



Angela Garcia

Roger and Cynthia Lang Professor
Anthropology

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Professor Garcia's work engages historical and institutional processes through which violence and suffering are produced and lived. A central theme is the disproportionate burden of addiction, depression and incarceration among poor families and communities. Her research is oriented toward understanding how attachments, affect, and practices of intimacy are important registers of politics and economy.

Garcia's most recent book is *The Way That Leads Among the Lost: Life, Death, and Hope in Mexico City's Anexos* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2024). Set in Mexico City, it examines how violence precedes and functions in the ways families seek to care for and protect each other. Central to this work are anexos (annexes), informal and coercive rehabilitation clinics for the treatment of drug addiction that are run and utilized by the working poor, and which incorporate violence into their therapeutic practices. Anexos are widespread across Mexico (and increasingly in the United States) and are widely condemned as abusive, illegal, ineffective, and unethical. By situating anexos within a larger social and historical frame, and closely attending to life within and beyond these spaces, Garcia shows that anexos provide refuge from the catastrophic and everyday violence associated with the drug war. The book also demonstrates that anexos are the leading resource for the treatment of drug addiction among Mexico's poor, and are an essential space of protection for individuals at risk of the intensifying violence in Mexico.

Garcia's first book, *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession Along The Rio Grande* (University of California Press, 2010) received awards in anthropology and writing. *The Pastoral Clinic* explores the relationship between intergenerational heroin use, poverty and colonial history in northern New Mexico. It argues that heroin addiction among Hispanos is a contemporary expression of an enduring history of dispossession, social and intimate fragmentation, and the existential desire for a release from these. Ongoing work in the U.S. explores processes of legal "re-entry" and intimate repair that incarcerated and paroled drug users undertake, particularly within kin networks.

Currently, Garcia is studying the environmental, social, and bodily effects resulting from Mexico City's ongoing *desagüe*, the massive drainage project initiated by Spanish colonists in the seventeenth century in the Valley of Mexico. Mexico City's *desagüe* speaks to some of the most pressing concerns of our time: water scarcity, humans' relationship to changing ecologies, and chronic disease. This project examines how the *desagüe* remakes bodies, neighborhoods, and social worlds.

A second research project concerns the growth and destruction of a New Mexican mining community. Its focus is Santa Rita del Cobre, near Silver City, New Mexico, an area scarred by Conquest, capitalism, and ecological destruction. Using ethnographic and historical methods, this project examines the labors and losses of those who lived in Santa Rita del Cobre. It moves from present to past, from surface to subsurface, unearthing new ways of thinking

about environmental and social history. It also reveals the difficult necessity of maintaining our capacities to be resilient when faced with environmental and existential catastrophe.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Anthropology
- Affiliate, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Latin American Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Harvard University , Social Anthropology (2007)
- B.A., University of California, Berkeley , Anthropology (1997)

LINKS

- Interview KQED: <https://www.kqed.org/forum/2010101905554/inside-mexicos-clandestine-drug-treatment-centers>
- On Point: <https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2024/04/29/underground-addiction-care-mexico-rehab>
- Something We Call Care: <https://couchedpodcast.org/something-we-call-care/>
- Personal website: <https://www.angelagarcia.ink/>

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Way That Leads Among the Lost: Life Death and Hope in Mexico City's Anexos**
Garcia, A.
Farrar, Straus and Giroux.2024
- **The confessional community Narratives of violence and survival in Mexico City's anexos** *AMERICAN ETHNOLOGIST*
Garcia, A.
2023
- **Fragments of Relatedness: Writing, Archiving, and the Vicissitudes of Kinship** *ETHNOS*
Garcia, A.
2019
- **THE BLUE YEARS: An Ethnography of a Prison Archive** *CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY*
Garcia, A.
2016; 31 (4): 571-594
- **Violence, addiction, recovery: An anthropological study of Mexico's anexos.** *Transcultural psychiatry*
Garcia, A., Anderson, B.
2016; 53 (4): 445-464
- **The Blue Years: An Ethnography of a Prison Archive** *Cultural Anthropology*
Garcia, A.
2016; 31 (4): 572-595
- **Serenity: Violence, Inequality, and Recovery on the Edge of Mexico City** *MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY QUARTERLY*
Garcia, A.
2015; 29 (4): 455-472
- **Serenity: Violence, Inequality, and Recovery on the Edge of Mexico City.** *Medical anthropology quarterly*
Garcia, A.

2015; 29 (4): 455-72

- **'Spirituality' and 'cultural adaptation' in a Latino mutual aid group for substance misuse and mental health.** *BJPsych bulletin*
Anderson, B. T., Garcia, A.
2015; 39 (4): 191-195
- **The Promise: On the Morality of the Marginal and the Illicit** *ETHOS*
Garcia, A.
2014; 42 (1): 51-64
- **Regeneration: Life, Drugs and the Remaking of Hispano Inheritance** *Social Anthropology*
Garcia, A.
2014; 22 (2): 200-212
- **The Elegiac Addict, Revisited** *Addiction Trajectories*
Garcia, A.
edited by Garriott, W., Reikhel, E.
Duke University Press.2013
- **Scripting Addiction: The Politics of Therapeutic Talk and American Sobriety (Book Review)** *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST*
Book Review Authored by: Garcia, A.
2012; 114 (1): 160-161
- **Suffering Without Health Insurance** *The Progressive Magazine*
Garcia, A.
2011; 31-32
- **Reading Righteous Dopefiend with My Mother** *Anthropology Now*
Garcia, A.
2010; 2 (3): 31-36
- **The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession Along the Rio Grande**
Garcia, A.
University of California Press.2010
- **The Elegiac Addict** *A Medical Anthropology Reader*
Garcia, A.
edited by Good, B., Fischer, M., Willen, S., Good, M. D.
Wiley-Blackwell.2009
- **The Elegiac Addict: Addiction, Chronicity and the Melancholic Subject** *Cultural Anthropology*
Garcia, A.
2008; 23 (4): 718-746