

## Biographical Sketch Rani T. Alexander

### A. Professional Preparation

Tulane University	Anthropology/Latin American Studies	B.A.	1894
University of New Mexico	Anthropology	M.A.	1986
University of New Mexico	Anthropology	Ph.D.	1993

### B. Appointments

2008-present	Professor of Anthropology, New Mexico State University
2002-2008	Associate Professor of Anthropology, New Mexico State University
1996-2002	Assistant Professor of Anthropology, New Mexico State University
1995-1996	Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Columbia University
1993-1995	Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Northern Illinois University

### C. Research Interests

I am an archaeologist specializing in the complex societies of Mesoamerica, the post AD1450 archaeology of the Yucatán peninsula, colonialism and ethnohistory, archaeological households and site structure, agrarian ecology, fauna analysis, and quantitative analytical methods. Understanding the relationships between rural communities and the state from a longue duree perspective that focuses on the colonial and postcolonial trajectory is my principal research goal. My work is directed especially to the formation of refuge areas, frontiers, and resistance to colonial regimes.

In working on questions of rural autonomy, I contrast three cases involving the lowland Maya. The first case concerns the time of Yucatan's nineteenth-century Caste War in Yaxcabá, Yucatán. The second relates to the time of the Spanish invasion from the tenth through the seventeenth centuries at Isla Cilvituk, Campeche. The latter project also addresses processes of Maya flight to the southern frontier of the Yucatan peninsula, multiethnic community formation, and variability in vernacular architecture during the 20th century within the modern community of Silvituc, Campeche. My third and most recent investigation explores post AD 1450 Maya archaeology and ethnohistory in Ebtún and related towns in Yucatán, México. The project explores how Maya farmers resisted and accommodated Spanish colonial and postcolonial administration of land ownership, transfer, and agricultural production between 1500 and 1900. In addition to these field projects on the Yucatan peninsula, I also have fieldwork experience in Honduras and the American Southwest. I have conducted archival research in Mexico on seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth century documents written in Spanish and Yucatec Maya.

### D. Selected Publications

Alexander, Rani T. 2008 The World According to Robert: Macroregional Systems Theory in Mesoamerica. *Journal of Anthropological Research Special Issue, Debating with Robert: Papers on Mesoamerican Archaeology in Memory of Robert S. Santley*, 64(3): 383-394.

Alexander, Rani T. and Sandra E. Andrade. 2007. Frontier Migration and the Built Environment in Southwestern Campeche. *Estudios de Cultura Maya*, vol XXX: 175-196.

Alexander, Rani T. 2006 Maya Settlement Shifts and Agrarian Ecology in Yucatán, 1800-2000. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 62(4):449-470.

Alexander, Rani T. and Elena Canché Manzanero. 2006 Isla Cilvituk y las Redes de Comercio en el Suroeste de Campeche. In *Memorias del Congreso Internacional de Cultura Maya: en Honor de Alfredo Barrera Vásquez y George Andrews*, Alfredo Barrera Rubio and Ruth Gubler, coordinators, pp. 617-637. Centro-INAH Yucatan, Patronato Cultural, Merida.

Alexander, Rani T. 2006 La Comunidad Postclásica en la Isla Cilvituk, Campeche: ¿Comprende una Frontera Interna? In *Nuevas perspectivas sobre la geografía política de los mayas*, edited by Tsubasa Okoshi Harada and Ana Luisa Izquierdo, Centro de Estudios Mayas, UNAM, México, D.F.

Kepecs, Susan, and Rani T. Alexander (eds). 2005 *The Postclassic to Spanish-Era Transition in Mesoamerica: Archaeological Perspectives*, edited by Susan Kepecs and Rani Alexander. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

<http://www.unmpress.com/Book.php?id=169700956>

Alexander, Rani T., and Susan Kepecs. 2005 The Postclassic to Spanish-Era Transition in Mesoamerica: An Introduction. In *The Postclassic to Spanish-Era Transition in Mesoamerica: Archaeological Perspectives*, edited by Susan Kepecs and Rani Alexander, pp.1-12. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Alexander, Rani T. 2005 Isla Cilvituk and the Difficulties of Colonization in Southwestern Campeche. In *The Postclassic to Spanish-Era Transition in Mesoamerica: Archaeological Perspectives*, edited by Susan Kepecs and Rani Alexander, pp. 161-183. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Alexander, Rani T. 2004 *Yaxcabá and the Caste War of Yucatán: An Archaeological Perspective*. University of New Mexico Press.

<http://www.unmpress.com/Book.php?id=965722530>

Kyle, Chris, and Rani T. Alexander (guest eds.) 2003 Beyond the Hacienda: Agrarian Relations and Socioeconomic Change in Rural Mesoamerica. *Ethnohistory*, Special Issue, 50 (1). <http://ethnohistory.org/>

Alexander, Rani T. 2003 Introduction: Haciendas and Agrarian Change in Rural Mesoamerica. *Ethnohistory, Special Issue: Beyond the Hacienda: Agrarian Relations and Socioeconomic Change in Rural Mesoamerica*, 50 (1):3-14.

Alexander, Rani T. 2003 Architecture, Haciendas, and Economic Change in Yaxcaba, Yucatan, Mexico.

*Ethnohistory, Special Issue: Beyond the Hacienda: Agrarian Relations and Socioeconomic Change in Rural Mesoamerica*, 50 (1):191-220.

Alexander, Rani T. 2000. Patrones de Asentamiento Agregados en el Sudoeste de Campeche: Una Visión desde la Isla Cilvituk. *Mesoamérica* 39:359-391.

Russell, Susan D., and Rani T. Alexander. 2000 Of Beggars and Thieves: Customary Sharing of the Catch and Informal Sanctions in a Philippine Fishery. In *State and Community in Fisheries Management: Power, Policy, and Practice* edited by E. Paul Durrenberger and Thomas D. King, pp. 19-40. Bergin & Garvey, Greenwood Publishing Group, Westport, CT.

Alexander, Rani T. 1999 Households and Communities in Yaxcaba, Yucatan, Mexico, 1750-1847. In *At the Interface: Households and Beyond*, edited by David B. Small and Nicola

Tannenbaum, pp. 175-199. Monographs in Economic Anthropology No. 15, University Press of America, Lanham.

Alexander, Rani T. 1999. Mesoamerican House Lots and Archaeological Site Structure: Problems of Inference in Yaxcaba, Yucatan, Mexico, 1750-1847. In *The Archaeology of Household Activities*, edited by Penelope M. Allison, pp. 78-100. Routledge, London.

Alexander, Rani T. 1999 The Emerging World System and Colonial Yucatan: The Archaeology of Core-Periphery Integration, 1780-1847. In *Leadership Production and Exchange: World Systems Theory in Practice*, edited by P. Nicholas Kardulias, pp. 103-124. Rowman and Littlefield, Maryland.

Alexander, Rani T. 1998. Community Organization in the Parroquia de Yaxcaba, Yucatan, Mexico, 1750-1847. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 9:39-54.

Alexander, Rani T. 1998. Afterword: Toward an Archaeological Theory of Culture Contact. In *Studies in Culture Contact: Interaction, Culture Change, and Archaeology*, edited by James G. Cusick, pp. 476-495. Center for Archaeological Investigations, Occasional Paper No. 25, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Russell, Susan D., and Rani T. Alexander. 1998 Measuring Seining Strategies and Fishing Success in the Philippines. *Human Organization: Journal of Applied Anthropology* 57(2):45-158.

Alexander, Rani T. 1997. Haciendas and Economic Change in Yucatan: Entrepreneurial Strategies in the Parroquia de Yaxcaba, 1775-1850. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, Special Issue: New Approaches to Combining the Archaeological and Historical Records* Vol. 4, Nos., 3/4: 331-351.

Alexander, Rani T. 1997 Late Colonial Period Settlement Patterns in Yaxcaba Parish, Yucatan, Mexico: Implications for the Distribution of Land and Population Before the Caste War. In *Approaches to the Historical Archaeology of Mexico, Central and South America*, edited by Janine Gasco, Greg Smith, and Patricia Fournier-García. UCLA Institute of Archaeology, Monograph No. 38, pp. 29-40.

Russell, Susan D., and Rani T. Alexander. 1996. The "Skipper Effect" Debate: Views from a Philippine Fishery. *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Volume 52:433-460.

Santley, Robert S. and Rani T. Alexander. 1996 Teotihuacan and Middle Classic Mesoamerica: A Precolumbian World System? In *Arqueología Mesoamericana: Homenaje a William T. Sanders*, edited by Alba G. Mastache, Jeffrey R. Parsons, Robert S. Santley, and Mari Carmen Serra Pucho, pp.173-194. Colección Científica, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico, D.F., Mexico.

Santley, Robert S., and Rani T. Alexander. 1992 The Political Economy of Core Periphery Systems. In *Resources, Power, and Interregional Interaction*, edited by Edward M. Schortman and Patricia A. Urban, pp. 23-49. Plenum Press, New York.

Santley, Robert S., Michael J. Berman and Rani T. Alexander 1991 The Politicization of the Mesoamerican Ball Game and Its Implications for the Interpretation of the Distribution of Ballcourts in Central Mexico. In *The Mesoamerican Ballgame*, edited by David Wilcox and Vernon Scarborough, pp. 3-24. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

## **E. Field Reports**

2008 *La Arqueología Colonial en los Pueblos de Ebtún, Cuncunul, Kaua, Tekom, y Tixcacalcupul, Yucatán, México*. Informe técnico de campo para la temporada de 2006, presentado al Consejo de Arqueología, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México, D.F, forthcoming (first author, with technical and analytical contributions by José Díaz Cruz, Adam Kaeding, Susan Kepecs, Ruth Martínez Cervantes, and Matthew Punke).

2006 *Investigaciones Arqueológicas en las Unidades Habitacionales de Isla Cilvituk, Campeche, México*. Informe técnico final para las investigaciones de 1994-1995. Presentada al Consejo de Arqueología, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México. 647pages plus appendices (first coeditor with Elena Canché Manzanero, with contributions by Richard Burleson, Heajoo Chung, Juan Carlos Cruz, Michael Glascock, Sergio Herrera, Alejandra Gudino, John Hunter, David Lentz, Brian Fortunato, and Amanda Martinez).

1996 *Investigaciones Arqueológicas en las Unidades Habitacionales de Isla Cilvituk, Campeche: Informe de la segunda temporada del campo*. Presentada al Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México, 60 pages plus appendices (first co-author with Elena Canché Manzanero).

1995 *Investigaciones Arqueológicas en las Unidades Habitacionales de Isla Cilvituk, Campeche*. Informe de la primera temporada del campo al Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México, 64 pp, (first co-author with Elena Canché Manzanero and Socorro Jiménez Alvarez).

## **F. Conference Symposia Organized**

2008 "Colonial and Postcolonial Change in Mesoamerica: Archaeology as Historical Anthropology," School for Advanced Research (SAR), Advanced Seminar, Sept. 27-Oct 3, 2008, Santa Fe, NM, co-organizer and co-chair with Susan Kepecs.

2008 "Mesoamerica's Colonial-Postcolonial Trajectory: Archaeological Considerations," Symposium presented at the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, March 26-30, 2008, Vancouver, BC, Canada, co-organizer and co-chair with Susan Kepecs.

2008 "The Crucible of the Revolution: the archaeology of agrarian landholdings and socioeconomic change in 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexico." Symposium presented at the SHA 2008 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, January 9-13, 2008, Albuquerque, co-organizer and co-chair with Patricia Fournier García.

2007 "El Pueblo Maya del siglo XIX: perspectivas arqueológicas e históricas." Symposium presented at the VII Congreso Internacional de Mayistas, 8-14 de julio, 2007, Mérida, Yucatán, México, co-organizer and co-chair with Susan Kepecs.

2005 "Patterns of Change in Postcolonial Mesoamerica: Archaeological, Documentary, and Ethnographic Evidence," Symposium presented at the 2005 annual meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, November 16-20, 2005, Santa Fe, NM, co-organizer and co-chair with Janine Gasco.

2001 "The Late Postclassic to Spanish-Era Transition in Mesoamerica," Symposium

presented at the 66th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 18-22, 2001, New Orleans, coorganizer and co-chair with Susan Kepecs.

1999 "Postclassic and Early Colonial period Political Geography in the Maya Lowlands: Integrating Archaeology and Ethnohistory," Symposium/working group presented at the 64th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, March 24-28, 1999, Chicago, organizer and chair.

1997 "Both Peripheral and Marginal: Mesoamerican Haciendas without Visible Means of Support," Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, November 13-16, 1997, Mexico, D.F., co-organizer and co-chair with Chris Kyle.

### **G. Courses Taught**

Anthropology 587 Fieldwork in Latin America  
Anthropology 585 Archaeological Method and Theory,  
Anthropology 523/389 Archaeological Mapping  
Anthropology 517 Advanced Topics in Mesoamerican Archaeology  
Anthropology 512 Analytical Methods in Anthropology  
Anthropology 511 Mesoamerican Anthropology  
Anthropology 501 Concepts in Anthropology  
Anthropology 536 Conquest of the New World  
Anthropology 477 Fauna Analysis  
Anthropology 315 Introduction to Archaeology  
Anthropology 313 Ancient Mexico  
Anthropology 312 The Ancient Maya  
Honors 237G Archaeology: Search for the Past Anthropology  
202G Introduction to Archaeology and Physical Anthropology  
Anthropology 201G Introduction to Anthropology  
Anthropology 110 New World Prehistory

#### *International Teaching*

- Las Arqueologías de "La Conquista": la transición del postclásico a la época colonial en Mesoamerica, Centro de Estudios Mesoamericanos, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico
- Quantitative Methods in Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of San Carlos, Cebu, Philippines.
- Métodos Analíticos Cuantitativos en las Ciencias Sociales Usando SPSS, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Autónoma de Campeche, Mexico
- Diplomado: Métodos Analíticos Cuantitativos, Centro de Investigaciones Históricas y Sociales, Universidad Autónoma de Campeche, Mexico.

### **H. Grants Awarded**

2005-06 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Program, Yucatán, Mexico, \$24665.  
2002-03 CIES/COMEXUS Fulbright-García Robles Scholar, Campeche, Mexico, \$27600.  
1998 Wenner Gren Richard Carley Hunt Fellowship (Gr 6404), \$13,000.  
1995 National Geographic Society (5493-95), \$19650.  
1994 National Science Foundation Research Planning Grant (SBR-9408326), \$17,000.  
1994 H. John Heinz III Charitable Fund, \$8000.

## I. Professional Memberships and Service Activities

Society for American Archaeology  
American Anthropological Association  
Society for Historical Archaeology  
American Society for Ethnohistory  
Register of Professional Archaeologists  
Sigma Xi--Scientific Research Society

American Anthropological Association, Archaeology Division Secretary, 2006-2008  
Society for American Archaeology, Committee on the Americas, Member, 2003-2007  
Society for American Archaeology, Advisory Network Member, Committee on the Americas, 2000-2003  
Society for American Archaeology, Poster Judge at annual meeting, 2006, 2007  
Society for American Archaeology, Program Committee Member, 1999-2000  
American Society for Ethnohistory, Program Committee Member, 2004-2005  
Ancient Mesoamerica, editorial board member, 2001-present  
National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Panel, 2000, 2001  
American Association of University Women, American Fellowships Panel 2002  
Grant proposal peer review for National Science Foundation (Archaeology Program), Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, National Geographic Society.  
Manuscript reviews for *American Anthropologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Ancient Mesoamerica*, *Latin American Antiquity*, *Historical Archaeology*, *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, *Ethnohistory*, *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, *Revista Cuicuilco (ENAH, México)*, *Estudios de Cultura Maya (CEM-UNAM, México)*, *Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University*, *University of Florida Press*.