

# Nicole Ashley Cox

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University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Anthropology  
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## Education

Ph.D. – Anthropology (Status: Doctoral Candidate) Aug 2023 (Expected)  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

B.A. – Dance, Sociology and Anthropology 2012  
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

## International Academic Affiliations

Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Feb 2020 – Apr 2020  
University of Roehampton, London, UK  
Department of Dance

Visiting Researcher Nov 2019 – Feb 2020  
University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji  
School of Language, Arts, and Media

## Academic and Teaching Positions at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Humanities Research Institute Graduate Student Fellow Aug 2022 – May 2023  
Annual Theme: Un/doing

Graduate Affiliate - Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning Aug 2022- Present  
Responsibilities include designing and teaching workshops, classroom observations, client consultations, and mentoring graduate student teachers.

Instructor of Record Jun 2021 – May 2022  
Course: ANTH 103 Anthropology in a Changing World (online)  
Summer 2021: 60 Students  
Fall 2021/Spring 2022: 400/600 Students, 7/10 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant Aug 2017 – May 2021  
Course: ANTH 270 Language in Culture (online w/ discussion sections)  
Course: ANTH 101 Introduction to Anthropology (online)  
Course: ANTH 103 Anthropology in a Changing World (online)  
Course: ANTH 230 Sociocultural Anthropology (w/discussion sections)  
Course: ANTH 104 Talking Culture (w/ discussion sections)

Research and Editorial Assistant Aug 2018–Sep 2020  
Journal for the Anthropological Study of Human Movement  
Author correspondence, copy-editing, and researching new works and potential authors.

## Publication

Cox, Nicole. 2019 "An Absent Cloth: Authority, Costume, and Embodiment in Kathak." *Journal for the Anthropological Study of Human Movement* 26(1). <https://jashm.press.uillinois.edu/26.1/cox.html>

## Other Essays and Public Pieces

Cox, Nicole. 2019 "The Invaluable Gift of Yoga." *Anthropology News Website*, American Anthropological Association. <https://anthrosource-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/doi/pdf/10.1111/AN.1184>

Cox, Nicole. 2022 "Movement and Meaning in Indian Diplomacy." Humanities Research Institute *Inquiry* Blog Feature. <https://publish.illinois.edu/inquiryblog/2022/11/29/anthropology-research-identifies-relationship-between-movement-practices-and-international-governance/>

## Selected Papers and Presentations

"Celebrations in Suva: Diversity, Religion, and National Identity in India's Public Diplomacy"  
Paper Presentation – American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, General Anthropology Division, Panel: "Religion: Intimate, Embodied, and Public Forms of Knowing", November 2022

"The Artist Investigators and Dancing Anthropologists of American Diplomacy"  
Paper Presentation – American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Association of Black Anthropologists, Panel: "Decolonizing Methodologies and Expressive Culture", November 2021

"Creating Connections, Building Relationships: South Asian Dance in Fiji"  
Paper contribution – Dance Studies Association Annual Meeting, Session: Connection, Health, and Radical Care, October 2021

"Entanglements of Meaning on a Political Stage: Dance in India-U.S. Public Diplomacy"  
Invited Paper – International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2021

"By Whose Definition? Diplomatic Navigations and Re-making (the) Indian Dance Abroad"  
Invited Speaker – Indian Dance and Dissent, Moving for Justice Series, Swarthmore College/Jadavpur University, April 2021

"Both, And, But, Or: Layers of Meaning in India's Cultural Relations with Fiji"  
Paper Presentation – Anthropology in Transit Symposium, University of California, Irvine, April 2021

"Dance and Indian Cultural Relations in Fiji – A Project in Process"  
Invited Talk – University of the South Pacific, SLAM Seminar Series, February 2020

"Writing Classical Indian Dance: The Sensual Gendered Body in Text"  
Paper Presentation – Central States Anthropological Society Conference, April 2018

"Behind the Fourth Wall": Nritta and Natya  
Lecture Demonstration - Fulbright Conference South and Central Asia, March 2014

## Teaching Awards

UIUC Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students	
Instructor of Record ANTH 103	Summer 2021
Discussion Leader ANTH 270 (Outstanding instructor rating)	Spring 2021
Discussion Leader ANTH 230 (Outstanding instructor rating)	Spring 2018

## Selected Grants, Scholarships, and Awards

Graduate College FA22 Conference Travel Award	2022
Humanities Research Institute Graduate Fellowship	2022
Graduate College Dissertation Travel Award	2021
American Anthropological Association GAD Annual Meeting Travel Award	2021
Department of Anthropology Edward M. Bruner Award	2021
Nelle M. Signor Graduate Scholarship in International Relations	2019
Department of Anthropology Graduate Student Summer Research Award	2017 & 2019
Central States Anthropological Society Graduate Student Paper Prize	2017
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention	2016
University of Illinois Graduate College Distinguished Scholar Fellow (3year award)	2014
Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Grant	2013

## Research Projects

*Embodied Understandings: Dance, Movement, and Discourse in India's International Cultural Relations* In-progress

Dissertation Research

Suva, Fiji; London, UK; Houston, USA

Ethnographic and archival research on the role of dancers and cultural movement practices in India's cultural relations in three national contexts. Includes semiotic analysis comparing artist intention and government discourses about dance and movement as cultural relations.

*Practicing and Performing India Abroad: International Spaces of Cultural Diplomacy*

Preliminary Dissertation Research Dec 2016–Jan 2017, Jun –Aug 2017

Ahmedabad, India; San Francisco, USA; London, UK; and Berlin, Germany

Multi-sited research on the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and reach of Indian cultural programs abroad

*Embodying Abhinaya: The Art of Speaking through Movement*

Fulbright-Nehru Student Researcher

Aug 2013–May 2014

Ahmedabad & Kolkata, India

Training in the Classical Indian Dance (Kathak) under Guru Padma Bushan Kumudini Lakhia at Kadamb Center for Dance and Music. Study of Indian aesthetic theory and abhinaya (emotional expression and storytelling) with Priyadarshini Gosh and Sanjay Bhattacharya.

**Service**

Guest Lecture – ANTH 221 Archaeology of South Asia Indian Classical Dance Narratives	Mar 2022/Apr 2023
Invited Panelist – “Teaching in Graduate School” Illinois Anthropology — First- and second-year graduate student course	Oct 2021
Small Group and Microteaching Session Facilitator UIUC CITL Graduate Academy for College Teaching	Aug 2021/Jan 2022
Discussion Leader UIUC Community of Scholars — University of Illinois campus visit program for prospective graduate students from underrepresented populations	Mar/Apr 2021
Co-Leader (Sociocultural Anthropology Representative) UIUC Department of Anthropology Graduate Anthropology Student Association (GASA)	2014 – 2018

**Professional Memberships**

Dance Studies Association  
 American Anthropological Association  
     Sections: Association of Black Anthropologists, Political and Legal Anthropology,  
     Anthropology of Policy, Humanistic Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology  
 International Studies Association

**Skills and Certificates**

Graduate Teaching Certificate, UIUC Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning  
 Advanced Kathak Training  
     Kadamb Center for Dance, Ahmedabad, India 2013– 2014,  
     Padma Bushan Kumudini Lakhia, Sanjukta Sinha, Rupanshi Kashyap 2020 – 2022  
     Courtyard Dancers, Philadelphia USA 2008– 2013  
     Dr. Pallabi Chakravorty  
 Other Dance Training: Lindy Hop and West Coast Swing, Ballet, Jazz, Social/Ballroom (multiple)  
 Languages: Intermediate Coursework in Hindi and Spanish  
 Intermediate Certification - Labanotation (Human Movement Analysis and Notation)