

William J. Robertson

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EDUCATION

PhD, Anthropology (2021)	University of Arizona
Concentration: Medical Anthropology	Major Advisors: Susan J. Shaw & Eric Plemons
Minor: Gender & Women's Studies	Minor Advisor: Susan Stryker
MA, Anthropology (2013)	The University of Texas at San Antonio
	Advisor: K. Jill Fleuriet
BA, Anthropology (2010)	The University of Texas at San Antonio

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
 University of Memphis

AREAS OF INTEREST

Medical anthropology; anthropology of care; queer and trans anthropology; the body and embodiment; risk; conceptualizations and practices of biomedical research (e.g., clinical trials, experimentation); medical education, training, specialization, and expertise; clinical ethnography; social science of human papillomavirus (HPV); science and technology studies; health disparities; science, medicine, and popular culture; teaching and pedagogy; culture theory; qualitative social science methodology

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

- Robertson, William J. 2020. A Tale of Two Shitties: Extreme Examples of Professional Habitus from an Anal Cancer Prevention Clinic. *Journal of Extreme Anthropology* 4(2): 20-41.
- Robertson, William J. 2017. "Believe It or Not": The Medical Framing of Rectal Foreign Bodies. *Culture, Health, and Sexuality* 19(8): 815-828. doi: 10.1080/13691058.2016.1263874.
- Robertson, William J. 2017. The Irrelevance Narrative: Queer (In)Visibility in Biomedical Education. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 31(2): 159-176. doi: 10.1111/maq.12289.

Non-Reviewed

- Robertson, William J. 2019. Challenging heteronormativity in medicine. In *Routledge Handbook of the Medical Humanities*, ed. Alan Bleakley. London: Routledge. Chapter 8: 105-113.
- Robertson, William J. 2016. Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome. In *The Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*, ed. Nancy Naples. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell. doi: 10.1002/9781118663219.wbegss622.
- Robertson, William J. 2013. Queering Biomedicine: Culture and (In)Visibility in a Medical School. Master's Thesis. (Chair: K. Jill Fleuriet; Members: Michael L. Cepek, Jamon Halvaksz, and Craig Klugman)
- Robertson, William J. 2013. Medical Authority and Queer Health Disparities. *Anthropologies* 17 (March).
- Robertson, William J. 2012. "It's the revolution!" Queer Liberation and Anthropological Inquiry. *SfAA News: A Publication of the Society for Applied Anthropology* 23(3): 26-27.

Book Reviews

Robertson, William J. 2017. Mythbusting Bodies, Genders, and Sexualities (review of *50 Great Myths of Human Sexuality* by Schwartz & Kempner 2015). *Anthropology Book Forum*.
<http://journals.sfu.ca/abf/index.php/abf/article/download/97/101>

Robertson, William J. 2017. Media, Medicine, Citizen, Capital: Theorizing the Production of Health and Disease (review of *Making Health Public* by Briggs & Hallin 2016). *Anthropology Book Forum* 3(1).

Other Publications

Robertson, Will. 2014. Learning to Teach Anthropology. Invited Guest Post. Teaching Culture blog. University of Toronto Press. Online: <http://www.utpteachingculture.com/learning-to-teach-anthropology/>

In Preparation

Fleuriet, K. Jill, Carla Pezzia, Milena Melo, and **William J. Robertson**. Borders, Language, and Health. Invited peer-reviewed chapter for *The Handbook of Language, Health, and Healthcare*, eds. Glenn Martinez & Pilar Ortega.

TEACHING: Courses Taught

Undergraduate Courses

The University of Memphis

Department of Anthropology
Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2021)
Culture/Kin/Family (Fall 2021)

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Honors College
Dungeons & Dragons: An Academic Adventure (2 sections, Fall 2020)
Risk, Society, and Culture (Independent Study, Fall 2020)
Social Justice in American Medicine (Independent Study, Spring 2020)
The Civic Ethos (1 credit hour; 1 section Fall 2019, 8 sections Spring 2020)
Tutorial I: Justice (2 sections, Fall 2019)

Department of Anthropology
Anthropology of Biomedicine (Fall 2017)
Sex, Gender, and Culture (Summer 2014)
Kinship and Social Organization (Spring 2014)
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2014)
Introduction to (Four-Field) Anthropology (Fall 2013)
Language, Thought, and Culture (2 sections, Fall 2012)

The University of Arizona

School of Anthropology
Women's Health in Global Perspective (Summer 2017, 2018)

TEACHING: Student Mentoring

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee

Current

Iglesias, Enrique (UTSA Honors College). "Minority Medical Students and US Medical School Curricula" (Chair)

Other Mentoring Activities

Past

Paredes, Daisy (UTSA Honors College). Summer 2020 McNair Scholars Program.

TEACHING: Other Teaching Activities

Pathway to the Health Professions (UTSA) (Summer 2016, 2017) - Taught anthropology to high school students and first-year college students to help prepare for socially responsible practices in health careers (Funded by Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP) through US Department of Health and Human Services).

GRANTS

Awarded (Research)

- 2019 University of Arizona GPSC Research and Project (ReaP) Grant. Award: \$1,000.
2018 The Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. Project Title: "Screening Sex: An Ethnography of an Anal Dysplasia Clinic." Award: \$19,980.

Awarded (Travel)

- 2019 Traditions, Transitions, and Treasures Fund, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. \$700.
2019 University of Arizona Women's Studies Advisory Council (WOSAC) Travel Grant. \$500.
2019 University of Arizona GPSC Travel Grant. \$750.
2017 University of Arizona GPSC Travel Grant. \$750.
2016 University of Arizona GPSC Travel Grant. \$750.

Attempted

- 2017-2018 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant – Cultural Anthropology Program. Submitted 3 times, ranked: (1) Not Competitive, Needs Serious Revision; (2) Not Competitive, Needs Moderate Revision; (3) Competitive (not funded).
2017- 2018 Agency for Healthcare Research Quality (AHRQ) R36 Dissertation Grant. Submitted 2 times: (1) unscored, not discussed; (2) scored 46, referred for Council Review (not funded)
2017 The Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. Submitted 2 times: (1) round 1 elimination, not referred for further review; (2) round 2 elimination, full review.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 Andrew William Amann, Jr. Dissertation Award. School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. \$10,000.
2019 Summer Dissertation Fellowship, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona. \$6,000.
2019 Graduate College Fellowship (spring semester). University of Arizona. \$2,500.
2015 Emil W. Haury Educational Fund Scholarship. School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. \$500.
2014 50 Best Cultural Anthropology Dissertations 2013. Anthropologyworks. Culture in Global Affairs Research and Policy Program at the George Washington University.
2013 University Graduate Student Teaching Award (Departmental nomination, university-wide award). UTSA.
2012 The Meritorious Achievement Award for Graduate Students in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, UTSA. \$1,000.
2010 First Place, Undergraduate Research Paper. COLFA Spring Research Conference. UTSA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Principal Investigator (June 2018 – May 2019)

Dissertation Research

- Designed and carried out ethnographic project at Anal Dysplasia Clinic-MidWest in Chicago, IL, USA. Conducted participant observation, semi-structured in-depth interviews and unstructured informal interviews, and focus groups. Collected, processed, and analyzed all data for project.

Research Assistant (June 2018 – May 2019)

The ANCHOR Study (Anal Cancer HSIL Outcomes Research Clinical Trial)

- National PI: Joel Palefsky (UCSF)
- Site PI: Gary Bucher, MD
- Location: Anal Dysplasia Clinic – MidWest (ADC-MidWest), Chicago, IL, USA

- Responsibilities: administering informed consent to participants, medical assisting with participant exams, specimen processing, data entry, retention outreach
- Project Website: <http://www.anchorstudy.org/>

Graduate Research Assistant – Qualitative Data Manager (August 2014 – December 2016)

RxHL: Medical Adherence, Health Literacy, and Cultural Health Beliefs in a Massachusetts Community Health Center (NIH Award Number R01HL120907)

- PI: Susan J. Shaw
- Location: Tucson, AZ, USA
- Responsibilities: qualitative data management; qualitative data transcription and analysis (coding in Atlas.ti); maintenance of project EndNote database; supervising undergraduate interns
- Project Website: <http://rxhl.arizona.edu>

Research Assistant/Coordinator (December 2011 – May 2013)

Qualitative Examination of LGBT Physician and Medical Student Experiences

- PI: Craig Klugman
- Location: San Antonio, TX, USA
- Responsibilities: assisting with IRB paperwork; preparing, conducting, and transcribing interviews, recruiting participants; analyzing interview transcripts using grounded theory

PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS

Conference Session Organization

- 2021 Responsibility, Risk, and Care. Session Co-Chair, Co-Organizer with Daisy Paredes (UTSA). AAA Meeting. Baltimore, MD. (*Re-submitted from canceled 2020 AAA conference.*)
- 2020 Responsibility, Risk, and Care. Session Co-Chair, Co-Organizer with Daisy Paredes (UTSA). AAA Meeting. St. Louis, MO. (*Conference cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.*)
- 2019 Humor, Health, and Medicine. Session Chair, Co-Organizer with J. M. Reid (UTSA). AAA Meeting. Vancouver, BC. (Presenters: William Robertson, J. M. Reid, Cora Bender, Rafael Wainer, Alex Chen, and Pierre H. Minn)
- 2016 Somatechnics of HPV. Session Chair, Co-Organizer with Nolan Kline. AAA Meeting. Minneapolis, MN. (Presenters: Nolan Kline & William Robertson, Thando Malambo, Kathryn Cox, Matthew R. Dudgeon, and Cristina A. Pop.)
- 2015 Borders, Bodies, and Health: A Medical Anthropological View. Session Chair and Organizer. Open Embodiments Conference. Tucson, AZ. (Presenters: Heide Castañeda, K. Jill Fleuriet, Nolan Kline, and Milena Melo.)

Paper Presentations

- 2020 Caring About/Caring For: Theories of Care from a Clinical Trial. SfAA Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM. (*Conference cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.*)
- 2019 The Butt of the Joke: Humor at an Anal Dysplasia Clinic. AAA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC.
- 2016 (With Nolan Kline) A Call for a Medical Anthropology of Human Papillomavirus. AAA Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2016 “Believe It or Not”: The Medical Framing of Rectal Foreign Bodies. Queer(ing) Arizona: A Graduate Student Conference. Tucson, AZ.
- 2014 The Irrelevance Narrative: Queer (In)Visibility in Medical Education and Practice. AAA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2010 Queer Pop: Heteronormativity and Queer Commodification in American Popular Culture. College of Liberal and Fine Arts (COLFA) Spring Research Conference, UTSA, San Antonio, TX.

Poster Presentations

- 2019 The Syndemic of HPV-related Anal Disease and Environments of Risk Among HIV+ Transgender Women. Co-authors: Noah Goss, PAC, and Gary Bucher, MD. SFAA Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- 2016 (Presented by Dina Gavriilyuk) Medication Adherence, Health Literacy, and Cultural Beliefs (RxHL) Study. UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Symposium, Worcester, MA.
- 2015 (With Amanda Jean Hilton) The Burden of Cost: A Mixed- Methods Approach to Exploring Ethnic Differences in Cost as a Barrier to Medication Adherence. AAA Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2014 (Presented by Susan J. Shaw) RxHL: Medication Beliefs, Adherence, and Health Literacy in a Massachusetts Community Health Center. 6th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference, Bethesda, MD.
- 2012 Heteronormative Biomedicine: LGBT Experiences in Medical Environments. Faces of Health: Rowdy Wellness Week. Hosted by Health Education Department of Student Health Services, UTSA, San Antonio, TX.

Discussion Panels

- 2014 Science of Group Differences; Bullying and the Bystander (Moderator); The Intersections of Sciences and Humanities; Good Food, Bad Food; and LGBTQ Identities. CONvergence, Minneapolis, MN. July 4-6.
- 2014 Gender Identity and Expression: Equality and Inclusion on Campus. Women's History Month, UTSA, San Antonio, TX. March 18.
- 2014 Teaching Un(der)prepared Students. Anthropology Teaching Forum, UTSA, San Antonio, TX. Feb 19.
- 2013 Queer Rights Beyond Marriage. GLBTQ of UTSA (student org). UTSA, San Antonio, TX. Oct 21.
- 2013 *Spring Awakening* Talk Back. Discussant with cast. The Playhouse, San Antonio, TX. June 7.
- 2013 *Spring Awakening* Education Night. Post-show panel discussant. The Playhouse, San Antonio, TX. May 18.
- 2013 Personal Perspectives on Queer Culture. LGBT Graduate Student Symposium. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. April 10.
- 2012 Faces of Health. Rowdy Wellness Week Research Discussion Panel. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. April 5.

Invited Talks

- 2021 Medical Education as Socialization. The Pre-Medical Society at UTSA. Feb. 9.
- 2016 Screening Sex: Enacting HPV Through Gender and Sexuality. Deep Dish, Institute for LGBT Studies, UA. Tucson, AZ. Oct. 27.
- 2016 Queer Disclosure: Identity, Biopolitics, and Medical Practice. Bihl Haus Arts. San Antonio, Texas. June 11.
- 2015 Gender Words, Gender Norms: How Language and Culture Shape Doing Gender. Oslo Pride. Oslo, Norway. June 21.
- 2014 On Silence: Oppression and Liberation. GLBTQ of UTSA (student organization). UTSA, San Antonio, TX. April 17.
- 2013 Queer Health Disparities. LGBT Graduate Student Symposium. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. April 10.

Invited Workshops

- 2016 Teaching Anthropology, Society for Cultural Anthropology Student-Faculty Workshop, run by Angela Jenks and Leah Zani. Annual AAA Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. November 19.

Guest Lectures

- 2019 Introduction to Transgender Issues. Sex, Gender & Culture. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. June 7.
- 2014 Sex: A Biocultural Approach. Forensic Anthropology. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. February 19.
- 2013 Queering Biomedicine. Queer Studies. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. October 11.
- 2013 Heteronormativity in Medical Education. Medical Anthropology. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. April 16.
- 2012 Heteronormative Biomedicine. Queer Studies. UTSA, San Antonio, TX. September 19.

SERVICE

Scholarly

Editorial Board: *Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (2015-2016)

Peer Reviewer: *Social Science & Medicine*; *Medicine Anthropology Theory*; *Journal of Extreme Anthropology*; *Sexuality & Culture*;
Student Anthropologist: The Journal of the National Association of Student Anthropologists.

University

- 2019 Graduate & Professional Student Council (GPSC) Grant Reviewer, Spring 2019. University of Arizona.
- 2017 Graduate & Professional Student Council (GPSC) Grant Reviewer, Spring 2017. University of Arizona.
- 2016 Award Committee, Inclusive Excellence Awards. University of Arizona.
- 2016 Steering Committee, Queer(ing) Arizona: A Graduate Student Conference. University of Arizona.
- 2015-2016 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Representative, Graduate & Professional Student Council (GPSC), University of Arizona.
- 2015-2016 Five-Year Review Committee for Dean of SBS, Graduate Student Member. University of Arizona.
- 2015-2016 Search Committee for Vice Provost of Diversity and Inclusion, Graduate Student Member. University of Arizona.
- 2015 Graduate & Professional Student Council (GPSC) Travel Grant Judge, Fall 2015. University of Arizona.
- 2015 Graduate Mentor, Summer Research Institute, University of Arizona.
- 2014 Mentor, LGBT Mentoring Program, University of Arizona.

Departmental

- 2012-2013 Service Committee Chair, Anthropology Graduate Student Association of UTSA.
- 2011-2012 Service Committee Member, Anthropology Graduate Student Association of UTSA.
- 2011-2013 Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Mentor Program. Sponsored by Service Committee of AGSA of UTSA.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Associations

American Anthropological Association; Society for Applied Anthropology; American Association for the History of Medicine

Special Interest Groups

Society for Medical Anthropology; Association for Queer Anthropology; Association of Feminist Anthropologists; Society for the Anthropology of North America; National Association of Student Anthropologists; Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA) of UTSA (2011-2013); Anthropology Teaching Forum (ATF) of UTSA (2012-2014)

Last Updated: August 2021