

**GWYNEIRA L. ISAAC**

**PERSONAL DATA**

Current address: School of Human Evolution and Social Change  
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**EDUCATION**

2002 Doctorate of Philosophy Oxford University (Anthropology).  
1995 Master of Philosophy Oxford University (Ethnology and Museum Ethnography)  
*Distinction.*  
1989 Bachelor of Fine Arts University of Michigan (School of Art)  
*Magna Cum Laude.*

**PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

2002 - Pres Assistant Professor  
School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.  
2002 – Pres Director, Museum of Anthropology  
School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University  
2000 - 2002 Cataloguer: Designated Challenge Fund Retrospective Catalog Project  
Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University.  
1998 - 1999 Curatorial Assistant: Archives and Photographic Collections  
Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

**Refereed Books**

2007 *Mediating Knowledges: Origins of a Museum for the Zuni People.* University of Arizona Press.

**Refereed Articles**

2006 What Are Our Expectations Telling Us? Encounters with the National Museum of the American Indian. *American Indian Quarterly*. Vol 30. Number 4. Pp 574-596.  
2005 Mediating Knowledges: Zuni Negotiations for a Culturally Relevant Museum. *Museum Anthropology*. Vol 28. No. 1. Pp 3-18.  
2005 Re-Observation and the Recognition of Change: The Photographs of Matilda Coxe Stevenson (1879-1915). *Journal of the Southwest*. Vol 47. No 3. Pp 411-455.

- 2000 Early Rock Art Collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford. *South African Field Archaeology*. Vol 9:43-54 (with J. Hobart, P. Mitchell, J. Coote and M. De Alarcon). Pp 43-54.
- 1997 A:shiwi A:wan: 'Belonging to the Zuni People': Interviews from the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center in Zuni, NM. *Cultural Survival Quarterly*. Vol. 21, Issue 1. (with Wendy Fontenelle and Tom Kennedy). Pp 41-46.
- 1997 Louis Agassiz's Photographs in Brazil: Separate Creations. *History of Photography*. Vol. 21. No. 1. Pp 3-11.

### **Other Journal Articles**

- 1997 Zuni Tribal Archives: The Processes Involved in Developing a Community Resource. *Heritage*. New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance. Vol. 2, Issue 1. (with Wendy Fontenelle).

### **Chapters and Articles in Press**

'Responsibility Towards Knowledge: The Zuni Museum as a Mediator between Anglo-American and Zuni Knowledge Systems.' Paper presented at the 'Indigenous Past and Present: First Annual Symposium: Contesting Knowledge: Museums and Indigenous Perspectives', to be published by University of Nebraska Press.

The Museum as Mediator: The Institutionalization of 'Traditional' Knowledge. Papers from the 'Innovation, Creation and New Economic Forms.' Conference organized by the research project: *Property, Transactions and Creations: New Economic Relations on the Pacific*, University of Cambridge.

What Are Our Expectations Telling Us? Encounters with the National Museum of the American Indian. Chapter in *Understanding the National Museum of the American Indian*. Amy Lonetree and Amanda Cobb (editors). University of Nebraska Press. (Reprint)

### **Publications in Progress**

'Technology Becomes the Object: Art, Artifact and Digital Media at the National Museum of the American Indian.' Accepted and under revision for *Journal of Material Culture* November 2007.

'Whose Idea was This Anyway? Museums, Replicas and the Reproduction of Knowledge.' Submitted to *Current Anthropology*, December 2007.

**Exhibits:** Underlined exhibits are research activities created in collaboration with students. *Directing* exhibits requires oversight of all exhibit activities, *curating* requires original research, grant writing, installation design and label copy. The term *supervising* is used for exhibits curated by students under curatorial guidance for which they receive course credits.

- 2007 *Lowriders: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dias de Los Muertos Festival Exhibit*. Museum of Anthropology, Arizona State University. November 1, 2007 - January 11, 2008.

- Exhibit curated by Catherine Nichols (Directed)
- 2007 *Alien Images: UFOs, Photography and Belief*. Museum of Anthropology, Arizona State University. Exhibit curated by Scott Murphy, March 8 – August 15. (Supervisor)
- 2006 *Transcending Borders: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dias de los Muertos Festival Exhibit*. Museum of Anthropology, Arizona State University, October 26 – January 15. (Director, Co-curators Kim Arth and Marco Albarran)
- 2006 *Skin Deep: A Cultural History of Tattooing*. Exhibit on the cross-cultural practices of and values attributed to tattooing, in collaboration with guest curator Lars Krutak. March 23 – May. (Supervisor)
- 2005 *Loom-inous Creations: Textile Traditions from Southeast Asia*. Museum of Anthropology, Arizona State University. Exhibit curated by Thomas Hudak, ASU Professor of Linguistics and Kim Arth, Museum of Anthropology Curatorial Assistant, February 7 – April 8. (Director)
- 2005 *Room for the Dead* in collaboration with Kim Arth. Exhibit presented at the Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology for Dias de Los Muertos, domestic altars based on household objects. (Co-curator with Emily Duwel and Kim Arth)
- 2004 *Visiones Sagradas, Sacred Sights*. Exhibit presented at the Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology for Los Dias de Los Muertos, exploring *Cajitas* and the tradition of traveling altars. November 4 - December 31. (Co-curator with Emily Duwel and Kim Arth)
- 2003 *Vivan Los Muertos* Exhibit presented at the Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology, October 30 – May 2004. (Curator)
- 2003 *Stitches of War*. Exhibit presented at the Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology, funded by the Arizona Humanities Council and in collaboration with Deborah Deacon, ASU School of Art. August 28 – May 12' 2003-2004. (Director and Supervisor)
- 2002 *40 Years of Anthropology at ASU*. Exhibit organized on the history of the Department of Anthropology at Arizona State University. (Co-curator with Dulce Aldama)

### **Traveling Exhibits**

- 2003 *Time and Again: The Photographs of Allen Dutton*. Exhibit presented at the Arizona State University Museum of Anthropology on the photographic documentation of environmental change in Phoenix. September 16 - November 30. Exhibit traveled to Tempe Historical Society, February 2005. (Curator)

### **Lectures arranged in conjunction with exhibits**

- 2004 Paul Roth, Associate Curator of Photography and Media Arts at the Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington DC, November 9, in conjunction with the exhibit *Time and Again: The Photographs of Allen Dutton*.

## GRANTS

### External

- 2007 National Endowment for the Humanities. Title 'Isletan Images: A Photographic History of the pueblo in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century'. Implementation grant for the design and installation an international traveling photographic and multi-media exhibit on Puebloan life (with the Committee of Traditional Elders, Elizabeth Brandt, Henry Walt and Max Zuni). (Amount awarded \$388,874 Co-primary Investigator).
- 2006 National Endowment for the Humanities. Title *City Life: Experiencing the World of Teotihuacan*. Planning grant for research on and design of a sound-based exhibit exploring a day in the life of an early Mesoamerican city (with George Cowgill, David Birchfield, Hari Sunderam, Miguel Aguilera). (Amount awarded \$40,000, Primary Investigator).
- 2005 Hewlett Foundation. Funds for symposium *Museums and Native American Knowledges*, received via the Global Institute for Sustainability. (Amount received \$11,000) (Primary Investigator)
- 2005 IGERT: An Arts, Sciences and Engineering Research and Education Initiative for Experimental Media. (Interdisciplinary grant with the Program for Arts and Engineering, amount awarded \$3,038,681.00) (Partner)
- 2004 National Endowment for the Humanities. Title *A Year in the Pueblo of Isleta In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*. A Planning grant to design a traveling exhibit in collaboration with the Traditional Leaders of the Pueblo of Isleta (Consultant).
- 2004 Arizona Commission for the Arts. Title: *Time and Again: The Photographs of Allen Dutton*. Public programming to accompany an exhibit on the photographic documentation of environmental change in Phoenix. (Amount awarded \$1,000.00) (Primary Investigator)
- 2003 Arizona Humanities Council. Title: *Stitches of War*. An Exhibit on how women's art communicates the experiences of war. (Amount awarded \$1,020.00) (Primary Investigator)
- 1996 Economic and Social Research Council. Title *Repatriation and Cross Cultural Interests in Anthropological Archives* (with Howard Morphy and Elizabeth Edwards, amount awarded: \$71,400) (Researcher)
- 1995 Emslie Horniman Fund: Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI). Title *Smithsonian Anthropology and the Pueblo of Zuni, New Mexico*. (\$4,000) (Primary Investigator)
- 1995 Domus Scholarship: Linacre College, Oxford University (\$1,800.00)

### Internal

- 2005 Institute for Humanities Research. Title *City Life: Experiencing the World of Teotihuacan*. Seed grant for research on and design of a sound-based exhibit exploring a day in the life of an early Mesoamerican city (with George Cowgill, Ben Nelson, David

- Birchfield, Hari Sunderam, Miguel Aguilera, amount awarded \$9,000.00) (Primary Investigator).
- 2005 Research and Development Funds, Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University. Title *Visualizing Knowledge: Mural Art and Tribal Museums*. Travel funds to research mural art in tribal museums around the United States. (Amount awarded \$1,000.00) (Primary Investigator)
- 2003 Institute for the Humanities Research. Title *Engaging Radio*. Seed grant to develop an interdisciplinary project on the qualitative dimensions of people's historical and contemporary interaction with radio (with Philip Bernick, David Birchfield, Prasad Boradkar, Daniel Gilfillan, Torin Monahan, Jennifer Parchesky, amount awarded \$10,000.00) (Team member)
- 2003 Research and Development Fund, Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University. Title *The Photographs of Matilda Coxe Stevenson*. Funds to facilitate archival research on photographs held at the National Anthropological Archives (Amount awarded \$1,200.00) (Primary Investigator).

**Grants Due for Re-submission**

Informal Science Education, National Science Foundation. Title: Becoming Human. Collaborative grant to further expand a website and to develop traveling exhibits on human evolution (with Kaye Reed, Mark Spencer, Tom Wilson). (Amount requested 2.8 million). Resubmission 2007

**INVITED LECTURES**

- 2007 Tribal Museums and Native Knowledges. Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University, Oxford, UK, June 20.
- 2007 Technology Becomes the Object: Art, Artifacts and Digital Media at the National Museum of the American Indian. Museum Studies Program, University of Florida, February 26.
- 2006 Reconciling Knowledges: The Origins of A Museum for the Zuni People. Colloquium Series, University of California, Berkeley, March 13.
- 2005 Visualizing Knowledges and the National Museum of the American Indian. Paper presented at brown bag series, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, November 12.
- 2004 Finding the Middle Ground: The Zuni Museum's Negotiations of Western and Zuni Approaches to Knowledge. Seminar Series, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 24.
- 2002 Repatriation as a Process of Mediation. Department of Anthropology, Visiting Lecture Series, University College London, February.

- 2000 The Middle Ground: The Zuni Museum as Mediator. Socio-cultural seminar series, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University, December.
- 2000 Cultural Resource Management and the Museum at the Pueblo of Zuni. (Lecture presented with Roger Anyon). Department of Anthropology, Visiting Lecture Series, University College London, November.

## CONFERENCES

### Conferences and Symposia Organized

- 2006 *Museums and Native American Knowledges*. International symposium and workshops organized for and hosted at Arizona State University on the changing relationship between museums and Native Americans, with 19 speakers invited from the United States and Canada, and 122 participants from the United States, Canada and Britain. October 28 – 29.

### Conference Sessions

- 2005 Exchanging Experiences: Linking Graduate Training in Museum Anthropology with the Phoenix Community. Session organized for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference for the *Museum Association of Arizona*, Yuma, Arizona (Session chair). April 7-9.
- 2004 Finding the Middle Ground: Ethnographic and Indigenous Approaches to Knowledge. Session organized for the 25<sup>th</sup> *Annual Native American Workshop*, Leuven, Belgium, May 3-5. (Panel Chair)

### Conference Papers

- 2007 Repatriation as a Process of Mediation: Case Studies from North America. In *Repatriation: Notes from the Field*. *American Anthropological Association*. Washington DC, November 27 - Dec 2.
- 2007 Responsibility Towards Knowledge: The Zuni Museum as Mediator between Anglo-American and Zuni Knowledge Systems. *Indigenous Past and Present: First Annual Symposium: Contesting Knowledge: Museums and Indigenous Perspectives*, Newberry Library, Chicago, September 24.
- 2006 Reproductive Technologies and Vernacular Approaches to Knowledge: An Ethnography of the Zuni Museum. In *New Ethnographies on the Politics and Ethics of Secrecy*. *American Anthropological Association*. San Jose, November 15-18.
- 2006 Introduction to Museums and Native American Knowledges. Paper presented at the symposium *Museums and Native American Knowledges*, Arizona State University, October 28-29.
- 2006 Tribal Museums and Community Knowledges. Paper presented at the symposium *Museums and Native American Knowledges*, Arizona State University, October 28-29.

- 2005 Encounters with the National Museum of the American Indian. Paper presented at an invited session at the *American Anthropological Association*, Washington DC, November 30 – December 4.
- 2005 Visualizing Knowledges: New Media and the National Museum of the American Indian. Paper presented at the *Native American Arts Studies Association*, Scottsdale, AZ. October 26 -29.
- 2005 Exchanging Experiences: Linking Graduate Training in Museum Anthropology with the Phoenix Community. Paper for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference for the *Museum Association of Arizona*, Yuma, Arizona (Session chair). April 7-9.
- 2004 Finding the Middle Ground: The Zuni Museum’s Negotiation of Zuni and Western Approaches to Knowledge. Paper presented at the *25<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Workshop*, Leuven, Belgium, May 3-5. (Panel Chair)
- 2001 The Museum as Mediator: The Institutionalization of ‘Traditional’ Knowledge. Paper presented at the ‘Innovation, Creation and New Economic Forms.’ Conference organized by the research project: *Property, Transactions and Creations: New Economic Relations on the Pacific*, University of Cambridge, UK, December 13-15.
- 1996 Images of the Inheritors: The Photographs of Matilda Coxe Stevenson. Paper presented at the Royal Anthropological Institute’s *Ethnographic Film Festival*, University of Kent, November 8-10.

**Lectures and Discussions**

- 2007 Collaborating Across the Disciplines: The City Life Exhibit. Presentation for the Institute for the Humanities Research, Arizona State University, February 14.
- 2006 Repatriation and the mediation of scientific and indigenous knowledges. Scholarly Inquiry, ASB 540, Professors Chance and Spielmann, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University, November 14.
- 2003 Lectures and workshop on Dias de Los Muertos. Museum of Anthropology, Arizona State University, October.

**TEACHING**

- 2002-Present Assistant Professor, Arizona Sate University.  
 Courses taught:  
 ASB 102 Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology  
 ASB 471 Introduction to Museums  
 ASB 494 Visual Anthropology  
 ASB 591 Material Culture  
 ASB 591 Advanced Material Culture Seminar  
 ASB 591 Museums and Communities
- 1995 -2001 Tutor, Oxford University.  
 Courses taught:

Introductory Anthropology for Undergraduates  
Critical Approaches to Zuni Ethnography  
Culture and the Environment for Geographers

## **GRADUATE COMMITTEES**

### **Doctoral**

- Richie Meyers. Native Americans and the Academy, Anthropology, Arizona State University (In progress)
- Loni Kantor. Conceptualizing Landscapes in Huichol Material Culture, Anthropology, Arizona State University. (In progress)
- Anne Marshall. Tribal Museums and the Architecture of Identity, School of Architecture and Design. (In progress)
- William Calvo. Lowriders and Chicano Aesthetics. School of Architecture and Design, Arizona State University. (In progress) Received Smithsonian Fellowship for research at the Center for Latino Culture, 2005.
- Tatsuya Murakami. Power Relations and the Urban Landscape Formation: A Study of Construction Labor and Resources in Teotihuacan, Mexico. Anthropology, Arizona State University. (In progress)
- Chris Houliez. Consuming Hyperplaces: Service-escape and the Production of the Serviceplace, WP Carey School of Business, Arizona State University. (Defended June 2007). Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan, 2006.

### **Masters: Chair**

- Marin Bey. Objects, Knowledges, and Learning from Museum Collections, Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University. (Completed 2007)
- Colleen McKay. Recollecting Laos: Ethnicity in Exhibits, Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University. Completed 2007)
- Darsita Ryan. Native American Curators: Changing Methodologies in Mainstream Museums, Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University. (Completed 2007)
- Amy Scott Williams. The Commercial Indian, Arizona State University. (Completed 2007) Received Fellowship Internship at the National Museum of the American Indian, 2005.
- Christopher Richards. The Mouse Goes on Safari: A Critical Examination of the Exhibit 'Listen for the Echoes: Echoes of Africa'. Museum Anthropology. (Completed 2007) Received internship at the New York Museum of African Art.
- Toni Gentilli. Phoenix Rises Again: A Visual Exploration of the Theatrics of Urban Revitalization in Downtown Phoenix, 2000-2005. Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University. (Completed 2005)
- Kimberley Arth. Keeping Traditions: Change, Innovation and Continuity in Kenyan Kyondo Baskets, Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University. (Completed 2005)
- Joshua Roffler. Frank Russell at Gila River: Reconstructing and Ethnographic Description. Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University. Thesis awarded the Julian Hayden Writing Competition and published in the Kiva Journal, 2005. (Completed 2004)

### **Masters: Member**

- Danielle Jacques. The television as the American hearth. School of Architecture and Design, Arizona State University (In progress)
- Catherine Nichols. My Grandmother's Bowl: Negotiating Multiple Voices in Museum

- Exhibitions. Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University (Completed 2007).
- Aleta Ringlero. Red Skin: Reconsidering Historic Photographs of American Indian Women, 1869-1900. Interdisciplinary Humanities Program, Arizona State University. (Completed 2005)
- Samantha Schneider. Reading Design: exploring the skin of the product. School of Architecture and Design. Arizona State University. (Completed 2005)
- Sara Wilson. Integrating Theory and Practice: A Case Study for Exploring the Potential for Postmodern Change. Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University, (Completed 2004)
- Nicole Seaton. Wearing Red (or Blue): Gangs in Rural American Indian Reservation Youth, Socio-cultural anthropology, Arizona State University. (Completed 2004)
- Christine Storey. Navajo Bracelets: What Art Can Tell Us About Relationships. Museum Anthropology, Arizona State University. (Completed 2004)
- Peter Wolf. Past, Present and Future: what Mid-Century Modern Furniture Means Today. School of Architecture and Design, Arizona State University. (Completed 2003)

#### **Undergraduate Honors**

- Sarah Elsasser, Honors Thesis Committee, Museum of Anthropology, Arizona State University (In progress)
- Joshua Hendrix, Honors Thesis Exhibition, School of Art, Arizona State University (Completed 2006)
- David Creech, Footnote 18, Visual Anthropology, Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University. (Completed 2006)

#### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

##### Museums:

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|-------------|---|
| 1995 - 2000 | Research Associate: Peabody Museum, Harvard University.   |
| 1996 - 1997 | Archives Project Co-ordinator: Zuni Tribal Archives and Records Program A:shiwi A:wam Museum and Heritage Center, Zuni, NM. |
| 1995 - 1996 | Research Assistant: Study of the origins of the Peabody Museum Collections Peabody Museum, Harvard University.              |
| 1992 - 1993 | Archival Assistant: Photographic Archives Peabody Museum, Harvard University.   |
| 1991- 1992  | Research Assistant: African Research Institute, La Trobe University, Australia.   |

#### **DISSERTATION**

- 2001 The Museum as Mediator: A Case Study of the A:shiwi A:wam Museum and Heritage Center, Zuni, New Mexico. D.Phil. dissertation, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

### Department Service:

Undergraduate Curriculum Advisory Committee, 2007- Pres  
Museology Committee, 2006-Pres  
Director, Museum of Anthropology, 2002-Pres  
Museum of Anthropology Steering Committee (Chair) 2002-2006  
Search Committee for Culture, Heritage and Identity hire  
(Member) 2005-06.  
Urban Archaeology Search Committee 2004-05  
Museum Curator Search 2004  
Graduate Committee (Member) 2003  
Museum Anthropology Program (Chair, Spring) 2003  
Acting Museum Program Head (Spring) 2003  
Planning Committee (Member) 2002-03  
Alumni Relations Committee (Member) 2002

### University Service:

Film and Media BA Committee (Member) 2004-Pres.  
Museum and Galleries Commission (Member) 2003-Pres.

### Regional Service

Arizona Humanities Scholar (2003-pres)  
Advisory Board member for the A:shiwi A:wam Museum and  
Heritage Center, Zuni New Mexico (2003-2005)

### National Service

Referee *University of California Press*, 2006  
Referee *American Indian Quarterly*, 2003

### Professional Offices

President, Oxford University Anthropology Society, 1994-5

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association  
Council for Museum Anthropology  
Museum Association of Arizona  
American Association of Museums