

Nicole Ashley Cox

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Anthropology
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Education

- 2021 (expected completion) **Ph.D.** – Anthropology (Current status: Doctoral Candidate)
Graduate Minor – Dance
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- 2012 **Bachelor of Arts** – Sociology and Anthropology, Dance
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

Research Interests

Sociocultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Human Movement, South Asia, cultural relations, performance, embodiment, semiotics, aesthetics, art and politics, transnational interactions

Academic and Teaching Positions

Editorial Assistant University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Aug 2018-Present
Journal for the Anthropological Study of Human Movement

Teaching Assistant University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Aug 2017- May 2018
Course: ANTH 104 Talking Culture: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology
Course: ANTH 230 Sociocultural Anthropology

Assistant in Research and Technology – U. of Michigan Health Center
Summer 2009 & 2010
Public health research project, PI Dr. Ruth Carlos, MD

Teaching Assistant - Swarthmore College
Aug 2010 - May 2011
Kathak Technique & Performance Repertory

Grants and Awards

2018 **Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students - Spring Competition**
2017 **Central States Anthropological Society Graduate Student Paper Prize**
2017 **Department of Anthropology Graduate Student Summer Research Award**
2016 **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention**
2014-2017 **University of Illinois Graduate College Distinguished Scholar Fellow**
2013/2014 **Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Grant**
2012/2013 **Institute for Recruitment of Teachers Associate**

Research Experience

Dissertation Research

Title: Studio, Stage and State: A Transnational Study of Dancing in India's Cultural Relations In Progress – Archival/Internet research on India's Cultural Relations
Anticipated – Ethnographic research in New Delhi, India; Suva, Fiji; and London, UK

Preliminary Dissertation Research

Title: Practicing and Performing India Abroad: International Spaces of Cultural Diplomacy
Dec 2016-Jan 2017 – India: Ahmedabad, Mumbai, New Delhi
June-August 2017 – San Francisco, USA; London, UK; and Berlin, Germany

- 8 week multi-sited research project supported by departmental summer research grant
- 4 week research project in India on transnational arts exchange

Fulbright-Nehru Student Researcher - Ahmedabad & Kolkata, India

Aug 2013-May 2014

Title: "Embodying Abhinaya: The Art of Speaking through Movement"

- Training in the Classical Indian Dance form Kathak under Guru Padma Bushan Kumudini Lakhia at Kadamb Center for Dance and Music
- Study of Indian aesthetic theory and abhinaya (emotional expression and storytelling)
- Ethnographic research among professional dance artists in India, aimed at understanding how dancers conceptualize movement and interpret danced narratives

Independent Research Project- San Francisco Bay Area

Summer 2011

- Independent research project supported by a Lang Summer Initiative Grant
- Ethnographic study of the West Coast Swing dance community of Northern California

Presentations

"Writing Classical Indian Dance: The Sensual Gendered Body in Text"

April 2018

Paper Presentation – Central States Anthropological Society Annual Conference

"Troubling Tradition: Questions of Authority, Costume and Embodiment in Kathak"

March 2017

Paper Presentation – Central States Anthropological Society Annual Conference

"Behind the Fourth Wall": Nritta and Natya

March 2014

Lecture Demonstration - Fulbright Conference South and Central Asia

Publications and Major Papers

“An Absent Cloth: Authority, Costume and Embodiment in Kathak”

(Forthcoming)

Journal for the Anthropological Study of Human Movement Spring 2019

“A Skillful Breaking of Expectations”: Embodied Knowledge, Communication, and Connection in West Coast Swing Dance”

Apr 2012

Anthropology and Sociology Senior Thesis – Swarthmore College

Community Involvement and Teaching

Leadership Team - Sociocultural Representative – Graduate Anthropology Student Association (GASA) – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Department of Anthropology
August 2014 - August 2018

Member, Performer, Dance Instructor - Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPICMACAY) - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Chapter
August 2017 – September 2018

Dance Instructor – Various Locations

Jan 2014- July 2018

Independent Instructor; Regent Ballroom-Savoy IL; Dancing Illini- Champaign-Urbana, IL
Styles: Kathak, West Coast Swing, Salsa, Lindy Hop, Beginner Social Dance

Teaching Artist – Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership

Oct 2012-Apr 2013

STEAM curriculum for middle school students

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association

Central States Anthropological Association

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

Society for Humanistic Anthropology

Skills and Languages

Labanotation (Human Movement Notation) – Intermediate Certification

Hindi – Intermediate Proficiency

Spanish– Elementary Proficiency