

Bret Blosser

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Education

Ph.D., Tulane University, Department of Anthropology, expected completion
2004

M.A., Tulane University, Department of Anthropology, 1993

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Anthropology, 1970
Major: Anthropology

Academic and Professional Teaching Positions

2000, Organized a workshop on Oceanic ethnobotany, Camp Keanae, Maui,
Hawaii.

1997-present, Sierra Institute, University of California, Santa Cruz
Instructor: Colorado Plateau Field Studies: Native American Culture and
Prehistory, a mobile field quarter taught in Utah, Arizona, and New
Mexico.

1991, Developed and taught field courses in Amazon ethnobotany, Jatun Sacha
Biological Station, Rio Napo, Ecuador.

1987-1992, University of California, Santa Cruz, Sierra Institute
Instructor: Rainforest Field Program, a mobile field quarter taught in
Guatemala and Belize.

1980-1990, Colorado Outward Bound School, Denver, Colorado
Instructor: Canyonlands National Park and adjacent wildlands, Utah.

1984-1987, Santa Fe Mountain Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Instructor: wilderness expeditions for youth-at-risk.

Research

Huichol ceremonial practice, religious syncretism, and ritual landscape in Jalisco,
Mexico, 1992-2001

Mazatec medicinal ethnobotany in Sierra Mazateca, Oaxaca, Mexico, occasional
visits from 1985 to 2000

African-American "Indians" in New Orleans, Louisiana: dance, verbal arts, and
visual arts, 1993-1997

African-American Social and Pleasure Clubs in New Orleans, Louisiana:
parades, jazz funerals, music, and identity, 1993-1997

Presentations

"Music, massage, sweeping, and peyote: two *curanderos'* methods and disease
concepts in 18th century Mexico," American Anthropological Society
meeting, New Orleans, 2002.

"Because they helped the Christians, and went fighting everywhere, by the force
of their lives and the spilling of blood": the political leverage of *flechero*
service on a Nueva Galicia frontier, 1561 to 1774," American Society for
Ethnohistory meeting, Quebec, 2002

- "He saw a snake who told him: 'Turn your eyes and see your wife': divination in colonial Mexico, 1622 to 1737," American Society for Ethnohistory meeting, Tucson, 2001
- "Transmission of entheogen-based healing practices from Indians to Afro-Mexicans and Hispanic-Mexicans in central Mexico, 1658 to 1737," Society of Ethnobiology meeting, Durango, Colorado, 2001
- "*Solandra guttata* in Huichol religion," Ethnobotany Study Group presentation, Tulane University, 1996

Publications

- "Because they helped the Christians, and went fighting everywhere, by the force of their lives and the spilling of blood": *flechero* service and political leverage on a Nueva Galicia frontier. (in press in an edited volume, 2004)
- "Alternative Constructions of Religious Expertise in a Huichol Community," report posted on the website of Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc., www.famsi.org/reports/blosser, 2002.
- "Black Drink, Mothers' Milk, and Other Active Substances," *Human Mosaic*, vol. 30 no. 1 and 2, 1997.
- "Embodiment and Human Sacrifice in the Borgia Group Manuscripts," *Human Mosaic*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 54-92, 1994.
- "The Mardi Gras Indians," *Human Mosaic*, vol. 27, no. 1 and 2, pp. 7-18, 1993.
- Review of Doris Heyden's translation of *The History of the Indies of New Spain* by Fray Diego Duran, *Human Mosaic*, Vol. 31, no. 2, 1998.
- Review of *Images from the Underworld* by Andrea Stone, *Human Mosaic*, vol. 31, no. 2, 1998.
- Review of *Ethnobotany of the Waimiri Atroari Indians of Brazil* by William Milliken, et al., *Journal of Ethnobiology*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 122-124, Summer 1994.

Grants and Awards

- American Society for Ethnohistory Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2002
- American Society for Ethnohistory Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2001
- Mesoamerican Ethnohistory Fund research grants, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University, 1998, 1999, and 2000
- Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies grant in support of dissertation fieldwork on Huichol religion, Jalisco, Mexico, 1996
- Mellon Foundation grant to support fieldwork on the relationship between Huichol Native Americans and Mexican Gray Wolves, Jalisco, Mexico, 1996
- Tulane University Graduate School Tuition Scholarship, 1992-1995
- Tulane University Graduate School Research Assistantship, 1992-1995
- Tulane University Graduate School Fellowship, 1992-1995
- Graduate Student Support Fund Grant for establishing affiliations with Mexican institutions for dissertation fieldwork, 1994
- Graduate Student Support Fund Grant for preliminary fieldwork in Huichol Sierra, Mexico, 1993
- Louisiana Anthropology Fund Grant-in-Aid for fieldwork with the African-American "Indians" of New Orleans, Louisiana, 1992

Community Development Grants

The Landmarks Foundation grant to support stabilization of historic church building in the Huichol community of Santa Catarina, Jalisco, 1999
Rex Foundation Grant to support locally-initiated community development projects for the Huichol community of Las Latas, Jalisco, Mexico, 1993
Rex Foundation Grant to provide scholarships for Maya students from Todos Santos Cuchumatán, Guatemala, 1993

Memberships

American Anthropological Society
American Ethnological Society
American Society for Ethnohistory
Society of Ethnobotanists

Languages

Spanish, French (reading), Huichol (rudimentary)

References

Professional references from employer, university, and community development foundations with which I have partnered upon request.