

CAROLYN HOWARTER

Department of Religious Studies
University of Virginia
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EDUCATION

University of Virginia

2018 Ph.D. Anthropology
Dissertation title: "A Feast, a Dance, and a Funeral: An Exploration of Contemporary Tongan Culture Across Three Christian Denominations"
Committee: Susan McKinnon (chair), Lise Dobrin, Fred Damon

2013 M.A. Anthropology

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2009 B.A. Anthropology and Creative Writing
Distinguished Honors Senior Thesis in Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Virginia

2019-2020 Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer in Mormon Studies,
Department of Religious Studies

SPECIALIZATIONS

Ethnographic Area:

Tonga; Oceania

Subject Concentration:

material culture (textiles, clothing); dress and bodies; artisan production;
money, exchange, and economic anthropology; kinship; Christianity

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2014-2015 Doctoral Dissertation Research in Vava'u, Tonga (18 months)
Learned pandanus mat weaving, investigated meaning, how families are constituted, gift exchange, presentation and management of bodies

2013 Collections and Archival Research at Smithsonian NMNH (1 month)
Studied fine Samoan mats, their cultural biographies and their movements into the museum collections from Samoa

2012 Preliminary Field Research in Vava'u, Tonga (3 months)
Investigated the experiences and family reactions of recent Mormon

converts, members raised in the LDS church, and ex-Mormons

- 2011 Preliminary Field Research in Tongatapu, Tonga (2 months)
Inventoried churches in Tonga and religious participation

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2014 National Science Foundation — Cultural Anthropology Doctoral
Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
- 2013 Smithsonian Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology Fellowship
- 2013 Buckner W. Clay Grant in the Humanities
- 2013 UVA Anthropology Department Small Grant
- 2012 UVA Anthropology Department Preliminary Fieldwork Grant
- 2011 UVA Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Foreign Language
Study Fellowship

MUSEUM AND DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia

- 2013 Digital Projects Assistant - Department of Anthropology
Edited fieldwork photos using Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom
Website management, design: Alumni and Brooks Hall History pages

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

- 2013 Smithsonian Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology participant
Participated in educational workshops learning methods of museum
research, documentation, photography, and digital management
Designed and conducted a research project on fine Samoan mats

Spurlock Museum, University of Illinois

- 2006-2009 Education Assistant
Documented and compiled data for annual reviews, grant applications
Managed a database of teaching artifacts, updating and contributing data
Developed interpretive museum content using Adobe Creative Suite
Extracted images for databases, museum exhibitions, website use

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 Risky Business: The Fate of Moala's Four Tongan Mats. Paper presented
at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association,
Washington, DC.
- 2016 A Prince and a Baptism: How a Religious Conversion Sparked Discussion
amongst Commoner Tongans. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of
the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN.

- 2013 Well Worn: Exploring Gifting and Value through Fine Samoan Mats. Paper presented at the Smithsonian Summer Institution in Museum Anthropology Symposium at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.
- 2013 Textiles as Tonga: Diasporic Connections to the Homeland. Paper presented at the University of Virginia Department of Anthropology Third Year Symposium, Charlottesville, VA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia

Lecturer - Department of Religious Studies

- 2019 RELG 2559 Religious Bodies
 2019 RELG 2559 Love, Romance, and Religion

Instructor - Department of Anthropology

- 2019 ANTH 3560 The Museum in Modern Culture
 2018 ANTH 2230 Fantasy and Social Values
 2018 ANTH 1559 Romance Across Cultures
 2015 ANTH 2500 Cultures, Regions, and Civilizations: Oceania

Teaching Assistant - Department of Anthropology

- 2013 ANTH 3010 Theory and History of Anthropology
 2012 ANTH 2156 Peoples and Cultures of Africa
 2011 ANTH 2320 Anthropology of Religion
 2011 ANTH 3600 Sex, Gender, and Culture

Instructor - Center for American English Language and Culture

- 2012 ESL 0902 Academic Writing II
 2011 ESL 0901 Academic Writing I