

# Curriculum Vitae

## JAMES HOWE

August 2020

**CURRENT POSITION:** Professor emeritus of Anthropology, MIT

### EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania	PhD	1974
Oxford University (Lincoln College & Institute of Social Anthropology)	Diploma (Master's) in Social Anthropology	1967
Harvard University (Anthropology)	AB Magna cum laude	1966

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Instructor 1973; Assistant Professor, 1974-1978; Associate Professor 1978- 1980; Professor 1980-2012	Professor emeritus	2012-
Temple University,	Visiting Assistant Professor	1972-1973

### OTHER POSITIONS

#### RESIDENCIES

Oxford University Institute of Social & Cultural Anthropology St. Antony's College Latin American Center	Visiting Scholar Senior Associate Member Visiting Scholar	1989-1990
Woodrow Wilson Center, Smithsonian Institution	Resident Fellow	1984

#### RESEARCH POSITIONS

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	Research Associate	1985-2005
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## **EDITORIAL POSITIONS**

*Handbook of Latin American Studies*,  
Hispanic Division, Library of Congress

Contributing Editor	1985-1989
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## **BOARD MEMERSHIPS**

Cultural Survival	Board of Directors & Program Council	2003-2013
Pilgrim Hall Museum	Trustee	2000-2009
Eagle Light Caretakers	President	1998-2001

## **CONSULTANCIES**

Museo de la Mola, Panamá	Consultant	2019
Displacement Solutions	Consultant	2015, 2016
Roger Williams University	Periodic briefings	2015, 2017, 2019
Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University	Consultant	2017
Museo del Oro, Bogotá	Consultant	2016
Koskun Kalu, Congreso General de la Cultura	Collaborator	1995-2003
Fowler Museum of Cultural History	Consultant, participant	1992-1997
Human Relations Area Files	Consultant	1998
ITV Britain, "Before Columbus," TV series	Consultant, contributor	1990-1992
New England Aquarium	Consultant	1988
"First Time" (public radio series), Interlock Media	Consultant, contributor	1986-1987
National Geographic Society	Consultant	1985-1986
Smithsonian Institution	Consultant, emissary	1981, 1987, 1997
USAID	Project participant	1978-1980

## **PRO-INDIGENOUS PROJECTS**

2013-2015 Proyecto Basura Cero, Gunayala, Panama (Libby McDonald Project Head),  
Inter-American Development Bank

- 2010 Preparation of report for Universal Periodic Review, United Nations, on indigenous rights in Panama, in MIT course “Monitoring the Rights of Native Peoples,” in conjunction with Cultural Survival
- 1993-2000 Proyecto Garda Sabgued, a project to microfilm archives held at El Porvenir, Gunayala, in cooperation with the Congreso General Guna and the Congreso General de la Cultura Guna.
- 1978-1980 Survey of the situation of the indigenous peoples of Paraguay (with David Maybury-Lewis), supported by USAID and Cultural Survival

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, grant supporting book publication  | 2015            |
| Wenner-Gren Foundation, grant in support of historical research   | 2002            |
| Whiting Foundation (Boston MA), and Plumsock Mesoamerica Foundation (Antigua, Guatemala) grants supporting microfilming of indigenous archive | 1994-1995, 1997 |
| Plumsock Mesoamerica Foundation, grant supporting microfilm project   | 1993            |
| National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship  | 1984-1985       |
| Woodrow Wilson Center, Smithsonian Institution, resident fellowship   | 1984            |
| National Endowment for the Humanities, grant (to University of Texas Press) supporting publication of monograph by James Howe                 | 1984            |
| Social Science Research Council advanced research grant   | 1977-1978       |
| National Endowment for the Humanities, summer stipend   | 1975            |
| National Institute of Mental Health research fellowship and field expenses grant  | 1969-1972       |
| National Defense Education Act Title IV graduate fellowship   | 1967-1969       |

## COURSES TAUGHT

- Monitoring the Rights of Native Peoples
- The Supernatural in Music, Literature & Culture
- Myth, Ritual and Symbolism
- Photography and Truth
- Social Theory and Analysis
- Undergraduate Seminar in Ethnography

The Conquest of America  
Witchcraft, Magic & the Spirit World  
Introduction to Anthropology  
Religious Movements  
Political Anthropology  
Issues & Ideas in Anthropology  
Seminar in Mythology

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE** (major long-term commitments only)

Head, MIT Anthropology Program	1981-1984, 1987-1989, 1993-1994, 1995-1998, 1999-2000, 2003, 2008, 2009
Program in Science, Technology & Society, Steering Committee, Admissions Committee	1989-1999
Humanities Distribution Committee School of Humanities and Social Science	1987-1993 (approximately)

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS, REPORTS, AND EDITED VOLUMES

- 2020 P. Leonard Gassó, s.j., 1911-1914, *La Misión de San José de Narganá entre los Karibes: Encuentro misional con el pueblo guna, Panamá, 1907-1911*. Annotated critical edition, with new preface, introduction, and notes. [PDF circulated on-line]
- 2016 *Celebration: Photographs of the Guna Chicha/ Celebración: fotografías de la chicha guna*. (The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute & El Congreso General de la Cultura Guna)
- 2009 *Chiefs, Scribes, and Ethnographers: Kuna Culture from Inside and Out*. (University of Texas Press)
- 2004 *Un pueblo que no se arrodillaba: Panamá, los Estados Unidos, y los kunas de San Blas*. Guatemala: CIRMA & Plumsock Mesoamerican Studies (translation of Howe 1998). Second edition, Wheatmark Books, 2020.
- 1998 *A People Who Would Not Kneel: Panama, the United States, and the San Blas Kuna* (Smithsonian Press)
- 1997 *The Art of Being Kuna*, Mari Lyn Salvador, editor and organizer. James Howe responsible for field and archival research, negotiation with indigenous authorities, text editing of all articles, sixty-one photographs. Author of chapters: "The Kuna and the World: Five Centuries of Struggle," pp. 85-101; "The Gathering House: Heart of a Kuna Community," pp.137-145; "The Kuna Portray Their Own History," pp.147-149 (photo-essay), and untitled photo-essay on puberty ceremonies, pp.286-291. Co-author (with Mari Lyn Salvador), "Introduction: Artful Lives, The Kuna of Panama," pp.29-51.
- 1986 *The Kuna Gathering: Contemporary Village Politics in Panama* (University of Texas Press, ILAS Latin American Monograph Series No.67 (second edition, 2002, Tucson AZ: Fenestra Books)
- 1980 (with David Maybury-Lewis) *The Indian Peoples of Paraguay: Their Plight and Their Prospects*. Cambridge: Cultural Survival Special Report No.2
- 1980 (chief editor and organizer, with Joel Sherzer & Mac Chapin) *Cantos y oraciones del congreso cuna*. Panamá: Editorial Universitaria.
- 1976 (editor, with Phil Young), *Ritual and Symbolism in Native Central America*, University of Oregon Anthropological Papers No.9

## JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2016 "La Revolución Dule: una rebelión indígena del siglo XX". *Boletín del Museo del Oro*, Bogotá, Año 2016, 56:205-226.
- 2012 "Chocolate and Cardiovascular Health: the Kuna Case Reconsidered." *Gastronomica* 12(1): 43-52, February 2012
- 2008 "Argument is Argument: An Essay on Conceptual Metaphor and Verbal Dispute." *Metaphor and Symbol* 23:1-23
- 2003 "The Kuna" In *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender*, Carol Ember, ed. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers. pp.581-591.
- 2002 "The Kuna of Panama: Continuing Threats to Land and Autonomy." In *The Politics of Ethnicity: Indigenous Peoples in Latin America*, David Maybury-Lewis, ed. Harvard University: David Rockefeller Center Series on Latin American Studies, pp.81-106
- 2001 "The Kuna of Panama," in *Endangered Peoples of Latin America: Struggles to Survive and Thrive*, Westport CT: Greenwood Press, pp.137-152
- 1996 "Star Girls and Star Man: A Comparative Analysis of Paired Kuna Myths." *Journal of Latin American Lore* 17:225-266.
- 1995 "La lucha por la tierra en la Costa de San Blas (Panamá), 1900-1930. *Mesoamérica* 29: 57-76.
- 1995 (with Jesús Alemancia, Cebaldo de León, Carlos López, Jimmy Solís, and Samuel Morris) "Sounds Heard in the Distance: Poetry and Metaphor in the Kuna Struggle for Autonomy," *Latin American Indian Literatures Journal* 10:1-21
- 1992 "Protestants, Catholics, and Gentiles: The Articulation of Missionary and Indigenous Culture on the San Blas Coast of Panama," *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford* XXIII:2, Special Issue on Missionaries.
- 1991 "An Ideological Triangle: The Struggle over San Blas Kuna Culture, 1915-1925." in *Nation-States and Indians in Latin America*, Greg Urban and Joel Sherzer, eds., University of Texas Press, pp.19-52
- 1990 "Mission Rivalry and Conflict in San Blas, Panama," in *Class, Politics, and Popular Religion in Mexico and Central America*, Lynn Stephen & James Dow, editors. Society for Latin American Anthropology Publication Series, pp. 143-166.
- 1986 "Native Rebellion and U.S. Intervention in Central America: The Implications of the Kuna Case for the Miskito." *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 10(1): 59-65.
- 1985 "Marriage and Domestic Organization among the San Blas Cuna," in *The Botany and Natural History of Panama*, W.G. D'Arcy and Mireya Correa A., eds. St. Louis: Missouri Botanical Garden. pp.317-331.

- 1981 "Fox Hunting as Ritual." *American Ethnologist* 8(2): 278-300
- 1981 (with Lawrence Hirschfeld) "The Star Girls' Descent: A Myth about Men, Women, Matrilocality, and Singing." *Journal of American Folklore* 94 (373): 292-322
- 1981 (with Joel Sherzer) "Friend Hairyfish and Friend Rattlesnake, or Dealing with Anthropologists through Humor". *Man* 21: 680-696, 1981
- 1979 "The Effects of Writing on the Cuna Political System." *Ethnology* 18(1):1-16. Reprinted in *Anthropological Approaches to Political Behavior*, Frank McGlynn & Arthur Tuden, eds., University of Pittsburgh Press.
- 1978 "Una guía a la literatura oral del congreso cuna," introduction to Howe, Sherzer and Chapin 1980, above, pp. 6-31.
- 1978 "How the Cuna Keep Their Chiefs in Line." *Man* 13(4): 537-53
- 1977 "Algunos problemas no resueltos de la etnohistoria del este de Panamá." *Revista Panameña de Antropología* 2(2): 30-47.
- 1977 "Carrying the Village: Cuna Political Metaphors," in *The Social Use of Metaphor*, J. David Sapir and J. Christopher Crocker, eds. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. pp.132-63.
- 1976 "Smoking out the Spirits: A Cuna Exorcism," in Young & Howe 1976, above, pp.67-76.
- 1976 "Communal Land Tenure and the Origin of Descent Groups among the San Blas Cuna," in *Frontier Adaptations in Lower Central America*, Mary Helms and Franklin Loveland, eds. Philadelphia: ISHI, pp.151-63.
- 1975 (with Joel Sherzer) "Take and Tell: A Practical Classification from the San Blas Cuna." *American Ethnologist* 2(3):435-460.

#### **BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEW ESSAYS**

- 2004 review of Ignacio Gallup-Díaz, *Door of the Seas and Key to the Universe: Indian Politics and Imperial Rivalry in the Darién, 1640-1750*. *Ethnohistory* 51(4):846-848.
- 2004 review of Gloria Rudolf, *Panama's Poor: Victims, Agents and Historymakers*, *Hispanic American Historical Review* 84(1): 168-169.
- 1991 (with Paul Sullivan) "Middle American Ethnology," *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, volume 51, pp.85-96.
- 1989 (with Paul Sullivan) "Middle American Ethnology," *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, volume 49, pp.75-92.
- 1989 review of Robert Borofsky, *Making History*. Book Review Forum, *Pacific Studies*.

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

- 2013 "Cimral Colman y la resistencia del pueblo guna". *La Prensa* 20 Oct. 2013
- 2014 "¿Guna, Kuna, o Cuna?" *La Prensa*, Panamá, 21 Feb. 2014
- 2014 (with Monica Martínez Mauri) "El Canal de Panamá y la lucha por la tierra en guna yala". *La Prensa*, Panamá, 10 Ag. 2014

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 1995 Foreward" in Jorge Ventocilla, Heraclio Herrera, and Valerio Nuñez, *Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna*. University of Texas Press, ix-xi.
- 1987 (translator) "Land Loss and Ethnic Conflict: A Speech by a Colombian Kuna Leader" *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 11(1):85.
- 1986 "Kuna Yala: Démocratie et autonomie limitées." *Ethnies* 4-5: 41-42.
- 1982 (contributing author and editor, collective authorship), *El Salvador, Background to the Crisis*. Cambridge MA: Central America Information Office (CAMINO).
- 1982 "Kindling Self-determination among the Kuna." *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 6(3):15-17.
- 1981 "Dashed Hopes in Paraguay." *Cultural Survival Newsletter* 5(1):8-11.
- 1978a "92 Mythical Populations: A Reply to Divale et al." *American Anthropologist* 80(3): 671-673.
- 1978b (with Lawrence Hirschfeld and Bruce Levin) "Warfare, Infanticide, and Statistical Inference: a Comment on Divale and Harris." *American Anthropologist* 80(1):110-115.
- 1976 8 short articles in: *Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, David E. Hunter and Phillip Whitten, eds. New York: Harper & Row.

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS

- 1997-2002 "The Art of Being Kuna," Mari Lyn Salvador, curator and organizer (James Howe, principal consultant, translator, contributor of more than sixty photographs) UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles (1997); National Museum of the American Indian, New York City (1999); Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (2000); Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Albuquerque (2002).



## **PHOTOGRAPHS PUBLISHED AND EXHIBITED**

- 2019 Slideshow of photographs, in group show, “Dulemar,” Museo del Arte Contemporaneo, April–June 2019
- 2016 Photographs included in a compendium, *Panamá a través de la fotografía, 1860-2013*. (2016, Fundación MAPFRE)
- 2013 “Encounters with Guna Celebrations” (photoessay), *ReVista* Spring 2013
- 2012 “The Kuna Celebrations” Audio slideshow
- 2011 One-person exhibit of photographs, Museo del Canal Interoceánico de Panamá, sponsored by the Congreso General de la Cultura Kuna
- 1984 *Grassroots Development* 8(2): 28-30. Nine photographs.

## **AUDIO CONTRIBUTIONS**

*The Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLLA)*, University of Texas, “Kuna Collection of James Howe.” More than 85 recordings of myth and historical narratives, cosmology, songs, flute music, puberty ceremony chanting, ethnographic information, meetings, discussions. Also recording from 1924 by Frances Densmore.

Saila Gonzalo Salcedo, “El camino del padre: historias y cosmología del pueblo guna.” Spoken performances, CD disk, produced and edited by James Howe

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** (current memberships, others held previously)

American Anthropological Association  
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology  
Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America  
Society for Visual Anthropology  
Latin American Studies Association

## **LANGUAGES**

Guna (near-fluent); Spanish (serviceable); French (minimally serviceable); Latin (dead and buried)