

## Keitlyn Alcantara

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**Research Interests:** *Food Sovereignty, Decolonial Anthropology, Community-based research, Bioarchaeology, Late Postclassic Mexico, Colonial Latin America, Foodways, Immigration, Latinx Diaspora*

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### Academic Appointment

2020-Present      **Indiana University**, Bloomington (Bloomington, IN)  
Assistant Professor, Anthropology

### Education:

2013–2020      **Vanderbilt University** | Ph.D. | Anthropology (Bioarchaeology)  
*Dissertation Committee:* Tiffany Tung (Chair), William Fowler, Carwil Bjork-James, Edward Wright-Rios.

2013–2019      **Vanderbilt University** | Graduate Certificate | Center for Latin American Studies

2016–2017      **Vanderbilt University** | Graduate Certificate | College Teaching

2012–2013      **George Washington University** | Graduate Certificate | Forensic Science

2010–2011      **The University of Chicago** | M.A. | Social Science (Bioarchaeology)  
*Faculty Advisor:* Maria Cecilia Lozada, *Preceptor:* Rebecca Graff

2005–2008      **The University of Washington** | B.A. | Anthropology (Archaeology)

### Early Career Grants/Awards:

2021-2022      **Indiana Studies Research Award: Racial Justice in Indiana.** Awarded for the “Restorative Foodways Project”. Platform: An Arts and Humanities Research Laboratory, with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

2021      **Global Community Engaged Learning Course Development Institute.** Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

### Doctoral Grants/Awards:

2020      **Professional Development Grant.** Vanderbilt University Department of Anthropology

2019      **Engaged Anthropology Grant.** Gr-EAG-150 “Food and Resistance in Ancient and Contemporary Tlaxcala”. Wenner Gren Foundation.

2019      **Orgullo Hispano Award.** Conexión Américas. Nashville, TN.

2019      **Thomas Marchione Food as a Human Right Student Award.** Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition.

2019      **Southern Foodways Alliance Writing Workshop.** Southern Foodways Alliance. Taylor, Mississippi.

- 2019 **Graduate Student Summer Residency.** “Objects and Places in an Inquiry-based Classroom: Teaching, learning and research in the humanities.” National Humanities Center. Research Triangle Park, NC.
- 2019 **The OpEd Project Scholarship.** Vanderbilt University Margaret Cuningghim Women’s Center.
- 2019 **Russell G. Hamilton Graduate Leadership Institute Dissertation Enhancement Grant.** Vanderbilt University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Nashville, TN.
- 2019 **Russell G. Hamilton Graduate Leadership Institute Travel Grant.** Vanderbilt University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Nashville, TN.
- 2019 **Publicly Active Graduate Education (PAGE) Co-Directorship and National Advisory Board Member.** Imagining America.
- 2018 **Publicly Active Graduate Education Fellowship.** Imagining America.
- 2018 **Award for Engaged Anthropology.** Vanderbilt University Department of Anthropology
- 2018 **Department Research Grant.** Vanderbilt University Department of Anthropology.
- 2017 **Public Scholar Fellowship** The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy. Vanderbilt University.
- 2017 **Dissertation Fieldwork Grant.** The Wenner-Gren Foundation.
- 2017 **Summer Research Award.** Vanderbilt University Department of Anthropology.
- 2017 **Summer Research Award.** Vanderbilt University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
- 2016 **Fulbright-García Robles Research Grant,** Mexico. Fulbright.
- 2015 **Summer Research Award.** Vanderbilt University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
- 2014 **Field Research Grant** Vanderbilt University Center for Latin American Studies. Nashville, TN.
- 2013–2018 **Provost Graduate Fellowship.** Vanderbilt University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Nashville, TN.
- 2013 **Anthropology Alliance Summer Fieldwork Internship.** The Field Museum. Chicago, IL.
- 2011 **Minority Intern Scholarship.** Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Washington, DC.

## **Publications:**

### **Peer Reviewed Publications:**

- 2021 Carballo, David M. **K. Alcantara**, A. López Corral. Archaeological Perspectives on the Spanish-Aztec War on its Quincentennial. *The SAA Archaeological Record* Vo. 21, Num. 3, p. 19-28.

- 2020 Bravo-López, M., V. Villas-Islas, C. Rocha-Arriaga, A. Villaseñor-Altamirano, A. Guzmán Solís, M. Sandoval-Velasco, **K. Alcántara**, J. Gomez-Valdez, A. Herrera, E. Mejía, A. Meraz-Moreno, M. Moreno-Cabrera, A. Moreno-Estrada, M. Nieves Colon, J. Olvera, J. Pérez-Pérez, K. Højholt-Iversen, S. Rasmussen, K. Sandoval-Mendoza, J. Wesp, G. Zepeda, M. Ávila-Arcos. "Paleogenomic insights into the red complex bacteria *Tannerella forsythia* in Pre-Hispanic and Colonial individuals from Mexico." *Philosophical Transactions B*, 375(1812):20190580
- 2013 Ubelaker, DH, I Pap and **KE Alcántara-Russell**. "Skeletal Evidence for Morbidity and Mortality in Samples from Northeastern Hungary Dating from the 10th Century A.D." *Anthropologie*, XLIX/2:171-183.
- 2012 Ubelaker, DH and **KE Alcántara-Russell**. "Post-Conquest Demographic Collapse." In: Oxford Bibliographies Online: Latin American Studies.

### Book Chapters

- 2020 **Alcantara, K.** Antropología Física en Contextos Arqueológicos. In: *Aportes a la Comprensión del Comportamiento Humano*, Verónica Reyes-Meza, J. Martín Castro-Manzano, Luis Villaseñor-Pineda (Eds.). Colección: Ética y Sociedad, Editorial Aula de Humanidades: Tlaxcala, Mexico.

### Publications in Process:

- 2021 (expected) López Corral, A., **K. Alcántara**, R. Santacruz Cano. "Identidad Guerrera en Tlaxcala Posclásico Tardío". *In Preparation*.
- 2021 (expected) Alcántara, K. "Wrinkled Time: A Model for A Bioarchaeology of the Present". *In preparation*.

### Book Reviews

- 2021 (In Press) Alcántara, K. 2021. Review Essay: Not Lost But Found- Rebuilding Relations and Reclaiming Indigenous Food Systems. *Nature and Culture* Vol. 16, Issue 3: 110-118.
- 2020 Alcántara, K. 2020. Review of *Bioarchaeology of Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, Edited by Cathy Willermet and Andrea Cucina. *Hispanic American Historical Review*. Vol. 100 no. 1.

### Dissertation & Theses

- 2020 Alcántara, K. Diets of Sovereignty: Bioarchaeology in Tlaxcallan. Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University.

- 2011 Alcantara-Russell, K. Renditions of Remains: The implications of an archaeologically reconstructed identity, a case study in Mexico. M.A. Thesis, Master of Arts Program in Social Sciences, University of Chicago.

### Technical Reports

- 2018 Alcantara, K. Informe de análisis de paleodieta de los entierros de Tepeticpac, Tlaxcala, Operación 3 y 13. INAH Tlaxcala.
- 2017 Alcantara, K. Proyecto “Una dieta de soberanía: Bioarqueología en Cholula y Tlaxcallan Posclásica. Informe del análisis de laboratorio de los entierros de Cholula”. Dirección de Antropología Física, INAH.
- 2017 Alcantara, K. Proyecto Arqueológico Tepeticpac, Informe de la cuarta temporada de campo: Análisis de entierros. INAH Tlaxcala.

### Popular Media Publications

- 2021 Alcantara, K. “In Search of Wholeness: How the Healing Garden Began”. June 18, 2021. <https://www.healinggardeniub.com/post/in-search-of-wholeness-how-the-healing-garden-began>
- 2020 Alcantara, K. “Tamaleando en Tennessee”. Bitter Southerner. July 21, 2020. <https://bittersoutherner.com/2020/tamaleando-en-tennessee>
- 2019 Alcantara, K. “Betwixt and Between the Sexes in Bioarchaeology”. Queer Archaeology. February 3, 2019. <https://queerarchaeology.com/2019/02/03/betwixt-and-between-the-sexes-in-bioarchaeology/>
- 2018 Alcantara, K. “Seasoning with Defiance: Cooking as Community Building”. September 27, 2018. PAGE Blog Salon. <https://imaginingamerica.org/2018/09/27/seasoning-with-defiance-cooking-as-community-building/>

### Conferences and Presentations:

- 2021
- 2020 **Alcantara, K.** La Comida Como Resistencia: Integrando El Pasado y El Presente. Hablando de Huesos: Conversaciones en Tiempo de Pandemia. Bioarqueología Mexico, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.
- 2020 **Alcantara, K.** Recipes of Belonging: Adapting What Our Ancestors Gave Us. Indigenous Archaeology & Community Engaged Research in the Americas. Boston University, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- 2020 **Alcantara, K.,** D. Sung, Mali Collins, I. Soto. Publicly Active Graduate Education. Symposium on Community Engagement: Transforming Graduate Education in the Humanities. UC Merced, Sept. 11, 2020.
- 2019 **Alcantara, KE** and Romo D. El Mundo Zurdo: Food, Belonging and Community. 20<sup>th</sup> annual National Gathering of Imagining America. Albuquerque, NM, October 18-20, 2019.

- 2019 **Alcantara, KE** and Carpenter L. (Forum moderators). Building Foundations for Sustained Community Archaeology. 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology. Albuquerque, NM, April 10-14, 2019.
- 2019 **Alcantara, KE**. Ingredients for Resistance: Foodways in Prehispanic and Colonial Tlaxcallan. 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology. Albuquerque, NM, April 10-14, 2019.
- 2018 **Alcantara KE**. Bodies in Resistance: Bioarchaeology as a tool of public engagement with Nashville Latinx youth. 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Jose, CA, November 14-18, 2018.
- 2018 **Alcantara, KE**. The Meals that Bind. Imagining America National Gathering, Chicago IL Oct 19-21.
- 2018 **Alcantara KE**. Conquering Aztecs and Resisting Tlaxcaltecas: The Body as a site of Creating and Challenging State Narratives. 84<sup>th</sup> annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C., April 11-15, 2018.
- 2017 **Alcantara KE**. 'Eating locally' in Tlaxcallan: the impacts of political economy on Postclassic diets. 82<sup>nd</sup> annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, BC, March 29- April 2, 2017.
- 2016 **Alcantara KE**. Dieta y Resistencia: El Caso de Tlaxcala. 1er Coloquio de Bioarqueología. November 29- December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Museo del Templo Mayor, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2016 **Alcantara KE**. Ser Tlaxcalteca en el Posclásico. Diplomado en Antropología e Historia de Tlaxcala. INAH, Tlaxcala, Mexico.
- 2016 **Alcantara KE**, Fargher LF, Lopez Corral A, Millhauser JK, Heredia Espinoza V. Burial Distribution as a Reflection of Social Organization in Late Postclassic Tlaxcallan. 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, FL, April 6-10, 2016.

### **Research Experience:**

- 2017-2020 **Lab Dissertation Project Director**. "Diets of Sovereignty" Dissertation Research. Vanderbilt University Bioarchaeology and Isotope Research Laboratory. Nashville, TN.
- 2016-2017 **Bioarchaeology Lab Director**. Proyecto Arqueológico Tepeticpac. INAH Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala, Mexico.
- 2015-present **Lab Assistant**. Vanderbilt University Bioarchaeology and Isotope Research Laboratory. Nashville, TN.
- 2015-2016 **Editorial Assistant**. Dr. William R. Fowler, Editor, *Ancient Mesoamerica*. Nashville, TN.
- 2011-2013 **Contract Research Assistant**. Dr. Douglas H. Ubelaker, Department of Physical Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. Washington, D.C.

### **Teaching**

Fall 2021	<b>ANTH A107 "Becoming Human"</b> . Indiana University – Bloomington, Department of Anthropology.
	<b>ANTH A525 "Community Based Research"</b> . Indiana University-Bloomington, Department of Anthropology.
Fall 2020	<b>ANTH P380 "Prehistoric Diet and Nutrition"</b> . Indiana University-Bloomington, Department of Anthropology.
Spring 2020	<b>ANTH 3890 "Food and the Body"</b> . Vanderbilt University Department of Anthropology.
Fall 2019	<b>ANTH 2227 "Food in the Ancient World"</b> . Vanderbilt University Department of Anthropology.
Fall 2017	<b>ANTH 3372 "Human Osteology"</b> . Vanderbilt University Department of Anthropology.

#### Public and Guest Lectures

2020	<b>Workshop Instructor.</b> "Tacos de Jamaica". AMEXTRA. Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020.
2020	<b>Speaker.</b> Indiana University Food Institute Seminar Series: Food and (anti)Race(ism). Oct. 30, 2020.
2020	<b>Speaker.</b> "Día de los Muertos: Ancient origins, modern interpretations". La Casa Culture Center at Indiana University Day of the Dead Celebration, October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020.
2020	<b>Workshop Instructor.</b> "Roots of Southern Cooking". Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. February 6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2020. Nashville, TN.
2019	<b>Workshop Instructor.</b> "Día de los Muertos". Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. October 29, 2019. Nashville, TN.
2019	<b>Workshop Instructor.</b> "Lets Eat!: Origins and Evolutions of Tennessee Food". October 24, 2019. Tennessee State Museum.
2019	<b>Panelist.</b> "Migration Narratives: New Fiction and Nashville Stories". Southern Festival of Books, October 13-15, 2019. Nashville, TN.
2019	<b>Panelist.</b> "In Conversation: A Q&A about food, heritage and culture". September 21, 2019. Tennessee State Museum.
2018-2019	<b>Instructor, Bioarchaeology.</b> "Keys to the Past: Bioarchaeology and the Skeleton" Nov. 2018, February 2019. Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth.
2019	<b>Guest Lecturer, ANTH 1301.</b> "Forensic Anthropology, Identity and Race". Intro to Biological Anthropology. Vanderbilt University.
2019	<b>Guest Lecturer, ANTH 1301.</b> "Intro to Primates". Intro to Biological Anthropology. Vanderbilt University.
2018	<b>Speaker.</b> "Día de los Muertos: Ancient origins, modern interpretations". Cheekwood and Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies Day of the Dead Workshop, October 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2018.
2018	<b>Guest Lecturer, ANTH 3343.</b> "Race and Forensic Anthropology". Biology and Culture of Race. Vanderbilt University.
2018	<b>Guest Lecturer, ANTH 3343.</b> "Social Inequality and Health". Biology and Culture of Race. Vanderbilt University.

- 2018 **Bioarchaeology.** SAVY session 1, VSA session 2. Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth.
- 2017 **Bioarchaeology.** Vanderbilt Summer Academy sessions 1-3. Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth.
- 2013-2018 **Teaching Assistant.** Human Osteology, The Aztecs, Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology, Introduction to Biological Anthropology, The Biology and Culture of Race. Vanderbilt University.

### **Public Scholarship:**

- 2021-present **Founder.** The Healing Garden at Hilltop Gardens.  
www.healinggardeniub.com
- 2017-2020 **Sazón Nashville, Creator and Director.** Nashville, TN.  
www.sazonnashville.com
- 2019-2021 **Imagining America National Advisory Board and Executive Committee Member.** Imagining America.
- 2019-2021 **Co-Director, Publicly Active Graduate Education (PAGE).** Imagining America.
- 2019 **Nashville Welcoming Committee.** Volunteer, meeting busses travelling through Nashville from Immigration Detention Centers. Nashville, TN.
- 2018-2019 **Immigrant Advisory Committee Member.** Nashville Public Library. Nashville, TN.
- 2018 **Vanderbilt Anthropology Guide & Speaker.** Escalera Spring Break College Tour. Conexión Américas. Nashville, TN

### **Language Skills**

- English (native speaker)
- Spanish (native speaker)
- French (intermediate)