

## Taylor A. Tappan

Ph.D. Candidate  
Dept. of Geography and Atmospheric Science  
University of Kansas

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### EDUCATION

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#### **Ph.D. in Geography (expected graduation Spring 2022)**

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

- Dissertation: *Indigenous Communities, Land Tenure, and Forest Conservation in the Talamanca Highlands of Costa Rica*
- Comprehensive exams and advancement to candidacy: December 14, 2017
- Chair: Peter Herlihy
- Committee members: Stephen Egbert, Abel Chikanda, Brent Metz, and Kelly Kindscher

#### **M.A. in Geography (2015)**

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

- Thesis: *A Cultural Historical Geography of Schools in the Honduran Mosquitia*
- Chair: Peter Herlihy
- Committee members: Stephen Egbert and Jerome Dobson

#### **B.A.s in Geography and Spanish, with distinction (2010)**

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Cultural and historical geographies of Latin America
- Cultural and political ecologies related to Indigenous Peoples' territory, land use, and land tenure practices
- Remote sensing- and GIS- based land use/land cover change mapping
- Collaborative participatory research mapping and participatory rural appraisal
- Pedagogy for geography students

### LANGUAGE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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Spanish            Advanced fluency in written and oral Spanish

Maya-  
Kaqchikel            Intermediate fluency in indigenous Maya-Kaqchikel of Guatemala

<u>Miskitu</u>	Intermediate fluency in indigenous Miskitu language of Honduras and Nicaragua
<u>Maps and GIS</u>	Advanced proficiency in map-making and spatial analysis using ESRI ArcGIS and QGIS software
<u>Remote Sensing</u>	Advanced proficiency with satellite image processing and raster analysis using ERDAS Imagine, ESRI ArcGIS, and Adobe Photoshop software
<u>Professional Writing</u>	Broad experience applying for research grants at university- and national- level competitions and collaborating on peer-reviewed articles in geography
<u>Pedagogy</u>	Advanced experience in best teaching practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion through employment in the University of Kansas Center for Teaching Excellence
<u>Leadership</u>	Six years of experience organizing and leading participatory research mapping workshops in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico
<u>Organization</u>	Served as a co-lead organizer of the 2018 Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in San José, Costa Rica

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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2021-2022	Graduate Research Assistant. Dept. of Geography and Atmospheric Science. University of Kansas.
2020-2021	Graduate Lecturer. Dept. of Geography & Atmospheric Science. University of Kansas.
2020-2021	Graduate Research Fellow. Center for Teaching Excellence. University of Kansas.
2019-2020	Graduate Research Assistant. Cartographic Services Lab, Dept. of Geography & Atmospheric Science. University of Kansas.
2019	U.S. Dept. of Education Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellow, Costa Rica.
2018	Graduate Lecturer. Dept. of Geography & Atmospheric Science. University of Kansas.
2013-2018	Graduate Research Assistant. University of Kansas <i>Central America Indígena Project</i> . Funded by Minerva Initiative for University-led Research under grant W911NF1310281 from U.S. Dept. of Defense.
2013	Graduate Teaching Assistant. Office of Study Abroad. University of Kansas.

2010-2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant. Dept. of Geography & Atmospheric Science.  
University of Kansas.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed titles

- 2021 Peter H. Herlihy, Matthew L. Fahrenbruch, & **Taylor A. Tappan**. "Regaining Ground: Indigenous Populations and Territories in Central America." In Robert Holden (ed.) *Handbook of Central American History*. Oxford University Press.
- 2019 Peter H. Herlihy and **Taylor A. Tappan** "Titling Indigenous Miskitu Territory in Honduras." *Geographical Review* 109 (1). 67-86.
- 2018 **Taylor A. Tappan** and Peter H. Herlihy. "Mapping Miskitu Subsistence Use Change in Concejo Territorial Katainasta, Honduras." *Revista Geográfica de América Central* 61e (3). 609-622.
- 2017 John H. Kelly, Peter H. Herlihy, **Taylor A. Tappan**, Andrew M. Hilburn, and Matthew L. Fahrenbruch. "From Cognitive Maps to Transparent Static Web Maps: Tools for Indigenous Territorial Control in La Moskitia, Honduras." *Cartographica* 52 (1). 1-19.

### Map publications by country

- 2018 **Costa Rica:** *Reserva Indígena Cabécar de Chirripó*. 1:25,000 and 1:40,000-scale. Five maps covering 750km<sup>2</sup>. Produced by Central America Indígena Research Team in collaboration with Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica and Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de la Reserva Indígena Cabécar de Chirripó. Web. [www.prmapping.res.ku.edu](http://www.prmapping.res.ku.edu).
- 2018 **Guatemala:** *Departamento de Sacatepéquez*. 1:40,000-scale. Map covering 550km<sup>2</sup>. Produced by *Central America Indígena Research Team* in collaboration with Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala and Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Guatemala. Web. [www.prmapping.res.ku.edu](http://www.prmapping.res.ku.edu).
- 2017 **Honduras:** *KATAINASTA, Auhya Yari, BAKINASTA, BAMIASTA, BATAIASTA, DIUNAT, Tawahka, and WAMAKKLISINASTA*. 1:50,000-scale. Eight maps covering 7,000km<sup>2</sup>. Produced by *Central America Indígena Research Team* in collaboration with MASTA, FITH, UPNFM, World Bank's PATH II, GiZ, Honduran Forestry Conservation, United Nations Development Program, MOPAWI. Web. [www.prmapping.res.ku.edu](http://www.prmapping.res.ku.edu).

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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### Conference Presentations

- 2021 “Indigenous Livelihoods, Land Tenure, and Forest Conservation in Central America: A Case Study from Costa Rica’s Chirripó Reserve.” *34<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress*. August 16-20, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2020 “Indigenous Territories, Land Tenure, and Forest Conservation in Alto Chirripó, Costa Rica.” 1<sup>st</sup> Place, *Graduate Research Competition, University of Kansas Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies*. June 1, Lawrence, KS (asynchronous format due to COVID-19).
- 2018 “Constructing and Legitimizing Indigenous Miskitu Territory through 25 Years of Land and Resource Use Mapping.” *Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers*. May 21-22, San José, Costa Rica.
- 2018 “Slash-and-Burn? Gauging Subsistence Agriculture vs. Conservation Agendas in the Costa Rican Talamanca.” *KU Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Research Symposium*. April 16, Lawrence, KS.
- 2016 “Desarrollando Información Geográfica de Base a través de las Investigaciones Cartográficas Participativas (ICP) en la Muskitia Hondureña.” Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) *Mesoamerican Conference on Open Tenure*. May 16-20, Sololá, Guatemala.
- 2016 “Developing Baseline Geographic Information through Participatory Research Mapping in Alto Chirripó Indigenous Reserve, Costa Rica.” *Association of American Geographers* annual conference. March 29-April 1, San Francisco, CA.
- 2015 “Land Rights and Stability in Indigenous Societies of Central America.” *Minerva Meeting and Program Review Conference*. September 9-10, Washington, D.C.
- 2015 “Establishing a New Indigenous Territory for the Miskitu in Honduras.” *Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers*. May 26-30, Fortaleza, Brazil.
- 2014 “Concejos Territoriales: New functional indigenous territorial jurisdictions of the Honduran Muskitia.” *Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers*. January 7-11, Panama City, Panama.
- 2013 “The Role of Schools in Shaping Miskitu Settlement Landscapes and Territoriality in the Honduran Mosquitia.” *Association of American Geographers* annual conference. April 9, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2011 “PROCEDE and Land Reform in Mexico.” *Center for Latin American Studies Graduate Research Competition*. April 20, University of Kansas: Lawrence, Kansas.

### **Invited Presentations**

- 2020 “People and Polygons: A Hidden Layer of Land Use and Land Tenure in Costa Rica’s Largest Collective Territory.” *Colloquium Series at Dept. of Geography and Atmospheric Science, University of Kansas*. October 30, Lawrence, KS.

- 2019 “Prácticas y métodos claves en Investigación Cartográfica Participativa.” *Escuela de Ciencias Geográficas de la Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica*. May 13, Heredia, Costa Rica.
- 2019 “La producción de información geográfica fundacional en la Reserva Indígena Cabécar de Chirripó.” Research brief for members of the U.S. Embassy’s Office of Press and Cultural Affairs and the Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de la Reserva Indígena Cabécar de Chirripó. April 24, Grano de Oro, Turrialba, Costa Rica.
- 2017 With Peter H. Herlihy. “Participatory Research Mapping in Alto Chirripó Indigenous Reserve.” *Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Costa Rica*. August 16, San José, Costa Rica.
- 2017 “Mapping Land Cover Change in Alto Chirripó, Costa Rica.” *Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science, University of Kansas*. April 18, Lawrence, KS.
- 2017 With Peter H. Herlihy. “Preliminary Results of Participatory Research Mapping Pilot Study in Costa Rican Talamanca.” *School of Geography at University of Costa Rica*. March 20, San José, Costa Rica.
- 2015 With Peter H. Herlihy. “Proyecto Centroamérica Indígena: Derechos de Tenencia de la Tierra y Estabilidad de las Sociedades Indígenas de América Central.” *School of Social Sciences, Universidad de Costa Rica*. March 26, San José, Costa Rica.
- 2015 With Peter H. Herlihy. “Proyecto Centroamérica Indígena: Derechos de Tenencia de la Tierra y Estabilidad de las Sociedades Indígenas de América Central.” *Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Guatemala*. March 23, Guatemala City, Guatemala.”

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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### Major Awards

- 2021- U.S. Dept. of Education Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) for Maya-  
22 Kaqchikel indigenous language (Guatemala). Funded through University of Kansas Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. **\$33,000 (declined award)**
- 2021 (Submitted with Dr. Peter Herlihy, PI): National Science Foundation (NSF) GEOPATHS-Graduate Opportunities. **\$347,044 (not funded)**
- 2019 U.S. Dept. of Education Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. **\$23,736**
- 2018 KU *General Research Fund Competition* (P. Herlihy PI; T. Tappan co-PI) for producing and publishing digital atlas of eastern Honduras’s indigenous Mosquitia Region through University of Kansas Libraries. **\$7412**
- 2018 KU *Charles Stansifer Fellowship* for dissertation research in Talamanca region of Costa Rica. **\$5000**

## Minor Awards

- 2021 KU Center for Teaching Excellence *Revolutionizing Academia Learning Community for Implementing Effective Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Practices*. **\$1000**
- 2018 *Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers Field Study Award* for dissertation research in Talamanca region of Costa Rica. **\$1500**
- 2018 KU Graduate Student Writing Incentive Fund for dissertation research in Costa Rica. **\$2400**
- 2018 KU Pierre A. Stouse Memorial Award for dissertation research in Costa Rica. **\$1000**
- 2017 KU Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Scholarship for pre-dissertation research in Costa Rica **\$2600**
- 2017 KU International Programs Travel Grant for pre-dissertation research in Costa Rica. **\$1500**
- 2017 KU Pierre A. Stouse Memorial Award for pre-dissertation research Costa Rica. **\$1500**
- 2017 *DigitalGlobe Foundation Imagery Grant*. High resolution multispectral imagery for pre-dissertation research in Costa Rica (**imagery for research**)
- 2015 KU Tinker Foundation Research Grant for exploratory research in Costa Rica. **\$1500**
- 2012 KU Kollmorgen Graduate Research Scholarship for M.A. research in Honduras. **\$500**
- 2012 KU Latin American Studies Field Research Grant for M.A. research in Honduras. **\$2000**
- 2012 KU Pierre A. Stouse Memorial Award for M.A. research in Honduras. **\$750**
- 2011 KU Foreign Language Area Studies Scholarship (FLAS) to study Miskitu language and culture in Nicaragua on University of Kansas Study Abroad. **\$2500**
- 2010 KU Tinker Foundation Research Grant for exploratory research in Honduras. **\$1200**

## RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK

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### Costa Rica

- 2018-2019 Dissertation research on land tenure and forest conservation in Chirripó Indigenous Reserve. (15 months). Affiliated institutions: Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica; Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Cabécar de Chirripó.

- 2014-2018 Participatory Research Mapping pilot study in Chirripó Reserve. 17 trips (1-2 weeks each). Affiliated institutions: Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica; Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Cabécar de Chirripó.
- 2017 Pre-dissertation research on land use/cover change in Chirripó Indigenous Reserve. 1 trip (2 months). Affiliated institutions: Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica; Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Cabécar de Chirripó.

### **Guatemala**

- 2014-2018 Produce 1:50,000-scale map focusing on indigenous communities' toponyms (place names) in Sacatepéquez Department through participatory research mapping. 16 trips (1-2 weeks each). Affiliated institutions: Universidad de San Carlos; Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Guatemala.

### **Honduras**

- 2013-2018 Create baseline maps for Miskitu indigenous territories through participatory research mapping. 20 trips (1-10 weeks each). Affiliated institutions: Miskitu Indigenous Federation (MASTA); Tawahka Indigenous Federation (FITH); Francisco Morazán National Pedagogic University (UPNFM); World Bank's Honduran Land Administration Program (PATH II); Honduran Forestry Agency (ICF); German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ); Honduran Property Institute (IP); National Federation for Autochthonous Groups in Honduras (CONPAH).
- 2010-2012 M.A. field and archival research on origin and diffusion of elementary education in Honduran Muskitia region. 2 trips (6 weeks each).

### **Mexico**

- 2010-11 Conduct undergraduate and early graduate research on forest cover change in the Huasteca region of San Luis Potosí. 3 trips (2 weeks each).
- 2008 Conduct undergraduate research on *México Indígena Project* in Oaxaca to study the effects of government-sponsored land privatization on collectively-owned indigenous homelands. 1 trip (2 weeks).

### **Nicaragua**

- 2009-2013 Research indigenous Miskitu language and culture on KU Study Abroad. 3 trips (6 weeks each).

### **Panama**

- 2014 Conduct research on indigenous land tenure in Panamá City and in Darién Province. 1 trip (2 weeks).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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## University of Kansas Graduate Teaching Assistant

- 2020-2021 GEOG 102 (online): Provide lectures, design homework exercises, and write exams for Introduction to Human Geography: People, Place, and Society
- 2020-2021 Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE): Collaborate with graduate students, faculty, and new teaching assistants across campus to foster evidence-based effective teaching methods; collaborate on CTE publications and teaching portfolios; develop teaching materials (rubrics, active learning exercises, etc.) for Geography courses
- 2019-2020 Cartographic Services (CART) Lab Graduate Research Assistant. Conduct guided research for CART Lab Director, Dr. Di Shi. Tasks include reviews of scholarly literature, analysis and processing of geospatial data in ArcGIS and ERDAS Imagine software platforms, and map-making
- 2018 GEOG 100: Provide lectures, design homework exercises, and write exams for World Regional Geography
- 2013 LAA 302/602: Provide lectures, design homework exercises, and write exams for introductory written and spoken Miskitu language classes on the KU Study Abroad program, *Language and Culture in Nicaragua*
- 2012-2013 GEOG 358/558: Instruct introductory and intermediate geographic information systems (GIS) lab classes for undergraduate and graduate students
- 2012-2013 GEOG 526/726: Instruct introductory and intermediate remote sensing lab classes using ERDAS and ENVI software platforms for undergraduate and graduate students
- 2010-2012 GEOG 105: Provide lectures, design homework exercises, and write exams for introductory physical geography lab classes

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2020-2021: Graduate Student Representative for Dept. of Geography and Atmospheric Science faculty meetings, University of Kansas.
- 2017-2018 Organizing committee member with Peter Herlihy and Lilliam Quirós Arias for 35th Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) in San José, Costa Rica
- Lead developer of conference website using Drupal 8 platform; first editor for conference program and abstract book; lead organizer for post-conference field trip to Monteverde, Costa Rica

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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- 2021 -- International Geographical Congress
- 2020 -- American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- Latin American Specialty Group
  - Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group
- 2020 University of Kansas Center for Teaching Excellence Advanced GTA Development Group
- 2015 -- University of Kansas Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO)
- 2014 -- Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)