

Sam Law

University of Texas at Austin • Department of Anthropology
2201 Speedway • Austin, TX • 78705
sam.law@utexas.edu • +1-607-229-3403

EDUCATION

2018- Present	Doctoral Candidate, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas, Austin
2016-2017	Masters of Arts in Social Sciences, University of Chicago Thesis: "The Horror of Ayotzinapa: Occult Violence and Epistemic Conditions of Governance"
2010-2014	B.A. in Anthropology, Reed College Awarded "Exemplary" Thesis: "Aspirational Sovereignities: Indigeneity and the Law in a Guatemalan Mining Conflict"

PUBLICATIONS

Delineate in terms of publication hierarchy—examples below:

Refereed Scholarly Articles

Law, Sam, Alan Cruz, and Vanessa Nava. 2023. "Constructing a Communal Form of Life: Destituent Praxis in the Peripheries of Mexico City." *South Atlantic Quarterly*, January.

Hernández, Maricarmen, **Sam Law**, and Javier Auyero. 2021. "How Do the Urban Poor Survive? A Comparative Ethnography of Subsistence Strategies in Argentina, Ecuador, and Mexico." *Qualitative Sociology*, September. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-021-09494-z>.

Law, Sam, and Gabriela Polit. 2021. "Escribir Escuchando. La Crónica de Ayotzinapa de John Gibler." *Textos Híbridos* 8 (1): 53–67.

Law, Sam. 2019. "Ayotzinapa and the Aesthetics of Justice." *Kunstlicht Journal for Visual Culture* 40 (No. 1-2): 62–68.

Invited Book Reviews

Law, Sam. 2022. "Review of M. Bianet Castellanos's Indigenous Dispossession." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 54 (3): 352–53. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10714839.2022.2118027>.

Other Published Writing

Law, Sam. 2022. "Building Urban Autonomy: The Construction of a Communal Form of Life in Mexico City's Peripheries." *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Emergent Conversations 15: Ethnographic

Encounters With Destituent Power, March. <https://polarjournal.org/2022/03/31/building-urban-autonomy-the-construction-of-a-communal-form-of-life-in-mexico-citys-peripheries/>.

Law, Sam. “Building Homes, Building Lives in Mexico City.” *NACLA Report on the Americas*, vol. 51, no. 4, Oct. 2019, pp. 401–09, doi:[10.1080/10714839.2019.1692998](https://doi.org/10.1080/10714839.2019.1692998).

Law, Sam. “In Defense of the Grayzone: Between ISIS and the West”, published on November 23, 2015 in ROAR magazine

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Cities and Citizenship • Professor Kamran Ali
- Indigenous Peoples, Neoliberalism and the State • Professor Paola Canova
- Urban Inequality in Latin America • Professors María José Álvarez Rivadulla and Javier Auyero
- State, Territory, Sovereignty • Professor Jason Cons
- Provocations of an Anthropology of Ethics • Professor Hussien Ali Agrama (University of Chicago)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Austin – Teaching Assistant (2018 – 2020, 2023)

Introduction to Anthropology • Professor John Hartigan

Introduction to Anthropology • Dr. José Villagran

Introduction to Anthropology • Professor James Slotta

Introduction to Anthropology • Dr. Susanne Sheriff

Mexican Immigration and Cultural History • Professor Martha Menciahaca

Coloniality in West Africa • Professor Celina de Sá

GRANTS

Competitive External Research Fellowships

2022: Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (\$25,838)
(Department of Education)

2021: International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$22,800)
(Social Science Research Council)

Grants from the University of Texas

2022 Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement (\$2,000)

2021 Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement (\$2,000)

2020 Rappaport Center Preliminary Fieldwork Grant (\$2,500)

2020 Summer Research Award, Department of Anthropology (\$2,000)

2019 Tinker Field Summer Research Grant (\$500)

2019 Summer Research Award, Department of Anthropology (\$2,200)

Grants from the University of Chicago

2016 University Scholarship (Full Tuition, \$53,712)

Grants from Reed College

2013 Initiative Grant in Undergraduate Research (\$3,000)
For independent ethnographic fieldwork in the communities of San Miguel
Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa, Guatemala

Awards

2014 Exemplary Thesis, Department of Anthropology, Reed College
2014 Commendation of Academic Excellence, Reed College
2013 Received "Notable Distinction" on Junior Qualifying Anthropology Exam
2013 Commendation of Academic Excellence, Reed College
2013 Fossil Free Fellowship, 350.org (Amount: \$6,000)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

List in reverse chronological order:

- 2021:** "Another Democracy: Popular Power and Horizontal Decision-Making in the Peripheries of Mexico City." Presented at the American Anthropological Association 2021, Virtual, November 20.
- 2020:** "Collective Security Practices: Producing Autonomous Territory and Communal Forms of Life in the Peripheries of Mexico City." Presented at the Latin American Studies Association 2020, Virtual, May.
- Conference Organizer, Panel chair, Discussant. "Hostility inside & Around the Fort: Fugitive Approaches to Post-Covid Conflict" at the Undercommons and Distituent Power Conference, Indiana University' 2020 Critical Ethnic Studies Symposium. Virtual, November.
- 2017:** "Rethinking the Abolitionist Lexicon: Beyond the Rhetoric of 'Border Crisis'", presented at "Abolish Border Imperialism", the inaugural conference of the Abolition Journal Collective at University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- "The Narco-State's Scandalous Secret: Ayotzinapa and the Refusal of Death", Presented at "The Big No", A Center for 21st Century Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2016** "From Art to Arms: Autonomous Social Struggles in Mexico" Presented at the Woodbine Experimental Hub in Queens, New York

- 2015** “*La Dignidad Rebelde: The Zapatista Project of Territorial Autonomy*” presented at college campuses and autonomous social centers around the United States, fall of 2015
- “Border as Crisis: Sovereignty and Boundary-Making Practices in the American Immigration Crisis of 2014”, Presented at “Crisis and Critique”, the annual Institute for Comparative Literature and Society graduate student conference at Columbia University
- 2011** Conference co-organizer, “The Counter-Counterinsurgency Convergence”, Reed College. (conference led to the publication of Life During Wartime (AK Press 2013))

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

English: Native
 Spanish: Excellent (Speaking, Writing, Reading, Translating)
 French: Elementary (Reading)

ORGANIZING AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

- 2020 **Organizer and Founding Collective Member** – Rent Strike Austin
- 2019 **Organizer and Founding Collective Member** – Underpaid at UT
- 2018 **Election Observer** for the 2018 Mexican Presidential elections with Red Universitaria y Ciudadana por la Democracia – Morelos, Mexico
- 2017 **ESL Instructor** at Centro Autónomo, a migrant social center – Chicago, IL
- 2016 **Human Rights Observer** in the solidarity caravan to the autonomous Nahua community of Xayakalan - Santa Maria Ostula, Mexico
- 2016 **Volunteer** with Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Francisco de Vitoria - Mexico City, Mexico
- 2015 **Human Rights Observer in Zapatista Communities** with the Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas - Chiapas, Mexico
- 2014 **Human Rights Observer and Shepherd** in Diné Resistance Communities with Black Mesa Indigenous Support — Black Mesa, within Arizona’s colonial borders
- 2013 **Humanitarian Aid Worker** on the US/Mexico Border with the organization No Más Muertes/No More Deaths — Arivaca, Arizona
- 2013 **350.org Fossil Free Fellow** (part of the same cohort that founded Sunrise Movement)
- 2010-2013 **Grassroots Organizer** against hydraulic fracking with Shaleshock and founding member of Finger Lakes Action Network (leader in a successful movement to ban fracking in New York and started a successful campaign to close a coal plant)