

NICOLE D. PETERSON

Assistant Professor of Anthropology
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28223
npeterson@uncc.edu • 704-687-5094
clas-pages.uncc.edu/nicole-peterson

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Anthropology, 2005
“Casting a wide net: Decision-making in a Mexican Marine Park.”
Committee: Joel Robbins (chair), Roy D’Andrade (co-chair), Shirley Strum, Ed Hutchins, David Kirsh, Mark Spalding
M.A. University of California, San Diego, Anthropology, 1999
B.A. Rice University, Biochemistry, 1997

POSITIONS

2010-present Assistant professor, UNC Charlotte Department of Anthropology
2009-2010 Visiting assistant professor, Barnard College Department of Anthropology
2009 Associate Research Scientist, Center for Research on Environmental Decisions, Columbia University (cred.columbia.edu)
2005-2008 Postdoctoral Researcher, Center for Research on Environmental Decisions, Columbia University
2007 Adjunct Professor, Barnard College Department of Anthropology
2004-2005 Visiting fellow, Center for US-Mexican Studies, UCSD
2004 Teaching Assistant, UCSD International Studies Program, with Nancy Postero
2000-2004 Research Assistant with David Kirsh, Department of Cognitive Science, UCSD (adrenaline.ucsd.edu)
2000-2003 Instructor, introductory writing courses, Muir College Writing Program, UCSD
1998-2000 Research Assistant with Michael Cole, Laboratory of Comparative Human Cognition, UCSD (lchc.ucsd.edu)
1998-1999 Teaching assistant, UCSD Department of Anthropology, with Joel Robbins and Steve Parish

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Environment, economic development, and change in Mexican fishing communities, Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico
- Urban food access in Charlotte, NC (a collaboration with Friendship Gardens)

Research interests: adaptation to environmental and social change, decision-making, political ecology, climate change, institutions and organizations, participatory processes, social sustainability, applied anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

Peterson, N., and D. Osgood. Forthcoming. Insuring the rain as climate adaptation in an Ethiopian agricultural community. *Anthropology and Climate Change: From Encounters to Actions*, Second Edition. Eds. Susie Crate and Mark Nuttall. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.
Peterson, N. Forthcoming. Unequal sustainabilities: The role of social inequalities in conservation and development projects. *Economic Anthropology*.
Peterson, N. and C. Isenhour. 2014. Introduction: Moving Beyond the ‘Rational Actor’ in Environmental Governance and Conservation. *Conservation and Society* 12(3):229-232.
Peterson, N. 2014. Breaking the bounds of rationality: Values, relationships, and decision-making in Mexican fishing communities. *Conservation and Society* 12(3):245-256.
Peterson, N. 2014. “We are daughters of the sea”: Strategies, networks, and gender in a Mexican women’s cooperative. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 19(1): 148–167.

- Michael Norton, Daniel Osgood, Malgosia Madajewicz, Eric Holthaus, Nicole Peterson, Rahel Diro, Conner Mullally, Tse-Ling Teh & Mengesha Gebremichael. 2014. Evidence of Demand for Index Insurance: Experimental Games and Commercial Transactions in Ethiopia, *The Journal of Development Studies*, 50(5):630-648.
- Peterson, N. 2012 Developing climate adaptation: The intersection of climate research and development programmes in index insurance, *Development and Change* 43(2): 557-584.
- Arora, P, **Peterson, N**, Krantz, D, Hardisty, D, and Reddy, K. 2012. When is a Social Dilemma not a Dilemma: Experimental Evidence for the Impact of Social Affiliation on Cooperation. *Journal of Economic Psychology* 33(4): 842-853.
- Peterson, N. 2011. Climate Change Adaptation through Micro-Insurance in Ethiopia. *CourseReader: Anthropology*. Detroit: Gale. ISBN-10: 1111769559
- Peterson, N. 2011. Excluding to include: (Non)participation in Mexican natural resource management. *Agriculture and Human Values* 28 (1): 99-107, as part of an organized symposium, "Participatory processes in agricultural development projects." doi: 10.1007/s10460-010-9258-x
- Glenzer, K., **Peterson, N.**, and Roncoli, C. 2011. Introduction to symposium on rethinking farmer participation in agricultural development: development, participation, and the ethnography of ambiguity. *Agriculture and Human Values* 28(1):97.
- Peterson, N. 2010. Choices, Options, and Constraints: Decisions in Natural Resource Management. *Human Organization* 69(1): 54-64.
- Peterson, N, K. Broad, B. Orlove, A. Pfaff, C. Roncoli, R. Taddei, M. Velez. 2010. Participatory processes and climate forecast use: sociocultural context, discussion, and consensus. *Climate and Development* 2(1): 1-16. doi:10.3763/cdev.2010.0033
- Patt, A, **Peterson, N**, Carter, M, Velez, M, Hess, U, Pfaff A, and Suarez, P. 2009. Making index insurance attractive to farmers. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 14 (8): 737-753. DOI 10.1007/s11027-009-9196-3
- Peterson, N. and Broad, K. 2009. Climate and Weather Discourse in Anthropology: From Determinism to Uncertain Futures. *Anthropology and Climate Change: From Encounters to Actions*, Eds. Susie Crate and Mark Nuttall. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.
- Hellmuth M.E., Osgood D.E., Hess U., Moorhead A. and Bhojwani H. (eds) 2009. *Index insurance and climate risk: Prospects for development and disaster management*. Climate and Society No. 2. International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Columbia University, New York, USA. (contributing author)
- Center for Research on Environmental Decisions. 2009. *The Psychology of Climate Change Adaptation: A Guide for Scientists, Journalists, Educators, Political Aides, and the Interested Public*. New York. Guide.cred.columbia.edu (contributing author)
- Krantz, D., **Peterson, N.**, Arora, P., Milch, K., Orlove, B. 2008. Individual Values and Social Goals in Environmental Decision Making. In *Decision Modeling and Behavior in Uncertain and Complex Environments*, Eds. Kugler, T.; Smith, J.C.; Connolly, T.; Son, Y.-J. Springer Press.
- Broad, K., Bolson, J., Clement, A., Balstad, R., Marx, S., **Peterson, N.**, Ramirez, I. 2007. Climate and Human Health: Physics, Policy and Possibilities. *Oceans and Human Health: Risks and Remedies from the Sea*, Eds. Walsh, P.J., S.L. Smith, L.E. Fleming, H. Solo-Gabriele, W.H. Gerwick. Elsevier Science Publishers, New York.
- Kirsh, D., **Peterson, N.**, and Lenert, L. 2005. Toward An Ontology of Geo-Reasoning to Aid Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction. *American Medical Informatics Association Annu Symp Proc. 2005*; 2005: 400–404. Awarded the Diana Forsythe Award.

Reports

- Peterson, Nicole, Arafat AbuKhalaf, William Alberts, Yuriko Arizumi, Victoria Byrum, Christina Claudio, Jonathan Ford, Michelle Gray, Danelle Haggerson, Tionna Henderson, Ronada Hewitt, Kyle Hickman, Eric Holsinger, Ashley Hovis, Benjamin Johnson, Briana Jones, Amira Kalala, Joseph Larrimore, Savannah Larimore, Dawnya Little, Raven Lovelace, Nicholas Mathis, Noah Maximov, Jarrod Moore, Jonimay Morgan, Gabrielle Peterson, Patrick Preudhomme, Megan Samuels, G Trevor Stilphen, Christopher Tenny, and Melissa Washington. 2014. Assessment of Friendship Gardens' Garden Leader Experiences. Report to Friendship Gardens, Charlotte, NC.
- Peterson, Nicole, Jessica Ballard, Lauren Ballard, Rebecca Bubb, Josh Buck, Mary Cassada, Ucha David, Benjamin Douglas, Monica Dyer, Brianna Fulp, Bryan Guess, Athina Hinson, Eric Holsinger, Michele Kohan, Kristy Lally, Nicholas Evan Mathis, Erica McLeod, Gabrielle Peterson, Patrick Preudhomme,

- Hayden Sisk, Lauren Whipp. 2013. Assessment of the Friendship Gardens Mobile Market in Spring 2013. Report to Friendship Gardens, Charlotte, NC.
- Peterson, N., Kelemework Tafere, Yesuf Mohamednur, Seid Hassen. 2010. Report of the Baseline Study on the Introduction of Weather Index Insurance Scheme in Selected Districts of Tigray Region, Ethiopia. Report to Oxfam America, Boston, MA.
- Chen, J., T. Dinku, E. Holthaus, B. Lyon, M. Madajewicz, C. Mullally, M. Norton, D. Osgood, A. Pascualini, S. Pant, N. **Peterson**, R. Saavedra, J. Sharoff, K. E. Shirley, C. Small, S. Stiffel, and T.-L. Teh, 2010: HARITA IRI Report to Oxfam America - Final Report for IRI MIEL Planning & Technical Support for HARITA - Micro-Insurance Pilot USA 536 /09 - June 2010. IRI Technical Report 10-08, IRI, Palisades, 44 pp.
- Peterson, N. 2009. Livelihoods, coping, and microinsurance in Adi Ha, Tigray State, Ethiopia. Report to Oxfam America, Boston, USA.
- Peterson, N., Mullally, C. 2009. Index insurance games in Adi Ha Tabia, Tigray Regional State, Ethiopia. Final report to Oxfam America, Boston, USA.
- Teshome, W., **Peterson, N.**, Gebrekirstos, A., and Muniappan, K. 2008. Microinsurance Demand Assessment in Adi Ha Tabia, Tigray Regional State, Ethiopia. Final Report to Oxfam America, Boston, USA.

Under review or in preparation

- Peterson, N. "They choose to overfish": Agency and its effects on policy in a Mexican marine protected area.
- Peterson, N. *Strategies of the Commons: Environment and economy in a Mexican fishing community*. Book manuscript under preparation. Expected completion Summer 2015.

PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, AND INVITED LECTURES (select)

- "Ethical Economies and Community Capital: Revaluing Connections Between Economy, Environment, and Society" Presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington DC. Dec 5, 2014
- "Integrated Network for Social Sustainability" Presented at the International Conference on Sustainability and Resilience, London, UK, Nov 4, 2014
- Panelist for a community discussion of "Soul Food: A Contemporary And Historical Exploration of New South Food" on Thursday, October 2, 2014, at UNC Charlotte Center City.
- "Will People Buy Vegetables in the Bus Fumes?": Class Research on a Mobile Farmers Market" Poster presented at the UNCC Service Learning Showcase, May 2014.
- "Women's Work as Adaptation to Ecological and Economic Changes in Mexican Fishing Communities" William Wilson Brown, Jr. Conference at UNC Charlotte, April 2014.
- "Addressing the social aspects of sustainability" Presentation to UNC Charlotte Geography Department. January 27, 2014.
- "Women's Work and Adaptation to Ecological and Economic Changes in Mexican Fishing Communities." Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Nov 24, 2013.
- "Social Sustainability: A Case for a New Conversation." Paper presented at the UNCC Ethics Center Symposium (April, 2013) with Jen Munroe
- "Unequal sustainabilities: The role of social inequalities in conservation and development projects." Paper presented at the Society for Economic Anthropology Meetings, St. Louis, MO, April 2013.
- "Toothless vigilance and the politics of government conservation." Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Denver, CO, March 19-23, 2013.
- "Creating opportunities in a time of change: women and work in Mexican fishing communities." Society for Applied Anthropology Meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 28, 2012.
- "We want to do something more than housework': Enterprising women in Mexican fishing communities." Society for Economic Anthropology Meetings, San Antonio, TX, March 23, 2012.
- "Breaking the Bounds of Rationality: Interaction and Resourcefulness In Mexican Fishing Communities." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, Nov 19, 2011.
- "Beyond Background and Baseline: The Role of Anthropology in Multi-Disciplinary Climate Change Adaptation Projects." Society for Applied Anthropology Meeting, Seattle, WA, March 30, 2011.
- Discussant for panel, "The Circulation of Climate Change Knowledge: Authority, Representation and Action in the Wake of 'Climategate'." American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA,

- Nov 18, 2010.
- “ ‘They choose to overfish’: consequences of economic models of behavior in fisheries management in Baja California Sur, Mexico.” American Anthropological Association Meeting, New Orleans, LA, Nov 19, 2010.
- “Microinsurance, climate change adaptation, and neoliberal markets in Ethiopia.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., April 17, 2010.
- “Tourism as commodity, tourists as friends: Desires of tourism in fishing communities of Baja California Sur, Mexico.” Poster presented at the Society for Economic Anthropology meeting, April 8-10, 2010.
- “Insuring the rain: The role of local and international institutions in providing climate adaptation tools.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, March 24, 2009.
- “Gauging risks and insuring adaptation for small farmers.” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM, March 20, 2009.
- “Insuring adaptation/adapting to insurance: responses of agriculturalists to new development programs.” American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco, CA, November 21, 2008.
- “Index insurance: A new tool for reducing climate risks for farmers in developing countries?” Arizona State University’s School of Global Studies, November 5, 2008
- “Risk management, vulnerability, and index insurance in agricultural development.” Columbia University’s Climate and Society MA Program. October 9, 2008.
- “When plans are not enough: Rethinking protected area management problems,” Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Memphis, TN, March 25-29, 2008.
- “Excluding to include: (Non)participation in Mexican natural resource management,” American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 30, 2007.
- “Creating climate in Anthropology: An historical view of climate knowledge in the social sciences,” XV Society for Human Ecology Meetings in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 4-7, 2007.
- “Managing change: Reducing vulnerabilities through strategies and networks,” Poster presented at the Society for Economic Anthropology meeting in Greensboro, NC. April 2007.
- “Effective use of scientific information: Social goals, incentive structures, and learning under uncertainty,” Poster presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in San Jose, CA. February 2007.
- “Interdependent security and environmental decision-making,” Poster presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in San Jose, CA. February 2007.
- “Little fish in a big sea: Managing a Mexican marine park in context”, Presented at the American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, Nov 15-19, 2006.
- “Ethnographic and participatory methods,” Regional Workshop for Engineers without Borders Northeastern Conference, September 2006.
- “Understanding Group Participation in Climate Forecast Use,” 4th annual NOAA Climate Predictions Applications Science Workshop, Tucson, AZ. March 21-24 2006
- “Can we study decision-making ethnographically?” Society for Anthropological Sciences/Society for Cross-Cultural Research Conference, Savannah, GA. February. 2006
- “Creating Loreto Bay National Park: Institutional constraints on natural resource management,” American Anthropological Association Conference, New Directions in Anthropology & Environment Rappaport Prize Student Panel, Washington, D.C., November. 2005
- “Assessing the impact of digital technology on disaster management,” Poster presented at the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Cal-IT)2 Student Spectrum, 2005
- “Decision-making as navigation: Options and choice in a Mexican fishing community,” Society for Psychological Anthropology meetings, San Diego, April 10. 2005
- “Vigilance and capacity-building: Options and decisions in a Mexican national marine park,” Center for US-Mexican Studies, February 2005.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

-
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant, UNC Charlotte, “Acquiring skills, critical engagement, and professionalization through research-based service learning in Applied Anthropology” (2014 \$10,400)
- Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte, “Causes and Consequences of Problems of Food Access in Charlotte, NC” (2013, \$6,000)
- NSF: Research Coordination Networks, Engineering and Education for Sustainability track: Integrated Network for Social Sustainability (INSS): Concepts, Language, and Assessment. Principal investigator. (2012, \$720,000 over 5 years)

Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte, "Global Commodities, Social Networks, and Agency in a Mexican Fishing Community" (2011, \$6,000)
NSF: Decision Making Under Uncertainty, senior personnel (2010, \$7.5 million over 5 years)
Center for Global Sustainability and Development Seed Grant, The Earth Institute, "Insuring the rain: Drought index insurance and farmer decision-making." (2006, \$6,000)
Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for US-Mexican Studies, UCSD (2004)
Friends of the International Center dissertation research fellowship, UCSD (2002)
Dissertation Research Grant, University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (2001)
F.G. Bailey Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, UCSD (2001)
Tinker Field Research Grant, Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, UCSD (2001)
Summer Intensive Language Fellowship, Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, UCSD (1999)
Regents Fellowship, UCSD (1997)

COURSES TAUGHT

- Introduction to Anthropology (four field, undergraduate)
 - Applied anthropology (undergraduate seminar/practicum, graduate)
 - Ethnographic methods (combined undergraduate and graduate course)
 - Environmental Anthropology (undergraduate)
 - Environment and Development (undergraduate seminar)
 - Political ecology (undergraduate and graduate seminar)
 - Anthropology and the politics of climate change (undergraduate seminar)
 - Culture and Consumption (co-taught graduate seminar)
 - Directed readings:
 - Environmental anthropology and arctic climate change (graduate student)
 - States and environment (graduate student)
 - Ecotourism (undergraduate)
 - Food security (undergraduate)
 - Environmental decision-making mini-course (for the MA Program in Climate and Society, Columbia University)
 - Culture, Development, and Social Change (teaching assistant, International Studies Program)
 - Nature, Culture, and Environmentalism (teaching assistant)
 - Core Course in Cultural Anthropology (teaching assistant)
- Some course syllabi available at <http://clas-pages.uncc.edu/nicole-peterson/courses/>*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Board Member, Environment and Anthropology Society, 2014-present
Board Member, Society for Economic Anthropology, 2011-2014
Member, Charlotte Food Policy Council's Experts Panel 2011-present
Organizer, Society for Applied Anthropology roundtable, Pedagogies of Practice: Using class research projects to teach applied anthropology, March 2014, Albuquerque NM, with Susan Andreatta
Organizer, Society for Economic Anthropology Schneider Prize for graduate and undergraduate student papers, 2011-2013
Faculty mentor of Charlotte Research Scholar (UNCC), summer undergraduate research program, 2013
Co-organizer of special issue of *Conservation and Society*, "Moving beyond the Legacy of the Rational Actor and Individual Responsibility," forthcoming.
Faculty sponsor of funded UNCC undergraduate research project on energy conservation, 2011
Co-organizer of panel, Environmental Governance and Policy: Moving beyond the Legacy of the Rational Actor and Individual Responsibility, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, Nov 19, 2011.
Workshop participant, NSF Short course in research methods in Anthropology: Ethnoecology, August 2011
Committee member, Transportation subcommittee of UNCC Climate Action Plan, Summer 2011
Co-organizer of roundtable: Anthropology in a Box: Extending the Reach of Anthropology in Institutional Settings. Chairs: Lanclous, Donna, Fuentes, Catherine, and Peterson, Nicole (UNC- Charlotte). Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Seattle, WA, March 30, 2011.
Reader, Society for Economic Anthropology Schneider Prize for student papers, 2009-2010
Judge, Environment and Anthropology Rappaport Prize for graduate student papers, 2009

Supervisor of senior theses, Barnard College Department of Anthropology, 2009-2010
Participant in American Anthropological Association Meetings Roundtable, "Interdisciplinary Collaborations," December 4, 2009.
Contributor, Greening the American Anthropological Association Working Group, 2008
Second reader, Columbia University Department of Anthropology Senior Thesis, 2008
Co-organizer of symposium of papers, "Participatory processes in agricultural development," for *Agriculture and Human Values*, published in 2011.
Co-organizer of invited session (Culture and Agriculture) "The social construction of participation: measures, meanings, and myths." American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Nov 30, 2007.
Co-organizer of session "What's in a Context?: Comparative Lessons from Mexican Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)," American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, Nov 15-19, 2006.
Organizing Committee, "Critical Citizenship: the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Civil Society," graduate student conference, UCSD. 2000
Coordinator, Graduate Student Enrichment Series, UCSD Department of Anthropology (1998-1999)

Reviewer,

American Anthropologist, 2007-8, 2013
American Ethnologist, 2011
Anthropological Theory, 2006
Area 2014
Climate and Development, 2009-2010
Climate Change Letters 2011
Climate Dynamics, 2010-2011
Conservation and Society 2009, 2011
Duke University Press, 2009, 2011, 2012
Environment and Society: Advances in Research, 2012, 2014
Environmental Development, 2012
Environmental Management, 2010
Human Organization, 2012
Journal of Ecological Anthropology, 2009
Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning, 2014
NSF International Research Experience for Students (IRES) Program 2012, 2013
Sustainability 2013
Weather, Climate, and Society, 2012

Member, American Anthropological Association

Section memberships: Anthropology and the Environment, Culture and Agriculture
Board Member, Society for Economic Anthropology (2011-2014)
Board Member, Anthropology and Environment

Member and Fellow, Society for Applied Anthropology

LANGUAGES AND OTHER SKILLS

- Fluency in spoken and written Spanish
- Proficiency with online course materials and webpage design (Courseworks, Moodle, Wordpress, Drupal, Dreamweaver)
- Proficiency in data analysis software (SPSS, R, NVivo)