from the Firebird Foundation, "Documentation of Yucatec Maya Women's Oral Literature" (\$8,910)
- 2014 Karen R. Hitchcock New Frontiers Grant, Initiatives for Women, University at Albany, SUNY (\$500)
- 2013 Christopher DeCormier Memorial Scholarship in Mesoamerican Studies, Institute of Mesoamerican Studies, University at Albany, SUNY (\$1,500)
- Summers of 2010, 2011, 2012 Awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) in Latin American Studies, University of North Carolina, (\$7,000 each summer)

### **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- January 2017 to May 2018 Assistantship, University at Albany, SUNY
- August 2013 to December 2015
- August 2009 to May 2011 Assistantship, Texas State University-San Marcos
- 2009 Texas State University-San Marcos, Graduate College Scholarship

### **INVITED TALKS:**

- 2018 "An Entrance into Maya Women's Symbolic World," SUNY Cortland, Sociology/Anthropology Department, September 19, 2018

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:**

#### **Panel Organized**

- 2019 Co-Organizer and Chair, "Escucha a Ella: Indigenous Women's Narratives in Mexico and Central America," Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, May 24-27.

#### **Papers Presented:**

- 2018 "*U T'aan Nukuch Máak* (Advice of the Elders): An Entrance into Maya Women's Symbolic World," American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, November 14-18.
- 2018 "Turning Babies into 'Mayas': An Analysis of the *Heets Méek'* Ceremony," American Folklore Society (AFS) Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY, October 17-20.
- 2018 "Home as a Symbolic space: Examples from Yucatec Maya Women's Oral Literature," Society for Linguistic Anthropology (SLA) Bi-Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 8-10. (Poster Presentation)
- 2017 "'A Woman's Work is Never Done!': Maya Women's Competing Moral Obligations in a Changing World," American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 29-December 3.
- 2017 "Ancestral 'Words' in a Changing World: Maya Women's Oral Literature," American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, October 18-21.
- 2017 "'Lying Roads': Maya Women's Work and Cultural Realities in a Changing World,"

- Central States Anthropological Society Conference, Lincoln, NE, April 6-8.
- 2016 ““Chismes is the Curse of Small Villages””: Situating Two Maya Women’s Moral Identities in a Changing World,” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Minnesota, MN, November.
- 2015 “Breaking the Binary and Extending Agency: An Ethnographic Study of Maya Women’s Decisions in a Changing Economy,” Capital District Feminist Studies Conference, Albany, NY, January.
- 2014 “The Reappropriation of Essentialized Traits for a Global Presence in Support of the Revitalization of a Local Identity,” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., November.
- 2014 ““A Mexican Spirit. A Mayan Soul””: The Creation of an International Tourist Playground on the East Coast of the Yucatán Peninsula,” Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, March.
- 2013 ““A Mexican Spirit. A Mayan Soul””: The Creation of an International Tourist Playground on the East Coast of the Yucatán Peninsula,” New England Council for Latin American Studies (NECLAS) Annual Meeting, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, November.
- 2013 “Cross-Generational Change and Continuity: The Effects of a Monolithic National Culture on a Single Maya Family,” Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA) Bi-annual Meeting, Mérida, Mexico, March.
- 2011 “Negotiating Spaces: A Maya Woman’s Experience with Migration,” SfAA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, March.
- 2010 “The Compromised Social Position of Maya Women in the Yucatán,” International Research Conference for Graduate Students, Texas State University-San Marcos, November.
- 2010 “The Compromised Social Position of Maya Women in the Yucatán,” SfAA Annual Meeting, Mérida, Mexico, March.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

### **Clarion University of Pennsylvania**

Humans and Culture (Fall 2019)

Principles of Human Ecology (Fall 2019)

Witchcraft, Magic, and Religion (Fall 2019)

### **Skidmore College**

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2018)

### **University at Albany-SUNY**

Instructor of Record:

Anthropology and Folklore (Summer 2019-online, Summer 2018-online)

Culture, Society, and Biology (Introduction to four fields of Anthropology) (Winter 2019-online, Winter 2018-online, Winter 2017-online, Winter 2016-online, Summer 2015-online, Summer 2014)

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2017, Spring 2014, Fall 2013)

Introduction to Linguistics (Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014)

### **Texas State University**

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2009)

Anthropological Theory (Fall 2010, Fall 2009)

### **SUNY Cortland**

Teaching Assistant:

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2008)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:**

2017-2018 *Graduate Assistant*, The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, University at Albany-SUNY

### **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

Graduate Assistant, CYCLES project, The Institute for Informatics, Logic and Security Studies, University at Albany, SUNY, January to May 2013.

San Marcos Cemetery Project, Texas State University-San Marcos, January to 2010

Project Title: "Mexican American Grave Markers: Culture, Iconography, and Demographics."

Adult English Language Learners, San Marcos Public Library, January to May 2010

Project Title: "Spaces Between: The Migrant within All of Us."

Honor's Thesis, State University of New York at Cortland College, August 2007 to May 2008

Thesis Title: "Theoretical Constructs and Ethnographic Data of Maya Women of the Yucatán."

Museum intern, Brooks Museum at State University of New York at Cortland College, August to December 2007.

### **SERVICE TO PROFESSION:**

Listserv Editor, National Association for Student Anthropologists, November 2013 to December 2015

### **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

Faculty Liaison, Anthropology Graduate Student Organization, University at Albany, SUNY, August 2013 to May 2014

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

Non-Profit Management Intern, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Albany, NY,

January to May 2015  
Teaching Assistant/Instructor, English Language Learner (ELL) classes, San Marcos Public  
Library, San Marcos, TX, January to December 2010

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, Anthropology, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Folklore, Ethnographic/Linguistic Field Methods, Decolonized Methods, Latin America and Caribbean History and Culture, Mesoamerican Civilizations (Past and Contemporary), Maya Language and Culture, Mesoamerican Oral Literature and Folklore, Gender, Indigeneity, Identity, Globalization, Cultural and Linguistic Maintenance and Revitalization

**LANGUAGES:**

Yucatec Maya: Advanced Written and Oral Proficiency  
Spanish: Intermediate Written and Oral Proficiency  
Lacandón Maya: Beginning Written and Oral Proficiency

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

American Anthropological Association (AAA)  
American Folklore Society (AFS)  
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)  
Society for Linguistic Anthropology (SLA)  
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)  
Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA)  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR)