

CRISTIAN FIGUEROA
Curriculum Vitae
Cristian.Figueroa@Colorado.edu

Research Interests:

Gender and Sexuality; Queer Theories; Indigenous Social Identities; Interregional Migration, Exchange and Interaction; Community Collaboration and Partnership; Public Engagement and Dissemination; Museum Curation; Cultural Heritage; Materiality; Embodiment Theory; Human-Animal Interactions; Iconography; Comca'ac; Isthmo-Colombian Area

Education:

Aug 2023-Present	University of Colorado, Boulder Anthropology Ph.D. Student – Archaeology subdiscipline
May 2014-Aug 2022	University of California, Berkeley B.A. Anthropology with Distinction Summer Bridge Completion Certificate (2014)
Jan 2018-May 2020	College of the Sequoias A.A. Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences

Teaching Experience:

Aug 2025-Current	Graduate Teaching Assistant – University of Colorado, Boulder ANTH 1121 – Indigenous Cultures of Eastern North America: From the Pleistocene to the Present (Eric Jones)
Dec 2022-Current	TK-12 Substitute Teacher – Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District
Aug 2024-May 2025	Graduate Teaching Assistant – University of Colorado, Boulder ANTH 1140 – Exploring a Non-Western Culture: The Maya (Jeffrey S. Brzezinski)
July 2024-Aug 2024	Teacher of Special Programs – University of California, Merced Center for Educational Partnerships – California Integrated Math 1
Aug 2023-Dec 2023	Graduate Teaching Assistant – University of Colorado, Boulder ANTH 1190 – Origins of Ancient Civilization (Arthur A. Joyce)
Sep 2022-May 2023	TK-12 Substitute Teacher – Dinuba Unified School District

Fieldwork, Museum, and Research Experience:

May 2025-Current	Virtual Museum Curator – “Echos of Our First People: Pre-colonial Era Exhibition” at The Corn Islands Virtual Museum
May 2024-Current	Archaeologist Research Associate – Proyecto Arqueológico del Municipio de Corn Island (PAMCI), co-directed by Jean-Paul Rojas and Rigoberto Navarro Genie

May 2024-Current	Archaeological Consultant – Museo Histórico Cultural de la Costa Caribe del CIDCCA-BICU, Centro de Investigación de la Costa Caribe, Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University, Nicaragua
Jan 2024-Current	Project Spanish Translator – Rio Verde Settlement Project 2016 (RVSP-16), directed by Jessica D. Hedgepeth Balkin, Ph.D., RPA, and Arthur A. Joyce
August 2025	Volunteer – <i>Celebración del Día Internacional de Los Pueblos Indígenas</i> . Bosque Urbano La Saucedá: Foro al Aire Libre, Hermosillo, México. August 10, 2025
May 2025-June 2025	Archaeological Consultant - Casa de Cultura y Creatividad "Charles Hodgson," Great Corn Island, Nicaragua
June 2024	Volunteer – Arte Américas, Casa de la Cultura. Assist in exhibit curation “Librería Donceles.”
Jan 2024-March 2024	Field Excavation Supervisor – Río Verde Archaeological Project, co-directed by Arthur A. Joyce, Akira Ichikawa, and Pamela García Ramírez
May 2023-June 2023	Archaeologist Field Assistant – Proyecto Regional Palenque 2023 directed by Rosemary A. Joyce, Rodrigo Liendo Stuardo and Lisa M. Johnson
June 2022-July 2022	Project Participant and Student – Buen Suceso – Proyecto Arqueológico Ríos Culebra-Colón under the co-directors Sarah M. Rowe, Guy S. Duke, Sarah Juengst
Aug 2021-July 2022	Research Apprentice – UC Berkeley Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP) working under the direction of Professor Rosemary A. Joyce
Jan 2022-May 2022	Volunteer Survey Archaeologist – Protection of the Chinese Shrimp Camp in Point Molate Beach Park Project co-directed by William A. White and Laurie A. Wilkie
Jan 2022-May 2022	Research Theory and Methods in Socio-Cultural Anthropology Course – Performed ethnographic fieldwork at the University of California, Berkeley to address the question of how COVID-19 impacted undergraduate students (Course Professor: Mariane C. Ferme)
Aug 2021-Dec 2021	Museum Exhibit Curation and Design Course – Drafted a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities for the implementation of a permanent exhibition and programming in the interpretative center at the San Fernando de Omoa Fortress in Honduras (Course Professor: Rosemary A. Joyce)
Aug 2020-Dec 2020	Research and Data Analysis in Psychology Course – Performed a study to measure the levels of happiness of residents from a rural community in Michoacán, México through self-report field surveys. (Course Professor: Arman Daniel Catterson)

Conference Presentations:

- Forthcoming Anabella Coronado and **Cristian Figueroa**. "Archaeological Collections, Institutional Policies, and Community Self-representations in Indigenous Museums of Sonora, México." Paper presentation at the 91st Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA. April-May 2026.
- Forthcoming **Cristian Figueroa**. "Queer Archaeology III: Queer Lightning." Discussant in Lightning Round at the 91st Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA. April-May 2026.
- Forthcoming **Cristian Figueroa**. "Interpreting Comca'ac Ceramic Figurines as Non-binary Identities." Paper presentation at the 2026 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Premodern Studies at the Newberry Library, Chicago, IL. Jan 2026.
- October 2025 **Cristian Figueroa** and Jean-Paul Rojas. "Animal Encounters in the Pre-Hispanic Corn Islands, Nicaragua." Paper presentation at the 10th Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium: Current Research in the Ancient Americas, Denver, CO. Oct 10, 2025.
- April 2025 Jean-Paul Rojas, **Cristian Figueroa**, and Rigoberto Navarro Genie. "Island Hopping: Surveying Nicaragua's Corn Island Archipelago." Poster presentation at the 90th Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Denver, CO. April 25, 2025.
- Sep 2024 Jean-Paul Rojas and **Cristian Figueroa**. "Island Time: Situating the Corn Islands in Central America's Caribbean Coast." Paper presentation at the 9th Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium, Denver, CO. Sep 20, 2024.
- April 2023 **Cristian Figueroa**, Jean-Paul Rojas and Zindy Cruz. "Social and Physical Landscape Changes at Buen Suceso." Paper presentation at the 88th Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Portland, OR. Apr 2, 2023.
- April 2023 Jonathan Gutiérrez, Jean-Paul Rojas, **Cristian Figueroa**, Ana María Morales Troya and Angie Farfán García. "Heritage Conversations with Dos Mangas." Paper presentation at the 88th Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Portland, OR. Apr 2, 2023.

Organized Presentations, Workshops, and Panels:

- July 2025 Co-Organizer and Presenter. "Island Memories: Archaeology and Digital Outreach of the Heritage of the Corn Islands." Panel held at Little Corn Island Community Center, Little Corn Island, Nicaragua. July 4, 2025.
- June 2025 Co-Organizer and Presenter. "Island Memories: Archaeology and Digital Outreach of the Heritage of the Corn Islands." Panel held at Casa de Cultura y Creatividad "Charles Hodgson," Great Corn Island, Nicaragua. June 27, 2025.

- April 2025 Co-Organizer and Moderator. “(Re)Queering Heritage Futures.” Forum session at the 90th Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology, Denver, CO. April 25, 2025.
- May 2024 Co-Organizer “Encuentro sobre la Historia y Arqueología del Municipio y el Proyecto Arqueológico ‘PAMCI’.” Little Corn Island Community Center, Municipality of Corn Island, Nicaragua. May 24, 2024.
- May 2024 Co-Organizer “Encuentro sobre la Historia y Arqueología del Municipio y el Proyecto Arqueológico ‘PAMCI’.” Alcaldía de Corn Island, Municipality of Corn Island, Nicaragua. May 22, 2024.
https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1501609390567996&id=100004370885304&mibextid=j8LeHn
- July 2022 Co-Organizer and Presenter “Sobre la Memoria e Historia de Dos Mangas.” Presented at the Proyecto Arqueológico Ríos Culebra-Colín: Clausura Temporada 2022. Dos Mangas, Santa Elena, Ecuador. July 14, 2022.

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- Aug 2025 **Cristian Figueroa**, Nicholas Puente, and Stephania Zneimer. “Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA).” Presentation at the 2025 Graduate Student Orientation, Department of Anthropology. University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO. Aug 19, 2025.
- Aug 2025 Stephania Zneimer, **Cristian Figueroa**, and Anden Drolet. “Teaching Anthropology: Perfecting life as a graduate student teacher.” Presentation at the 2025 Graduate Student Orientation, Department of Anthropology. University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO. Aug 19, 2025.

Technical Reports:

- Sep 2025 **Cristian Figueroa**. *Museum Fieldwork and Community Engagement in Sonora, México 2025*. Research report submitted to The Center for Humanities & the Arts at The University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO. Sep 1, 2025.
- July 2024 Jean-Paul Rojas, Rigoberto Navarro Genie, and **Cristian Figueroa**. *Informe Preliminar de trabajo de Campo del Proyecto Arqueológico del Municipio de Corn Island (PAMCI) Temporada 2024*. Report submitted to the Instituto de las Culturas de Pueblos y Juventudes de la República de Nicaragua. Managua, Nicaragua. July 31, 2024.

Newsletter Articles:

- Nov 2024 Jean-Paul Rojas, Rigoberto Navarro Genie, and **Cristian Figueroa**. Investigating Indigenous Island Roots in the Corn Islands, Nicaragua. Edited by Elizabeth Moore. *The Current: Newsletter of the Island & Coastal Archaeology Interest Group* 11(1–2):6–8.

Service to the Department:

Aug 2025-Current	President. Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA). Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder.
Aug 2025-Current	Graduate Student Representative – Department of Anthropology Graduate Committee. University of Colorado, Boulder.
Aug 2024-Current	ACD Committee Member (AGSA, Climate Committee, Departmental Leadership Committee). Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder.
Aug 2025	Recruiter of Undergraduate Students at the Arts and Science College Day Welcome Fair. Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder. August 20, 2025.
Aug 2024-Aug 2025	Treasurer. Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA). Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder.
Aug 2024	Recruiter of Undergraduate Students at the Arts and Science College Day Welcome Fair. Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder. August 23, 2024.

Mentoring

Aug 2025-Current	Graduate Student Peer Mentor – The Graduate School at the University of Colorado, Boulder. <i>Graduate Peer Mentoring Program</i> . 1 Mentee from the Department of Anthropology
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Grants, Fellowships, and Scholarships:

May 2025	Center for Humanities & the Arts (CHA) 2025 Graduate Summer Fellowship (\$6,000)
April 2025	The Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund Committee of the Colorado Archaeological Society (\$800)
April 2025	Department of Anthropology Graduate Research Funds – University of Colorado (\$3,000)
April 2025	Haskell-Houghtelin Scholarship for strong service and commitment to the Department of Anthropology and the broader discipline of anthropology (\$1,166)
February 2025	University of Colorado – Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) Travel Grant for travel to College Art Association Conference (\$500)
December 2023	University of Colorado – Department of Anthropology Fellowship (\$3,467.77)
August 2023	University of Colorado – 2023 Graduate School Diversity Recruitment Fellowship (\$3,750)

May 2022	UC Berkeley – Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program Fellowship – Department of Anthropology (\$3,500)
May 2022	UC Berkeley – Anthropology Departmental Award to participate in the Buen Suceso - Proyecto Arqueológico Ríos Culebra-Colín Field School (\$4,500)
August 2021	UC Berkeley – Berkeley Scholarship (\$7,577)
August 2021	UC Berkeley – Ruth Lee Scholarship (\$1,954)
August 2021	UC Berkeley – H. Wollenberg Grant (\$1,000)
October 2014	Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship (\$1,000)
August 2014	UC Berkeley – Berkeley Scholarship (\$4,043)
August 2014	Kiwanis-Schapansky Scholarship (\$1,200)
August 2014	Tulare County Farm Bureau Education and Scholarship Fund Trust (\$500)
August 2014	Spanspek Music and Arts Scholarship (\$200)

Honors and Awards

June 2025	The Corn Islands Virtual Library – Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the invaluable contribution to The Corn Islands Virtual Library, for the selfless support of the Library’s Virtual Museum, and for the dedication to raising awareness of the islands’ history through archaeological documentation.
May 2024	Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University – Certificate of Recognition for collaborating in assessing, creating, and executing the registration process of historical and archaeological material objects curated by the Museo Histórico Cultural de la Costa Caribe del CIDCCA-BICU.
Spring 2022	Honors to Date - University of California, Berkeley
Fall 2019	President’s Honor List – College of the Sequoias
Spring 2019	President’s Honor List – College of the Sequoias
Fall 2018	President’s Honor List – College of the Sequoias
May 2014	California Scholarship Federation Life Membership

Certificates and Qualifications:

Feb 2025	CITI Program Training: Human Research – Social Behavioral Research Investigators and Key Personnel – 1 Basic Course (Record ID: 67892576)
Oct 2023	Substitute Teacher - Three Year Permit - Colorado Department of Education

Apr 2023	30-Day Substitute Teaching Permit – California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (renewed on 05/2025)
July 2022	Completion of the Buen Suceso Archaeological Field School led by co-directors Sarah M. Rowe and Guy S. Duke
Apr 2022	Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers – California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
Feb 2022	CITI Program Training: Human Research – Group 2 Social and Behavioral Research Investigators – 1 Basic Course (Record ID: 47519470)

Professional Development:

Sep 2025	Certificate of Completion: 1-hour online seminar, <i>Sampling Wet and Inundated Sediments and Soils in Archaeology</i> . Instructed by Ervan Garrison.
Jan 2025	Certificate of Completion: 1-hour online seminar, <i>Introductory Sedimentology for Archaeology</i> . Instructed by Ervan Garrison.
Oct 2024	Certificate of Completion: SAA online event, <i>Accessing Archaeology: Empowering Queer Voices in the Discipline</i> . Hosted by William Meyer et al.
Nov 2024	Certificate of Completion: SAA Online Seminar, <i>Indigenous Archaeology in Practice</i> .

Online Blogs and Public Dissemination:

2025	“Entrevista con equipo PAMCI.” <i>Museo Histórico Cultural de la Costa Caribe BICU CIDCA</i> . Facebook Video Publication. June 06, 2025.
2021	Figueroa, Cristian. Cranial Trauma and Trephination in the Past. <i>Cristian's Anthropology</i> . Blog, https://cristiansanthropology.wordpress.com/
2020	Figueroa, Cristian. Our Ancestors the Neanderthals. <i>Our Ancestors the Neanderthals</i> . Blog, https://ourancestortheneanderthal.wordpress.com/

General Employment History:

May 2017-Oct 2020	Customer Service Advocate – Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company
June 2016-Sep 2016	Seasonal General Laborer – Moonlight Packing Company, LLC dba
Aug 2015-May 2016	Customer Care Representative – Alorica Contact Services Mexico S de RL de CV at Tlaquepaque, Jal., Mexico working on behalf of Service Corporation International
Nov 2014-Aug 2015	Agent – Hispanic Teleservices de Guadalajara, S.A. de C.V. at Zapopan, Jal., Mexico working on behalf of Xfinity service from Comcast

Related Professional Skills:

Managing and teaching groups of students at elementary, secondary and postsecondary education; drafting grant proposals and cultural resource management request for proposals; archaeological field survey, ceramic lithic and bone analysis; lab analysis including organizing, inventorying, and analyzing curated digital and material collections; transcribing archival indexes; managing archaeological field crew; conducting ethnographic fieldwork through participant observation, focus groups and surveys; Statistical Program “R”; translated archaeological site descriptions from English to Spanish

Fluent Languages:

Native in English and Spanish

Professional Affiliations:

2022 – Present Society for American Archaeology
2023 – Present Association for Latin American Art
2024 – Present American Anthropological Association
2025 – Present Red Internacional de Arqueología y Ancestralidad Abya Yala

References:

Gerardo Gutiérrez | Professor of Anthropology | University of Colorado, Boulder
gerardo.gutierrez@colorado.edu

Rosemary A. Joyce | Distinguished Professor Emerita of Anthropology | University of California, Berkeley
rajoyce@berkeley.edu

Sarah M. Rowe | Associate Professor of Anthropology | University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
sarah.rowe@utrgv.edu

Sara L. Juengst | Associate Professor of Anthropology | University of North Carolina, Charlotte
sjuengst@uncc.edu