

Jake W. Dean

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EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, USA

- Ph.D. in Anthropology (Sociocultural) Sep 2023 – Present
 - Committee: Dr. Casey Walsh (chair), Dr. Jeffrey Hoelle, Dr. Heidi Amin-Hong
 - Focus: Marine conservation-as-development, whale-human relations, affective & posthumanist political ecology, ethnography, environmental humanities, Baja California Peninsula, U.S. Pacific
- M.A. in Anthropology (Sociocultural) Sep 2023 – Mar 2025
- Graduate Certificate in College and University Teaching Sep 2023 – Present
- Certificate in Inclusive Teaching Sep 2023 – Oct 2024

The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA

- M.A. in Latin American Studies (Anthropology; Politics & Environment) Aug 2021 – May 2023
 - Thesis: *Cesando La Sal: A Social Ecology of Conservation-as-Development and Pacific Gray Whale Ecotourism in El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, México*
 - Committee: Dr. Marcela Vásquez-León (chair), Dr. Stefanie Graeter, Dr. Thomas Park, Dr. Ronald Trosper
- Graduate Certificate in Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory Dec 2021 – May 2023

Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, USA

- B.A. in Anthropology Aug 2017 – May 2021
 - Minor in History; Certificate in Sports, Culture, & Ethics
 - Thesis: *Close Encounters of the First Kind: On Cultural Representations of Extraterrestrials, First Contact, & the Mythology of the Alien Other*; Committee: Dr. Thomas Martin (chair), Dr. Sara Walker, Dr. Ed Finn
- B.S. in Earth & Space Exploration (Astrobiology & Biogeosciences) Aug 2017 – May 2021
 - Minor in Sustainability; Certificates: Energy & Sustainability; Food Systems Sustainability

PUBLICATIONS & TALKS

REFEREED ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

- [1] J.W. Dean, “Do whales really want to be watched? Ecotourism marketing, green capitalism, and the subjective narrative of whale-watching in the Pacific lagoons of Baja California Sur,” book chapter accepted in *Unsettling Conservation*, Colorado University Press.
- [2] A. Mitchel & J.W. Dean, “Tradition Meets Trend: The Socioecological Dynamics of Mezcal in Oaxaca’s Central Valleys,” under minor revisions, *Culture, Agriculture, Food, and Environment*, vol. 47, pp. TBD–TBD, 2025.
- [3] J.W. Dean, “Fake snow, faking sustainability: Host selection and the Winter Olympics’ growing reliance on artificial snow ahead of Milan-Cortina d’Ampezzo 2026,” *The Journal of Olympic Studies*, vol. 6, no. 1, pp. 46–65, 2025.
- [4] J.W. Dean & J. Parks, “The framing of Indigenous and local ecological knowledge amidst climate change education in the COP27 cyberspace,” *Climate & Development*, vol. 16, no. 10, pp. 918–929, 2024.
- [5] J.W. Dean, A.M. Rice, L.M. Choi, “Small-Scale Food Production in the Pandemic: Perspectives from Mexico & Guatemala,” *Journal of Latin American Geography*, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 215–226, 2023.
- [6] P. Whelley et al., “The Importance of Field Studies for Closing Key Knowledge Gaps in Planetary Science,” *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*, vol. 53, no. 4, White Paper #165 of the NASA Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032, Mar 2021.

BOOK REVIEWS

- [1] J.W. Dean, “Two Cheers for the Hollywood Sports Movie: A Review of Hollywood Sports Movies and the American Dream,” in *The Common Reader*, Dec 2024.
- [2] J.W. Dean, “Book review of Brondo, K.V. 2021. *Voluntourism and multispecies collaboration: Life, death, and conservation in the Mesoamer. Barrier Reef*,” in *J. of Political Ecology*, vol. 29, Oct 2022.
- [3] J.W. Dean, “Book review of Norgaard, Kari Marie. 2019. *Salmon and acorns feed our people: colonialism, nature and social action*,” in *J. of Political Ecology*, vol. 29, Jul 2022.

WORKS IN-PROGRESS & IN-REVIEW

- [1] M.V. Leon & J.W. Dean, “The Vilification of Gillnet Shrimp Fishers in the Upper Gulf of California within the Single-Species Model of Vaquita Conservation,” in preparation for *Conservation & Society*.

- [2] J.W. Dean, “The cetacean conservation conundrum: A political ecology of whale-watching ecotourism in Laguna San Ignacio,” in revision, *Journal of Political Ecology*.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & ABSTRACTS

- [1] A. Mitchel & J.W. Dean, ”Tradition Meets Trend: The Socioecological Dynamics of Mezcal in Oaxaca’s Central Valleys” in “Entrepreneurship, Certification, and Policy as Revitalization or Obstacle” at *The Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting*, Portland, OR, USA, Mar 2025.
- [2] *chair and presenter*, “Invisible Labor, Visible Flavors: Latinx Experiences and Social Transformation in U.S. Food Systems” at *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*, Tampa Bay, FL, USA, Nov 2024.
- [3] J.W. Dean, “Sanctuary, Ecotourism, and Green Capitalism: ”Safe” Spaces for the Pacific Gray Whale,” part of the panel ”What (Un)Makes the Space? Unsettling the Safe and the Unsafe” at *American Anthropological Association & CASCA Annual Meeting*, Toronto, OT, Canada, Nov 2023.
- [4] *chair & panelist*, “Sport and the Environment: A Dialectic of Solidarity and Schism,” with A. Coleman, R. Curto, & R. Wines at *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Montreal, QC, Canada, Nov 2023.
- [5] *chair & presenter*, “The Blue Economy & Conservation: Exploring the Deleterious Impacts of Current Marine Conservation Strategies on Local Fishing Communities,” at *MARE People and the Sea Conference*, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jun 2023.
- [6] *organizer & panelist*, “Place-Based Realities of Small-Scale Sustainable Food Systems Across Spaces in Latin America,” at *Conference of Latin American Geography*, Tucson, AZ, USA, Jan 2023.
- [7] *co-discussant*, with E. Hite, P. West, S. Strauss, T. Thornton, C. Howe, J. Yarrington, C. Dewan; **Featured Session:** “Anthropology & Climate Change: Settling the Landscape,” at *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*, Seattle, WA, USA, Nov 2022.
- [8] J.W. Dean, “COVID-19 & Small-Scale Fisheries in Mexico: Exploring the U.S. Ban on Wild-Caught Mexican Shrimp within the Broader Pandemic Context,” at *Center for Latin American and Border Studies 1st International Symposium*, Las Cruces, NM, USA, Apr 2022.
- [9] J. Dean, “A Cultural Consideration of Human Messages to Extraterrestrials: On the Pioneer Plaques, Voyager Records & Human Representation in a Cosmic Setting,” at *Annual Arizona Astrobiology Research Symposium*, Tempe, Arizona, USA, Oct 2020.
- [10] J. Dean and B. Scaffidi, “Water Scarcity and Wari Imperial Expansion: Using Remotely Sensed (Planet) Data to Examine the Impact of Freshwater Availability on Imperial Settlement Strategies,” in *Abstracts of the Society of American Archaeology 85th Annual Meeting*, Austin, TX, Mar 2020.
- [11] J.W. Dean, “On Long-living Venusian Surface Landers and Understanding Earth’s Atmospheric Evolution,” at *Environmental Professionals of Arizona Annual Meeting*, Tempe, AZ, Mar 2020.
- [12] J.W. Dean, “Saving the State Fish: Riffles & the Apache Trout,” at *Environmental Professionals of Arizona Annual Meeting*, Tempe, AZ, Mar 2019.

GUEST LECTURES & INVITED TALKS

- [1] J.W. Dean, “Political Ecology Across Temporalities,” invited guest comments at UCSB Water Workshop, Santa Barbara, California, USA, Feb 2024.
- [2] J.W. Dean, “Neoliberalism & the Mexican Ejido System: Article 27 Reforms in Baja California Sur,” invited guest lecture for LAS150 at University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA, Mar 2023.
- [3] J.W. Dean, “The Complicated Case of Pacific Grey Whale Conservation and San Ignacio Lagoon, Mexico,” at *University of Arizona Environmental Summit*, Tucson, Arizona, USA, Apr 2022.
- [4] J.W. Dean and O.R. Conklin, “Sports and Culture Series Lecture - Coming Off the Sidelines: A Transnational History of the Rise of Women’s Soccer in Twenty-First Century North America,” invited guest lecture for HST377 at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, USA, Mar 2022.

SELECTED PUBLIC-FACING WORK

- [1] J. Dean, “Digital Ethnography: An Introduction to Theory and Practice,” in *JSTOR Daily*, New York City, NY, Sep 2023.
- [2] G. Owen, J. Davis, J. Dean, & R. Zollinger, “Special Edition: 2022 Environment & Society Fellows,” in *CLIMAS Southwest Climate Podcast*, Tucson, AZ, Jun 2023.

- [3] J. Dean, "How Burning Wood Pellets in Europe Is Harming the U.S. South," in *Slate Magazine*, Washington, D.C., Jan 2022.
- [4] J. Dean and N. Pahwa, "Texas Republicans Who Want to Lure Bitcoin Mining Companies Should Be Very, Very Careful," in *Slate Magazine*, Washington, D.C., Jun 2021.
- [5] J. Dean, "What Germany Can Teach America About Renewable Energy," in *Slate Magazine*, Washington, D.C., May 2021.
- [6] L. Cameron, J. Dean, et al. "Milli Fire & Remote Sensing Fire Analysis Using Planet Labs," for the *Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District*, Sisters, OR, Apr 2021.
- [7] J.W. Dean, "El modelo del futbol femenino en México, de llamar la atención," in *El Universal*, Mexico City, Mexico, Apr 2020.

FUNDING & AWARDS

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

▪ Conference Travel Grant - UCSB Graduate Student Association (\$150)	Oct 2024
▪ Conservation and Cultural Resources Fellowship - EMIGRA (\$10,000)	May 2024
▪ Research Accelerator Grant - UCSB Department of Anthropology (\$3,000)	Apr 2024
▪ Recruitment Top-Up Stipend - UC Santa Barbara (\$10,000)	Mar 2024
▪ Annette K. Baxter Grant - American Studies Association (\$400)	Nov 2023
▪ Conference Travel Grant - UCSB Department of Anthropology (\$750)	Nov 2023
▪ Graduate Research Fellowship - National Science Foundation (\$147,000)	Sep 2023 – May 2028
▪ Chancellor's Fellowship - UC Santa Barbara (\$78,500)	Sep 2023 – May 2028
▪ Graduate College Fellowship - UA Social & Behavioral Sciences (\$1,000)	Aug 2022
▪ Research and Project Grant (2x) - UArizona GPSC (\$3,000 total)	May 2022, Mar 2023
▪ Travel Grant - UArizona GPSC (\$1,500)	Mar 2023
▪ Edward J. Williams Research Scholarship - University of Arizona (\$500)	Feb 2023
▪ Herbert E. Carter Travel Award - UA Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs (\$400)	Sep 2022
▪ Tinker Field Research Grant - Tinker Foundation (\$3,000)	Apr 2022
▪ Environment & Society Graduate Fellowship - CLIMAS (\$5000)	Nov 2021
▪ Biomass Energy and Climate Change Fellow - National Press Foundation	Oct 2021
▪ Latin American Studies Tuition Award - University of Arizona (\$12,718)	Aug 2021 – May 2023
▪ Regent's Cup Award - Arizona Board of Regents (\$5,000)	2020
▪ Civic Engagement Grant - ASU Changemaker (\$1,000)	2018
▪ National Merit Scholarship - National Merit Scholarship Corporation (\$2,500)	2017
▪ New American University Scholarship - Arizona State University (\$64,000)	2017 – 2021
▪ Flinn Scholarship - Flinn Foundation (\$115,000)	2017 – 2021

AWARDS & HONORS

▪ Charles J. Erasmus Fund Award - UCSB Anthropology (\$900)	Mar 2024
▪ Katheryne B. Willock Library Research Award - UArizona Libraries (\$1000)	Apr 2023
▪ Graduate Showcase Environmental Impact Award - UArizona GPSC (\$750)	Apr 2023
▪ Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory Research Award - UArizona GDP (\$500)	Dec 2022
▪ 3 Minute Thesis Grand Prize - American Anthropological Association (\$400)	Nov 2022
▪ CLABS Symposium Graduate Student Paper Prize - New Mexico State University (\$500)	Apr 2022
▪ Director's Fund for Excellence Award - Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry (\$1500)	Mar 2022
▪ Moeur Award - Arizona State University Alumni Association	May 2021
▪ Mensch Prize for Humanities - The Mensch Foundation & ASU Foundation (\$1000)	Mar 2021
▪ Personal Commendation (x4) - ASU President Michael Crow	Sep 2020, Mar 2021, May 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara

Associate Instructor

Summer 2024, Summer 2025

- ANTH109: Human Universals

Center for Latin American Studies, The University of Arizona

Instructor

Summer 2022

- LAS195A: The U.S.-Mexico Border: From Separation to Integration in a Globalizing World

T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Family Studies

Spring 2020, Fall 2020

- FAS301: Introduction to Parenting; FAS331: Family & Marriage Relationships

Barrett, the Honors College, Arizona State University

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Spring 2019

- HON272: The Human Event II

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Journal of Political Ecology, Tucson, Arizona

- Book Reviews Editor Feb 2022 – Present
- Journal Refereeing Sep 2024 – Present
- Special Issue: Just and Plural Political Ecologies: Traditions and Futures Jun 2024
- Editorial Assistant Sep 2021 – Feb 2022

Anthropology Mentorship Program, Santa Barbara, CA

- Research Mentor & Supervisor Mar 2025 – Present
 - Sterling Smith: Politico-legal context of Makah Tribe whaling rights

Arizona Latin American Studies Symposium, Tucson, Arizona

- Co-Chair & Founder 2021 – Present
 - ALASS allows students in Arizona to gain experience presenting academic work in a welcoming environment.

Study of the United States Institute, Tucson, Arizona

- Program Assistant 2023
- Peer Mentor 2022
 - The UA Center for Latin American Studies hosts 40 university student women leaders from Latin America every year of Indigenous and Afro-descendent women between the ages of 18 and 24 for women's leadership institutes.

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Especies Migratorias y Gobernanza Respetuosa de sus Ambientes

- Research Fellow, University of Arizona & National Science Foundation Jun 2024 – May 2025
 - Co-P.I.'s: Laura López-Hoffman, Jonathan Derbridge, Columba González-Duarte, Juanita Sundberg, et al.
 - Focus: Telecoupled social-environmental systems, migratory species management, mixed methods research.

<https://emigra.arizona.edu/>

Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University

- Researcher, Taste, Success, & Identity: Oaxacan Chefs & the Dynamics of Cooking Jun 2024
 - P.I.: Andrew Mitchel
 - Focus: Small-scale food systems, cosmopolitanization, mezcal, agave conservation, anthropology of food and taste.

Center for Latin American Studies, University of Arizona

- Graduate Research Assistant, Gulf of California Fishing & Conservation Project Oct 2021 – May 2023
 - Supervisor: Dr. Marcela Vasquez-Leon
 - Focus: Economic anthropology, environmental anthropology, literature review, critiques of neoliberal conservation.
- Graduate Research Assistant, UA Border Hub Aug 2021 – May 2023
 - Supervisor: Asst. Director Colin Deeds
 - Focus: Digital humanities, US-Mexico border scholarship, community outreach, library & archival work.

New America Foundation and Slate Magazine, New York City, New York & Washington, D.C.

- Future Tense Research Intern & Writer May 2021 – Aug 2021
 - 20 bylines for Slate Magazine covering topics from energy policy to ISS geopolitics to homophobia in sport.
 - Research and hosting assistance for virtual live events in partnership with the New America Foundation.

School of Earth & Space Exploration, Arizona State University

- Systems Engineer, Fire Impact & Recovery Evaluation (FIRE) Capstone Aug 2020 – May 2021
 - Supervisors: Prof. Christopher Groppi & Prof. Ramon Arrowsmith
 - Focus: NDVI & burn severity mapping, geomorphic change detection, survey of local wildfire knowledge, policy advising for Sisters, OR & Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District.

School of Sustainability, Arizona State University

- Research Assistant, Climate Resilient Coastal Fishing Communities Jun 2020 – Jun 2021
 - Supervisor: Prof. Kailin Kroetz
 - Focus: Econometrics, portfolio theory, catch diversity, literature review, ecosystem-based fisheries management.

School of Human Evolution & Social Change, Arizona State University

- Archaeological Chemistry Lab, Apprentice & Field Researcher Jan 2019 – Aug 2020
 - Supervisor: Dr. Beth K. Scaffidi; Project: Andean Paleomobility Unification
 - Focus: GIS change detection, Planet satellite imagery mosaicing, Wari Empire expansion, paleo-water availability, strontium & carbon bioarchaeology, isoscape construction, baseline isotope field sampling. collection.

CAMPUS SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT

Summer Teaching Institute for Associates, UC Santa Barbara

Jul 2024 – Sep 2024

DEIA in Teaching and Learning, University of California

- Pilot Participant and Reviewer Mar 2024

Anthropology Graduate Student Association, University of California, Santa Barbara

- Social Co-Chair Jan 2024 – Present
- Member Sep 2023 – Present

	Very Applied Fluid Dynamics Seminar , University of California, Santa Barbara <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing Committee 	Oct 2023 – Present
	Science and Technology Studies - Inside Out , University of Arizona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member & Presenter 	Oct 2021 – May 2023
	Latin American Studies Student Organization , University of Arizona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Board Chair (formerly Treasurer) 	Aug 2021 – May 2023
	Undergraduate Anthropology Association , Arizona State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honorary Officer 	Aug 2020 – May 2021
	SHPRS Digital Humanities Undergraduate Journal , Arizona State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History Editor; Co-Founder 	Jan 2021 – Aug 2021
	Ask an Earth & Space Scientist , Arizona State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Initiator & Advisor 	2020 – Present
LANGUAGES	English: Native language; Spanish: Advanced reader & writer; Portuguese: Beginner.	
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & ACTIVITIES	Conference of Latin American Geography , American Anthropological Association , Arlington, Virginia, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Student Representative, Culture & Agriculture Founding Member of Climate Change Interest Group 	Oct 2022 – Present Sep 2021 – Present
	American Studies Association , Washington, D.C., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Student Representative, Sports Studies Caucus 	2021 – Present
FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE	Mezcal Sustainability Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valles Centrales, Oaxaca, Mexico 	2024 – Present
	Especies Migratorias y Gobernanza Respetuosa de sus Ambientes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baja California Sur, Mexico; California & Alaska, USA 	2024
	Dissertation Fieldwork <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baja California & Baja California Sur, Mexico; Southern Alaska & South Central California, USA 	2023 – Present
	M.A. Thesis Fieldwork <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laguna San Ignacio, BCS, Mexico 	2022 – 2023
	Andean Paleomobility Unification Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departments of Arequipa & Madre de Dios, Peru 	2019