

GERARDO V. ALDANA

Curriculum Vitae - May 2007

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Address: Department of Chicana/o Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106
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Currently Assistant Professor, Department of Chicano Studies, University of California Santa Barbara
Research Interests: Mesoamerica, Hieroglyphic history, Techne Studies, Social Study of Science

EDUCATION:

Harvard University	Ph.D.	2001	History of Science
Harvard University	A.M.	2001	History of Science
University of California, Irvine	M.S.	1995	Mechanical Engineering
University of California, San Diego		1993	Courses in Cognitive Science
University of California, Berkeley	B.S.	1991	Mechanical Engineering

DISSERTATION:

"Oracular Science: Uncertainty in the History of Maya Astronomy, 500 – 1600"

Advisors: Owen Gingerich and William Fash

PUBLICATIONS:

2007 *The Apotheosis of Janaab' Pakal: Science, History, and Religion at Classic Maya Palenque.* University Press of Colorado, Boulder.

2006 "Vowel Disharmony, Mayan Hieroglyphic Writing, and Indigenous Education" in the Proceedings of WAIL, Department of Linguistics, UCSB.

2006 "Lunar Alliances: shedding light on conflicting Classic Maya theories of hegemony," in the proceedings of the Oxford VII Conference on Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture. Arizona State Museum, Tucson.

2005 "Agency and the 'Star War' Glyph: an Historical Reassessment of Classic Maya Astrology and Warfare". Forthcoming in *Ancient Mesoamerica*, 16:2.

2005 "Indigenous Cosmology," entry in the *Encyclopedia of religion, 2nd edition.* Lindsay Jones, editor in chief. Macmillan Reference, Detroit.

2004 "El trabajo del alma de Janahb Pakal: la cuenta de 819 días y la política de Kan Balam" in *IV Mesa Redonda de Palenque.* Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México, D.F.

2003 "K'uk'ulkan at Mayapan: Venus and Postclassic Maya Statecraft." In the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, xxxiv, pp. 33-51.

- 2003 "Ancient Communities of Time." Entry in *Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expressions*, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara.
- 2003 "El chicanismo del Imperio Clasico maya" in *NERTER*, nos. 5-6, pp. 43-48
- 2002 "Solar Stelae and a Venus Window: Science and Royal Personality in Late Classic Copán." In *Archaeoastronomy Supplement to the Journal for the History of Astronomy*, no. 27 (JHA, xxxiii(2002)), pp. S30-S50.
- 2002 "Review of *Skywatchers: A Revised and Updated Version of Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico*." *Society for Archaeological Sciences Bulletin*, Volume 25, no. 1.
- 2001 "K'in in the Hieroglyphic Record: Implications of a Pattern of Dates at Copán, Honduras." Feature article for the website of the Pre-Columbian Art Research Institute <http://www.mesoweb.com/features/aldana/implications.html>
- 2000 "Piedras del Sol y El Sacrificio de Venus: La Astronomía y la Política en Copán Durante el Clasico Tardio." In *Yaxk'in*, volume XIX.
- 1997 "A View of Andean Culture." Book review in *Archaeoastronomy Supplement to Journal for the History of Astronomy*, Number 22, p. S85.

PRESENTATIONS:

- 2007 "Maya Astronomy as an Oracular Science: Thoughts on the Philosophical Underpinnings of Indigenous Sciences," presented at the Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Austin.
- 2006 "¿Maya, Science, History? Interpreting Indigenous Intellectual Traditions," presented as a Department of History Colloquium, UCSB
- 2006 "Objectivity as the First WMD," presented at the Multicultural Alliances Conference, UCSB
- 2006 "Classic Maya Creation and the Nature of Deity: Re-considering Indigenous Epistemologies," presented at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2006 "Vowel Disharmony, Mayan Hieroglyphic Writing, and Indigenous Education: cultural catalysts and responsible ethnographic research," presented at the WAIL Conference, UCSB
- 2005 "Maya Creation and Astronomy" presented to the Archaeological Research Focus Group, UCSB
- 2005 with Che Sandoval, "Tlaminime, Naguales, and Chican@ Studies Doctoral Students: thoughts on the incipient Ph.D. program at UCSB," presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies.
- 2004 "Lunar Alliances: shedding light on conflicting Classic Maya theories of hegemony," presented at the Oxford VII Conference on Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture.
- 2004 "Homo ¿Sapiens?" keynote address for the UCSB LI/NSBE (Los Ingenieros/National Association of Black Engineers) graduation banquet.
- 2004 with Ian G. Robertson and Joshua Watts, "Individual Style and Obsidian Craft Production at Teotihuacan," presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology.
- 2003 "Indigenous Science: Exploring oracular epistemologies," presented to the IHC Research Focus Group on Religion and Nature.

2003 "Lunar Alliances: Conflicting Classic Maya Theories of Hegemony" given as part of the UCSB Department of Anthropology Pro-Seminar Series.

2003 "Organic Oracles: Maya Royal Blood as Metaphor and Ritual Science" presented at the "Looking Back/Looking Forward" joint Stanford-UC Berkeley conference on Latino Religion.

2003 Response to Anne Harrington's "Uneasy Alliances: The 'Faith Factor' in Medicine; the 'Health Factor' in Religion", response paper in the UCSB Science, Religion, and the Human Experience public lecture series.

2003 "Knappers, Workshops, and Technological Style at Teotihuacan, Mexico" (With Ian Robertson and Joshua Watts) given at the 2003 Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting.

2002 "Genealogies of Knowledge and Material Culture" presented to the Chicano/Latino IHC Research Group, UCSB

2002 "El trabajo del alma de Janahb Pakal: la cuenta de 819 días y la política de Kan Balam." A paper given at the IV Mesa Redonda de Palenque, June 18.

2002 "The End of Maya 'Star Wars': An historical reassessment of Classic-period Astrology and Warfare." Given at Arizona State University, 26 April.

2002 "Father and Son: Contrasting Styles of Statecraft at Classic Maya Copán." Given at Glendale Public Library to the Arizona Archaeological Society, Agua Fria Chapter, 9 April.

2002 "Oracular Science: An interpretation of the Classic Maya 819-day count." Given at Arizona State University, 24 January.

2002 "Mestizaje Before Malintzin: Art, Science, and Ethnic Identity in Classic Maya Politics." Given at UC Santa Barbara, 14 January.

2001 With William L. Fash. "Art, Astronomy, and Statecraft of Late Classic Copán." Presented at "Science, Art, and Religion in the Maya World" a conference at Copán, Honduras on 14 July.

2000 "The Solar Stelae of Copán Ruler 12 and the Calendar Correlation: New Takes on Old Problems." Paper delivered as part of The Bowditch Round Table Series of 2000-2001, Harvard University. 15 November.

2000 "(Re-)Creation in Classic Maya Times: Astronomerology and Secret Knowledge in Palenque's Royal Court." Paper delivered at the History of Science Society Annual Conference, Vancouver, B.C. 4 November.

2000 "Oracles in Stars and Stone: Excavating Astronomy from Maya Archaeology." Paper delivered to the Copán, Honduras archaeological community. 25 July.

1999 "Contrived Numbers at Palenque." Delivered to the International Laboratory for the History of Science, Max Planck Institute, Berlin. 23 June.

SOFTWARE:

2001 *Digital Aj K'in*. A computer program written for the Mayanist community as a research tool for the reconstruction of Maya dates.

2003 *LithicA*. A program for analyzing the scar characteristics of lithic artifacts.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING:

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astronomy, Cambridge, MA, Consultant (7/01 – 7/02). Consulted for an exhibit on Mesoamerican cosmology (“Cosmic Questions: our place in space and time” currently scheduled to open in the fall of 2002 at the Boston Museum of Science), including the translation and preparation of historical texts.

Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, Chicago, IL, Advisor (11/00 - 2/02). Consulted for the ancient Maya portion of an exhibit and planetarium show on world astronomies opening in 2002.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Society for American Archaeology

National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies

International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture

GRANTS AND AWARDS:

2005	UCCLR research travel funds	\$3,500
2004	UCMEXUS Small grant for travel	\$1,500
2003	UCSB Academic Senate Junior Faculty Research Incentive Award	\$5,000
2003	UCSB Center for Chicano Studies Research Grant	\$1,000
2003	UCSB Council on Research Award	\$4,020
2003	Charley Garcia Award, UCSB El Congreso	
1995- 2001	Harvard University Graduate Prize Fellowship.	
2000	Harvard University Bok Center Teaching Award	
1999	Max Planck Institute International Laboratory for the History of Science Junior Fellow	
1999	Real Colegio Complutense Summer Research Grant.	\$2,000
1999	David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Summer Field Research Travel Grant.	\$2,000
1998-1999	U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language/Area Studies Fellowship.	
1998	David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Summer Field Research Travel Grant.	\$2,000

VOLUNTEER WORK:

Huehuetlatolli, University of California, Santa Barbara (9/03-present). Co-director of an outreach program for elementary school students that combines the teaching of ancient indigenous knowledge with that of modern science.

Archaeological Research Institute, Arizona State University (9/01 - 8/02). Consultant for the reconstruction of the ArchNet website.

Concilio Latino, Harvard University (9/95 - 6/01). Board member of an organization committed to developing community amongst Latino students at Harvard.

W. E. B. DuBois Graduate Society, Harvard University (12/95 - 6/97). Steering Committee member of an organization dedicated to supporting minority students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School (9/96 - 6/97). Math and Science Tutor.

WMEP, University of California, Irvine (9/93 - 6/95). Tutored students in the Women and Minority Engineering Program and wrote articles for the monthly newsletter.

Nature Conservancy (6/94). Assisted in a biological field study of the Santa Cruz Island Fox.

Berkeley High School (8/88 - 6/91). Math and Science Tutor.

Hispanic Engineers and Scientists, University of California, Berkeley (8/86 - 6/91). Member of various committees organizing events intended to encourage inner-city minority students to pursue educations in engineering and science.

TRAVEL:

Continental United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Canada, Germany, France, Spain.

LANGUAGES:

Spanish, French, Hieroglyphic Mayan, Latin
PHP, HTML

Java, Fortran, C, Visual Basic, Perl, Tcl,