

CHRISTINE KOVIC
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Studies
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EDUCATION:

1997 Ph.D. Graduate Center, City University of New York. Cultural Anthropology
1992 M.A. Hunter College, City University of New York. Cultural Anthropology
1989 B.A. Rice University, Houston, Texas. Anthropology. Cum Laude
1999, 2000 Eastern Mennonite University, Coursework in Conflict Transformation.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT:

Chair, Department of Social and Cultural Sciences, University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2017

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Studies, University of Houston-Clear Lake,
2003-present

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Studies, University of Houston-Clear Lake,
1997-2003

Director, Anthropology Program, University of Houston-Clear Lake 1999-2003, 2006-2016

Director, Cross-Cultural Studies Program, University of Houston-Clear Lake 2000-2004, 2009-2016

Director, Women's Studies Program, University of Houston-Clear Lake 2007-2009.

RESEARCH AREAS:

Mexico/Latin America	Human Rights
Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Relations	Globalization and Economic Change
Religious Movements in the Americas	Feminist Anthropology/Women's Studies
Transnational Migration	Peace Studies and Reconciliation

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

2005. *Mayan Voices for Human Rights: Displaced Catholics in Highland Chiapas*. University of Texas Press.

2003. *Women of Chiapas: Making History in Times of Struggle and Hope*. Co-editor with Christine Eber. New York: Routledge. Author of chapter "Demanding Their Dignity as Daughters of God: Catholic Women and Human Rights;" co-author of "Introduction" and three section overviews.

Articles and Book Chapters:

- Forthcoming. "Rights, Religion, and Violence at Mexico's Borders." In *Oxford Handbook on Christianity in Latin America*, ed. by David Orique, Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens, Virginia Garrard-Burnett. Oxford University Press.
2017. "Naming State Crimes, Naming the Dead: Immigration Policy and the New Disappeared in the United States and Mexico." In *Sociopolitics of Migrant Death and Repatriation: Perspectives from Forensic Science*, ed. by Krista Latham and Alyson O'Daniel. New York: Springer Series on Bioarchaeology and Social Theory.
2017. "Migrant bodies as targets of security policies: Central Americans crossing Mexico's vertical border." *Dialectical Anthropology* 41: 1-11. (with Patty Kelly).
2016. "Human Rights, an Ongoing Concern." *Cambridge History of Religions in Latin America*, ed. by Virginia Garrard-Burnett and Paul C. Freston. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2014. "Demanding to Be Seen and Heard: Latino Immigrant Organizing and the Defense of Human Rights in Houston." *City and Society* 26 (1): 10-28.
2014. "NAFTA's Highway of Death." *Anthropology Now* 6 (3): 109-117.
2014. "Mexican and Central American Immigrant Rights: Local Struggles in a Global City." Metropolises' Responses to Migration and Urban Growth. Working Paper, Kinder Institute of Rice University.
2010. "The Violence of Security: Central Americans Crossing Mexico's Southern Border." *Anthropology Now* 2 (1): 87-97.
2008. "Jumping from a Moving Train: Risk, Migration, and Rights at NAFTA's Southern Border." *Practicing Anthropology* 30 (2): 32-36.
2008. "Rights of the Poor: Progressive Catholicism and Indigenous Resistance in Chiapas" In *Human Rights in the Mayan Region*, ed. by Shannon Speed and Xóchitl Leyva Solano. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
2007. "Indigenous Conversion to Catholicism: Change of Heart in Chiapas, Mexico." In *Conversion of a Continent: Contemporary Religious Change in Latin America*, ed. by Timothy J. Steigenga and Edward L. Cleary. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
2006. "Fronteras Seguras, Cuerpos Vulnerables: Migración y género en la frontera sur." *Debate Feminista* 17(33): 69-83. (With Patty Kelly).

2004. "Mayan Catholics in Chiapas, Mexico: Practicing Faith on Their Own Terms." In *Resurgent Voices in Latin America: Indigenous Peoples, Political Mobilization, and Religious Change*, ed. by Edward Cleary and Timothy Steigenga. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- 2003 "The Struggle for Liberation and Reconciliation in Chiapas, Mexico: Las Abejas and the Path of Non-Violent Resistance." *Latin American Perspectives* 30 (3): 58-79.
- 2001 "Para Tener Vida en Abundancia: Visiones de los derechos humanos en una comunidad católica indígena." In *Los Derechos Humanos en Tierras Mayas: Política, representaciones y moralidad*. Ed. by Pedro Pitarch and Julián López García. Madrid, Spain: Sociedad Española de Estudios Mayas.
- 1996 "Globalization and the Construction of Hegemony: The Free Trade Act and the Transformation of Rural Mexico." Co-authored with June Nash. In *Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges*, ed. by James Mittelman.. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- 1995 "Con un Solo Corazón: The Catholic Church, Indigenous Identity, and Human Rights in Chiapas." In *The Explosion of Communities in Chiapas*, Special Edition of Journal of the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA).. Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 1994 *Con un Pueblo Vivo en Tierra Negada, Un Ensayo Sobre los Derechos Humanos y el Conflicto Agrario en Chiapas, 1989-1993*. Co-authored with Patricia Gómez Cruz. San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Mexico: Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Center for Human Rights.

Popular Articles and Research Reports:

2015. "With Pain and Hope, Migrant Caravan Links Honduras and Washington." Americas Program on-line policy report.
2013. "Migrant Deaths and the New Disappeared on the South Texas Border." Americas Program on-line policy report.
- 2013 "Searching for the Living, the Dead, and the New Disappeared On The Migrant Trail In Texas: Report on Migrant Deaths in South Texas." Houston United and Texas Civil Rights Project.
2011. "Migrants as Targets of Security Policies," "Human Rights Caravan Protests Migrant Killings," "Riding the Beast." Americas Program on-line policy report.
- 2010 "Working without Pay, Fighting for Justice: A Report on Wage Theft in Houston and How We Can Stop It." with Houston Interfaith Worker Justice
- 2001 "Human Rights Abuses in the El Paso/Ciudad Juárez Border Region: 'Behind Every Abuse is a Community.'" with American Friends Service Committee.

Encyclopedia Articles:

- 2004 "Religion and War in Latin America." *Encyclopedia of Religion and War*. Co-authored with

Susan Fitzpatrick Behrens, ed. by Gabriel Palmer-Fernández. New York: Routledge Press.

2005. "Gender and Mesoamerican Religions." *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, Second Edition. Co-authored with Christine Eber, ed. by Lindsay Jones. New York: Macmillan Reference.

Book Reviews:

Review of *Religious Responses to Violence* (Alexander Wilde, ed), *Human Smuggling and Border Crossings* (Gabriella E. Sanchez), *We Are the Face of Oaxaca* (Lynn Stephen), *Rice and Beans* (Richard Wilk and Livia Barbosa), *Corn Meets Maize* (Lauren E. Baker), *Survivors of Slavery* (Murphy), and *Humane Migration* (Christine Ho and James Louky), Choice Reviews for Academic Libraries.

Review of *Travelers to the Other World: A Maya View of North America*. The Americas, 2014.

Invited Commentary on "Toward a Critical Anthropology of Security." Daniel Goldstein. *Current Anthropology* 51(4): 508-509, 2010.

Review of *Lydia's Open Door*. Bulletin of Latin American Research 29(4): 539-540, October 2010.

Review of *Mayan Lives, Mayan Utopias*. Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, April 2007.

Review of *Pluralizing Ethnography: Comparison and Representation in Maya Cultures, Histories, and Identities*, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 2006.

Review of *The Struggle for Indigenous Rights in Latin America*, The Americas, April 2006.

Review of *Gender's Place: Feminist Anthropology of Latin America*, Journal of Latin American Studies, January 2005.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2017 Migrant Health at the U.S. and Mexico's Southern Borders: Female, Indigenous, and Deported Migrants. Migration and Health Research Program. Binational project with Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Xochimilco.
- 2016 Policies and Structures Impacting the Health and Care Access of Refugee Children. Texas Medical Center Health Policy Institute. Collaborative Grant with University of Texas Medical Branch, Baylor College of Medicine, and Texas Children's Hospital.
- 2016 Annual Peacemaker Award. Houston Peace and Justice Center.
- 2013 University Faculty Fellowship, UHCL.
- 2004 Rockefeller Foundation Grant -- Cultural Dimensions of the Mexican Transition: Identity, Migration, Gender and Violence. Centro Regional de Investigaciones Mesoamericanas,

Cuernavaca, Mexico. (Declined)

2004 & 2005. Faculty Research and Development Fund. UHCL.

2005. Faculty Development Leave. UHCL.

2001 Rockefeller Residential Fellowship, Religion in the Americas.
Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida.

1999 & 1998. Faculty Research and Development Fund. UHCL.

RESEARCH & FIELDWORK:

Rio Grande Valley Texas. Migrant Death and Identification. In collaboration with Forensic Border Coalition. Three trips, October 2015-June 2016.

Chiapas, Mexico. Summers 2005-2015. Research on Central American migrants and human rights.

Houston, Texas. Ethnographic research with Latina/o immigrants on human rights and activism. 2008-2015.

Highland Chiapas, Mexico. Summer 1998, 1999, 2001. Research on faith-based social movements and efforts at peace and reconciliation.

Highland Chiapas, Mexico. January 1993-September 1995; summer 1996, 1997. Investigation for doctoral dissertation in community of Maya Catholics.

Houston and El Paso, Texas. April-July 2001. Research with community groups on human rights and the U.S.-Mexican border.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

2017 "Borders and Bridges: Anthropology, Migration and Human Rights." Keynote Address, Southern Anthropology Society. March 24.

2016 "Border Crossings in Fieldwork: Anthropology, Human Rights, and Migration." Keynote Address, Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges. February 26.

2015 "Migrant Deaths, the New Disappeared, and Unidentified Bodies on the South Texas Border." University of California, Santa Cruz. November 6.

2015 "Borders Crossing: Race, Nation, Human Rights" Keynote address for first year reader *Into the Beautiful North*. University of Houston-Downtown. October 8.

2014 "Mexican and Central American Immigrant Rights: Local Justice Struggles in a Global City." Metropolitan Research on Migration and Urban Growth. Fudan University's School of Social Development and Public Policy (Shanghai, China). May. (Paper presented, not in attendance).

- 2014 “Migrant Bodies as Targets of Security Policies: Central Americans Crossing Mexico.” Symposium Vulnerable Bodies: Latina/o Health, Migration, and Security. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. April 16.
- 2013 “Migrant Deaths and the New Disappeared on the South Texas Border.” Texas A & M University. October 3.
- 2011 “Structural Violence, Institutional Solidarity, and Human Rights: Accompanying Central American Migrants in their Journey Through Mexico.” Empire and Solidarity in the Americas. University of New Orleans, October.
- 2011 “Entre el miedo y la esperanza. Análisis y perspectivas de los derechos humanos y la violencia en el México actual” [Between fear and hope: Analysis and perspectives on human rights and violence in contemporary Mexico] Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana. Mexico City, Mexico, October.
- 2007 “Catholicism and Peacebuilding in Chiapas, Mexico: History of Conflict, Stories of Life.” Knowledge, Practice, and Political Agency: The Religious Dimension in Conflict Settings. University of Notre Dame, April 21.
- 2007 “Central American Migrants at Mexico’s Southern Border: Human Rights and the Criminalization of Poor Workers.” Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, University of Texas, Austin, March 28.
- 2005 “Mayan Voices for Human Rights.” Trinity University. San Antonio, Texas, October 27.
- 2005 “Women and Social Movements in Chiapas, Mexico.” University of California, Northridge. May 17.

PRESENTATIONS (2005-present):

- 2017 “Migrants and Asylum Seekers Deep in the Heart of Texas: Health and Well-Being in a Context of Racism and Criminalization.” Countering Xenophobia through Activist Anthropology. Society for Applied Anthropology. March 31.
- 2017 “The Forensic Border Coalition (FBC): Collaborations in Forensic Sciences, Human Rights, and Public Policy.” Forensic Border Coalition. American Academy of Forensic Sciences. February 18.
- 2015 “Anthropology, Collaboration, Activism.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Roundtable Presenter. November.
- 2015 “The University, the State, and the Borders of Power.” Annual Meeting of the National Women’s Studies Association. Roundtable Presenter. November.
- 2014 “Naming the Crimes, Naming the Dead: State Crimes and Immigration Policy in Mexico and the U.S.” Latin American Studies Association. May.

- 2013 “Politics of Hospitality: Central American Migrants, Mexican Hosts, and Solidarity Across Borders.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November.
- 2012 “Migrant Bodies as Targets of Security Policies: Central Americans Crossing Mexico.” Latin American Studies Association, May.
- 2012 “Central American Women in Search of Disappeared Migrants: From Case to Cause.” Interdisciplinary Symposium, Immigration and the Immigrant Experience, Houston and Beyond, University of Houston. April.
- 2001 “Human Mobility, Moving Borders, and the Boundaries of Legality: Mexican and Central American Migrants Crossing Multiple Borders.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association. Quebec, Canada. November.
2011. “Demanding to be Seen and Heard: Latino Immigrant Organizing in Houston.” Society for Applied Anthropology. Seattle, WA.
- 2009 “The Paradox of Security in War and Peace.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association. December 5.
- 2009 “Vulnerability, Security, and Violence.” Politics of Vulnerability. Rice University, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. October 17.
- 2009 “The Violence of Security: Central American Migrants Crossing Mexico’s Southern Border.” Annual Meetings of the Society of Applied Anthropology. March 20.
- 2006 “Lived Struggle: Anthropology and Analysis of Difficult Times,” Annual Meetings of American Anthropological Association. November 16.
- 2006 “Migration and Neoliberalism at Mexico’s Southern Border: An Anthropological Approach.” (with Patty Kelly). Segundo Coloquio Internacional sobre Migración y Desarrollo. Cocoyoc, Mexico, October 26.
- 2006 “Rights and Religion on Mexico’s Southern Border.” Latin American Studies Association Meetings. San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 16.
- 2005 “Women Migrants and Political Mobilization.” Mexican Migration to the United States. UNAM-San Antonio. October 28.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

UNDERGRADUATE

General Anthropology
 Contemporary Cultural Anthropology
 Peoples of Mexico and Central America
 Anthropology of Food
 Human Rights and Social Justice

MA LEVEL

Cross-Cultural Methods
 Human Rights and Social Justice
 Cultures of Mexico and Central America
 Gender, Culture, Power
 Cross-Cultural Perspective on Family

Anthropology of the Family
Immigrant America
Political and Economic Anthropology
Latina Feminisms
Women in Society/Gender and Sexuality in
Global Perspectives

Political Economy
Immigrant America
Latina Feminisms
Cross-Cultural Studies Internship
Research Seminar

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Reader/reviewer for *City and Society*, *American Anthropologist*, *Anthropology Now*, *Human Organization*,
Journal of Latin American Anthropology, *Journal of Political and Legal Anthropology*, *Journal of*
Contemporary Religion, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*

Review of Fulbright Applications, 2016, 2012, 2013.

Reader/reviewer for Manuscript, University of Arizona Press.

External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor, SUNY Albany, 2012

Panel organizer and chair for conference panels and roundtables: Latin American Studies
Association (2014, 2006), American Anthropological Association (2013, 2009), Society for
Applied Anthropology (2017), American Academy of Forensic Sciences (2017)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE (University of Houston-Clear Lake):

Member, Women's and Gender Studies Program, 1997-present.

Member, Latin@/Latin American Studies Program, 2014-present.

Faculty Senator, 2015- 2017

University Curriculum and Teaching Committee, 2015- 2017

First Year Reader Committee, 2016-2017

Grade Appeal Committee, UHCL, 2016-2017

Core Faculty Advisory Committee, 2015-present.

Faculty Advisor and Founder of Lambda Alpha, National Anthropology Honors Society, 2012-
present.

Program Review for Anthropology Cross-Cultural Studies, 1998, 2003 (Chaired), 2010 (Chaired),
2016 (Chaired)

Program Review for Cross-Cultural Studies, 2003 (Chaired), 2011 (Chaired), 2016

Co-Chair, College of Human Sciences and Humanities, Committee on Interdisciplinarity, 2013-2015

Mieszkuc Professorship Selection Committee, 2008, 2009, 2014

Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, 2000, 2014

Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor of Latin American History, 2000.

Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committees for Associate Professor of Anthropology, 2005, 2013.

Member, 5 Promotion and Tenure Committees for Promotion to Associate Professor, 2006-2015.

Chair, Third Year Review Committees for Faculty, 2002, 2010.

Member, 11 Third Year Review Committees for Faculty, 2006-2017.

Post-tenure review committee, 2013, 2014

MA THESES SUPERVISED:

Masa Kuniyoshi, "Difficulties in Cultural Adjustment among Okinawan Wives of U.S. Soldiers upon Marriage," 2016.

Monica Garcia, "Intimate Partner Violence against Latina Lesbians," 2015.

Imelda Estrada, "Challenges of First Generation College Students in the Galveston-Houston Area," 2013.

Belinda Garcia, "The Role of el Día de los Muertos in the cultural identity of the Latino Community," 2005.

Joanne Dodd. "Playing Mariachi Music: Its Influence in Students' Lives: An ethnographic Study of Mariachi MECA," 2001.

Leslie Plaza Johnson, "Architecture of Spirituality: Visual Field Notes on Religious Diversity and its Effect on Culture in Houston," 2000.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (selected):

2013-present Member, Forensic Border Coalition (Includes South Texas Human Rights Center, Texas State University, the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, and Colibri Center for Human Rights)

2015- 2017 Missing in Harris County Day

2013 Testimony at Congressional Briefing on Border Deaths in Washington, D.C.

2013 Testimony at a Tribunal on Violence against Migrants, Mexico City

- 2012-2014 Advisory Committee, Restaurant Opportunities Center, Houston
- 2012 Houston Organizing Committee, Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity
- 2009-2012 Living Hope Wheelchair Association, English as Second Language and Human Rights workshops
- 2010 Human Rights Commissioner, Hearing on Racial Profiling with Maria Jimenez (Houston United), Margaret Huang (Executive Director of Rights Working Group) and Thomas Saenz (President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, MALDEF)
- 2008 Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Day Laborer Project
- 2006 Testimony at Mayor's Advisory Committee on Migration for the Community Hearing "Houston, a Global City: Contributions and Challenges of Comprehensive Immigration Reform."

LANGUAGES:

Spanish (fluent) and Tzotzil (Mayan language, basic)

MEMBERSHIPS:

American Anthropological Association
Society for Applied Anthropology
Latin American Studies Association