

Melissa J. Burham

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530-368-2466

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Anthropology University of Arizona, 2019
M.A., Latin American Studies University of Arizona, 2010
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Spanish and Latin American Studies CSU Chico, 2007

DISSERTATION

Defining Ancient Maya Communities: The Social, Spatial, and Ritual Organization of Outlying Groups at Ceibal, Guatemala. School of Anthropology, University of Arizona.

APPOINTMENTS

January 2021-present **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Spring 2019, Summer 2022, **Adjunct Instructor**
Fall 2022 School of Anthropology, University of Arizona

January 2019-present **Adjunct Instructor**
Anthropology, Pima Community College

PUBLICATIONS

Burham, Melissa, Takeshi Inomata, Fernando Véliz, Flory Pinzón and Juan Manuel Palomo
Submitted La transición entre el Periodo Preclásico y el Preclásico en las Tierras Bajas Mayas: una
vista de Ceibal, Guatemala. In *XXXV Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala*,
edited by Barbara Arroyo. Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes, Instituto de Antropología e Historia,
and Asociación Tikal, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa

2023 Becoming an Intermediate Elite: Ritual Cooperation and Urbanization at Late Preclassic Ceibal.
The Mayanist 4(2): 1-20.

Burham, Melissa

2022 Sacred Sites for Suburbanites: Organic Urban Growth and Neighborhood Formation at Preclassic
Ceibal, Guatemala. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 47(4):262-283. DOI:
[10.1080/00934690.2022.2052583](https://doi.org/10.1080/00934690.2022.2052583)

Burham, Melissa, Takeshi Inomata, Daniela Triadan, and Jessica MacLellan

2020 Ritual Practice, Urbanism, and Sociopolitical Organization at Preclassic Ceibal, Guatemala. In *Approaches to Monumental Landscape of the Ancient Maya*, edited by Brett A. Houk, Barbara Arroyo, and Terry G. Powis, pp 61-84. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

MacLellan, Jessica, **Melissa Burham**, and María Belén Méndez Bauer

2020 Community Engagement around the Maya Archaeological Site of Ceibal, Guatemala. *Heritage* 3(3):637-648.

Ashley E. Sharpe, Takeshi Inomata, Daniela Triadan, **Melissa Burham**, Jessica MacLellan, Jessica Munson, and Flory Pinzón

2020 The Maya Preclassic to Classic Transition Observed through Faunal Trends from Ceibal, Guatemala. *PLoS ONE* 15(5): e0233193. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0233193>

Inomata, Takeshi, Daniela Triadan, Flory Pinzón, **Melissa Burham**, José Luis Ranchos, Kazuo Aoyama and Tsuyoshi Haraguchi

2018 Archaeological Application of Airborne LiDAR to Examine Social Changes in the Ceibal Region of the Maya lowlands. *PLoS ONE* 13(2): e0191619. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0191619>

Burham, Melissa and Ricardo Rodas

2018 Entre lo público y lo privado: La organización social y espacial de grupos de templo menor en las periferias de Ceibal, Guatemala. In *XXI Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala*, edited by Barbara Arroyo. Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes, Instituto de Antropología e Historia, and Asociación Tikal, Guatemala.

Triadan, Daniela, Victor Castillo, Takeshi Inomata, Juan Manuel Palomo, María Belén Méndez, Mónica Cortave, Jessica MacLellan, **Melissa Burham**, and Erick Ponciano

2017 Power and Social Relations in a Middle Preclassic Community: Elite Residential Complexes at Ceibal. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 28(1): 233-264.

Martínez, Daniel E., Jeremy Slack, Kraig Beyerlein, Prescott Vandervoet, Kristin Klingman, Paola Molina, Shiras Manning, **Melissa Burham**, Kylie Walzak, Kristen Valencia, and Lorenzo Gamboa.

2017 The Migrant Border Crossing Study: A Methodological Overview. *Population Studies* 71(2):249-264.

Inomata, Takeshi, Daniela Triadan, Jessica MacLellan, **Melissa Burham**, Kazuo Aoyama, Juan Manuel Palomo, Hitoshi Yonenobu, Flory Pinzón, and Hiroo Nasu

2017 High-Precision Radiocarbon Dating of Political Collapse and Dynastic Origins at the Maya Site of Ceibal, Guatemala. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114(6): 1293–1298.

Inomata, Takeshi, Jessica MacLellan and **Melissa Burham**

2015 The Construction of Public and Domestic Spheres in the Preclassic Maya Lowlands. *American Anthropologist* 117(3): 519-534.

Inomata, Takeshi, Jessica MacLellan, Daniela Triadan, Jessica Munson, **Melissa Burham**, Kazuo Aoyama, Hiroo Nasu, Flory Pinzón, and Hitoshi Yonenobu

2015 Development of Sedentary Communities in the Maya Lowlands: Coexisting Mobile Groups and Public Ceremonies at Ceibal, Guatemala. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 112(14): 4268-4273.

Burham, Melissa and Jessica MacLellan

2014 Thinking Outside the Plaza: Ritual Practices in Preclassic Maya Residential Groups at Ceibal, Guatemala. *Antiquity Project Gallery*. <https://www.antiquity.ac.uk/projgall/burham340>

Burham, Melissa

2014 Complejidad Social en las Afueras: Las Implicaciones Sociopolíticas de los Grupos de Templo Menor en Ceibal, Guatemala. In *XXVI Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, 2012*. Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes, Instituto de Antropología e Historia, and Asociación Tikal, Guatemala.

MacLellan, Jessica, and **Melissa Burham**

2013 Práctica Ceremonial y Doméstica en la Periferia de Ceibal. In *XXVI Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, 2012*, edited by Bárbara Arroyo y L. Méndez Salinas, pp. 961-976. Vol. 2. Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes, Instituto de Antropología e Historia, y Asociación Tikal, Guatemala.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

May, 2018 Summer Dissertation Fellowship
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona (\$5,000)

December, 2017 William Shirley Fulton Scholarship for Meeting
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$850)

March, 2017 GPSC Travel Grant
Graduate and Professional Student Council, University of Arizona (\$666)

December, 2016 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
National Science Foundation (\$14,403)

November, 2016 William and Nancy Sullivan Scholarship
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$700)

November, 2016 SBSRI Dissertation Grant
Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute, University of Arizona (\$2,000)

October, 2016 Research and Project Grant
Graduate and Professional Student Council, University of Arizona (\$1,000)

April, 2016 Emil W. Haury Education Fund for Archaeology
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$800)

April, 2016 Stanley R. Grant Scholarship
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$1,200)

April, 2016 Riecker Endowment Research Grant, University of Arizona (\$1,200)

November, 2015 William Shirley Fulton Scholarship Fund
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$1,000)

November 2015 Graduate Student Travel Scholarship for Meeting
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$475)

June, 2015 Mentored Research Experience for Success Grant Program, Cacioppo Foundation (\$2,500)

April, 2015 Riecker Endowment Research Grant, University of Arizona (\$2,000)

January, 2015 Graduate Student Travel Scholarship for Meeting
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$500)

January, 2015 William Shirley Fulton Scholarship,
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$176)

January 2015 William and Nancy Sullivan Scholarship,
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$824)

April, 2014 Emil W. Haury Education Fund for Archaeology
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$700)

March, 2014 Graduate and Professional Student Council Travel Grant, Research
University of Arizona (\$500)

November, 2013 William and Nancy Sullivan Scholarship,
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$300)

November, 2013 Graduate Student Travel Scholarship

School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$100)

- April, 2013 Riecker Endowment Research Grant, University of Arizona (\$200)
- March, 2013 Research and Meeting Scholarship, Haury Education Fund for Archaeology School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$800)
- April, 2012 Tinker Foundation Travel Grant, University of Arizona (\$850)
- April, 2012 Graduate Student Travel Scholarship for Meeting School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$100)
- April, 2012 Haury Education Fund for Archaeology-Meeting School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$400)
- April, 2012 Haury Education Fund for Archaeology-Research School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$325)
- December, 2011 Graduate Student Travel Scholarship for Research School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$100)
- December 2011 Haury Education Fund for Archaeology—Meeting School of Anthropology, University of Arizona (\$650)
- April 2009 Center for Latin American Studies Travel Grant, University of Arizona (\$500)
- March, 2009 Tinker Foundation Travel Grant, University of Arizona (\$650)
- February, 2009 Association for Women Faculty Travel Grant, University of Arizona (\$500)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Burham, Melissa

- 2022 Burham, Melissa, Takeshi Inomata, Fernando Véliz, Flory Pinzón and Juan Manuel Palomo. La transición entre el Periodo Preclásico y el Preclásico en las Tierra Bajas Mayas: una vista de Ceibal, Guatemala. Paper presented at the XXXV Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, July 18-22, 2022. Guatemala, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa

2022 Minor Temple Complexes as Semi-Public Spaces at Preclassic Ceibal, Guatemala. Paper presented at the 87th Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology, March 29-April , 2022. Chicago, Illinois. (Invited Session)

Palomo, Juan Manuel and Melissa Burham.

2022 Preceramic Occupation in the Maya Lowlands: Evidence from the Amoch Group at Ceibal. Paper presented at the 87th Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology, March 29-April , 2022. Chicago, Illinois. (Invited Session)

Burham, Melissa

2019 Urbanization, Minor Temple Constructions, and Local Community Formation at Ceibal, Guatemala. Paper presented at the 84th Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology, April 10-14, 2019. Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Organized session)

Burham, Melissa

2018 Minor Temple Groups, Water Management and Community Formation at Ceibal, Guatemala. Poster Presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology, April 11-15, 2018. Washington DC.

Burham, Melissa

2018 Minor Temple Groups, Water Management and Community Formation at Ceibal, Guatemala. Poster Presented at the Spring 2018 GPSC Student Showcase. University of Arizona, Tucson. (Invited Session)

Burham, Melissa and Ricardo Rodas

2017 Entre lo público y lo privado: La organización social y espacial de grupos de templo menor en las periferias de Ceibal, Guatemala. Paper presented at the XXI Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, July 17-21, 2017. Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa and Jessica MacLellan

2017 Setting the Stage for Kingship: Ritual Practice, Urbanism and Sociopolitical Organization at Preclassic Ceibal, Guatemala. Paper presented at the 7th Annual Maya at the Lago, Davidson Day School, April 27-30, 2017. Davidson, North Carolina. (Invited Session)

Burham, Melissa

2017 Ancient Urbanites: The Spatial and Social Organization of Outlying Temple Groups at Ceibal, Guatemala. Paper presented at the 82nd Annual Meeting for the Society for American Archaeology. March 29-April 2, 2017, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Burham, Melissa, Takeshi Inomata, Damien Bazy, and Daniela Triadan

2016 Musical Thrones: An Examination of Political Change and Palace Movement at Ceibal,

Guatemala. Paper presented at the 115th Annual Meeting for the American Anthropological Association, November 16-20, 2016, Minneapolis, MN. (Invited Session)

MacLellan, Jessica and Melissa Burham

2016 *Setting the Stage for Kingship: Changing Relationship between Domestic and Public Rituals at Preclassic Ceibal, Guatemala.* Paper presented at the 2016 Maya Meetings, University of Texas at Austin, January 14-16, 2016. Austin, TX.

Burham, Melissa

2015 *From Residential to Region: A Multiscalar Approach to Studying Settlement and Social Process at Ceibal, Guatemala.* Boston University Graduate Conference, October 25, 2015. Boston, MA.

Burham, Melissa

2015 *Out with the New and In with the Old: The Termination and Reutilization of Minor Temples at Ceibal, Guatemala.* Paper presented at the 80th Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology, April 2015. San Francisco, CA.

Burham, Melissa

2013 *Complejidad Social en las Afueras: Las Implicaciones Sociopolíticas de los Grupos de Templo Menor en Ceibal, Guatemala.* Paper presented at the XXVII Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, July 22, 2013. Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa

2013 *Social Complexity in the Periphery: The Implications of Very Minor Centers at Ceibal, Guatemala.* Paper presented at the 78th Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology, April 5, 2013. Honolulu, Hawaii.

MacLellan, Jessica, and Melissa Burham

2012 *Práctica Ceremonial y Doméstica en la Periferia de Ceibal.* Paper presented at the XXVI Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala. Guatemala City.

Burham, Melissa, Daniela Triadan and Anastasiya Kravtsova

2011 *Layers of Memories: Preclassic Occupation of Ceibal's East Court.* Paper presented at the 76th Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology. Sacramento, California.

Burham, Melissa

2009 *The Hunt for Immortality: The Role of Classic Maya Monuments in Producing and Maintaining Social Memory.* Paper presented at the 108th Annual Meeting for the American Anthropological Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Burham, Melissa

2009 *The Hunt for Immortality: The Role of Classic Maya Monuments in Producing and Maintaining Social Memory—Research Experiences at CIRMA, Guatemala*. Paper presented at the 2009 Tinker Symposium. University of Arizona, Tucson.

Martinez, Daniel E. and Melissa Burham

2009 *Migrant Experiences along the México-Arizona Border: An Overview of Updated Figures*. Paper presented at the 2009 Social Justice Conference. University of Arizona, Tucson.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Arizona

Principles of Archaeology

Instructor, School of Anthropology (Fall 2022)

World Archaeology

Instructor, School of Anthropology and New Start Program (Summer 2022)

Native Peoples of the Southwest

Instructor, School of Anthropology (Spring 2019)

Mesoamerican Civilizations, the Maya

Instructor, School of Anthropology (Summer 2017)

Many Ways of Being Human

Instructor, School of Anthropology (Summer 2014)

Patterns in Prehistory

Teaching Assistant, School of Anthropology (Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2016)

Origins of Human Diversity

Teaching Assistant, School of Anthropology (Fall 2012, Fall 2013)

The Classical Ideal in 1930s Art

Teaching Assistant, School of Anthropology (Fall 2017)

African Diaspora Religions and Culture

Teaching Assistant, Department of Africana Studies (Fall 2015)

Pima Community College

Non-Western Societies

Instructor, Department of Anthropology (Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022)

Human Origins

Instructor, Department of Anthropology (Fall 2019)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Present **Postdoctoral Researcher/Director of Ceibal-Petexbatún Archaeological Project, Second Phase**
University of Arizona
- 2010-2018 **Ceibal-Petexbatún Archaeological Project, Guatemala**
Directed by Takeshi Inomata and Daniela Triadan, University of Arizona
- Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018 **Graduate Research Assistant**
School of Anthropology, University of Arizona
- November 2012 **La Playa Burial Rescue Project**
Directed by James Watson, University of Arizona
- June-July 2009 **Study Abroad, Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA). Antigua, Guatemala.**
- August 2008-August 2010 **Migrant Border Crossing Survey (MBCS) Project**
Department of Sociology, University of Arizona

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

- 2022 Burham, Melissa, Flory Pinzón, eds.
Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatún: La Temporada 2022. Report submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala.
- Burham, Melissa and Ricardo Rodas
2015 Excavaciones en el Grupo Amoch: Operación CB215. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2015*, edited by Flory Pinzon and Takeshi Inomata, Ch. 7. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala.
- Burham, Melissa and Ricardo Rodas
2015 Excavaciones en el Grupo Jul (Unidad 54): Operación CB210. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2015*, edited by Flory Pinzon and Takeshi Inomata, Ch. 8. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa and Ricardo Rodas

2015 Excavaciones en el Grupo Palacio: Operación CB223. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2015*, edited by Flory Pinzon and Takeshi Inomata, Ch. 9. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa and Ricardo Rodas

2014 Excavaciones en el Grupo Amoch: Operaciones CB215 y CB220. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2014*, edited by Flory Pinzon and Takeshi Inomata, Ch. 8. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa, Ricardo Rodas and Allan Vicente

2014 Excavaciones en el Grupo Pek: Operación CB218. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2014*, edited by Flory Pinzon and Takeshi Inomata, Ch. 9. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa, and Javier Estrada

2013 Excavaciones en el Grupo Amoch (Unidades 4E-14, Estructura 1 y Estructura 2): Operación 215. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2013*, edited by Juan Manuel Palomo, pp. 52-81. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala.

Burham, Melissa

2012 Excavaciones en las Unidades Ceremoniales Menores y Residenciales 54 y 4E-10/F4-15: Operaciones CB210 y CB213. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2012*, edited by Victor Castillo and Takeshi Inomata, pp. 163-192. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala. Available online at: <http://www.ceibalaguatca.org/resources.htm>.

Triadan, Daniela and Melissa Burham

2010 Excavaciones enfrente de la Estructura A-16: Operación 201A. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2010*, edited by O. Román and T. Inomata, pp. 6-16. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala. Available online at: <http://www.ceibal-aguateca.org/resources.htm>.

Triadan, Daniela and Melissa Burham

2010 Excavaciones enfrente de la Estructura A-15: Operación 201B. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2010* (O. Román and T. Inomata, Eds.): 17-29. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala. Available online at: <http://www.ceibal-aguateca.org/resources.htm>

Triadan, Daniela and Melissa Burham

2010 Excavación en el pozo de Harvard, patio norte de la Corte Este: Operación 201F. In *Informe del Proyecto Arqueológico Ceibal-Petexbatun: La Temporada 2010* (O. Román and T. Inomata, Eds.): 51-56. Report Submitted to the Instituto de Antropología e Historia, Guatemala. Available online at: <http://www.ceibal-aguateca.org/resources.htm>.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fluent in Spanish (speaking, listening, reading, and writing)

REFERENCES

Dr. Takeshi Inomata
Professor of Anthropology, University of Arizona
inomata@arizona.edu

Dr. Daniela Triadan
Professor of Anthropology, University of Arizona
dtridadan@arizona.edu

Dr. Lars Fogelin
Associate Professor of Anthropology,
University of Arizona
lfogelin@arizona.edu

Dr. Tineke Van Zandt
Department Head of Anthropology, Archaeology, and GIS
Pima Community College
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