

# EDUARDO A ESCOBAR

5737 S. University Ave, Chicago IL 60637  
347.224.3000 | escobare [at] uchicago.edu

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## APPOINTMENTS

**The Institute on the Formation of Knowledge (SIFK), University of Chicago** 2017–  
Postdoctoral Researcher and Instructor  
Faculty Affiliate in the Departments of History and the Committee on Conceptual and  
Historical Studies of Science

## EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley, MA, CPhil, PhD, Near Eastern Studies with a Designated  
Emphasis (DE) in Science and Technology Studies (STS), 2017**  
Dissertation Title: *Technology as Knowledge: Cuneiform Technical Recipes and the Material  
World*; Advisor: Francesca Rochberg

**University of Cambridge, Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS), 2013**  
Visiting Student funded by Sydney-Ehrman Fellowship;  
Departmental Sponsor: Simon Schaffer

**Columbia University, MA, 2010 in Art History and Archaeology**  
MA Thesis: *Metal Casters and Metal Casting at Ugarit During the Late Bronze Age*  
Advisor: Zainab Bahrani

**The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, BFA, 2007**

## TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

### INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

**Babylon and the Origins of Knowledge (KNOW 27004)**, Fall 2017, 2018  
**Language and the Human (HUMA 17100)**, Winter 2017, 2018  
**Secrecy and Science (KNOW 27005)**, Spring 2018  
**Between Nature and Artifice: The Formation of Scientific Knowledge (KNOW 40304)**, 2019

## INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

**Selected Readings in Akkadian (CUN101B; graduate seminar), 2016**

**History and Philosophy of the Sciences in the Pre-modern Middle East (R1A), 2015**

**History of Science and Technology in the Pre-modern Middle East (R1A), 2014**

## MENTORING

**Student Mentoring and Research Teams (SMART), UC Berkeley, 2016**

Mentoring in research and professional development, completed course GSPDP 301 (Mentoring in Higher Education); SMART team project entitled "Networks of Knowledge in Ancient Babylonia"; supervised undergraduate history major (with no prior knowledge of cuneiform) in developing visual networks of Babylonian knowledge using digital tools (Cytoscape, Gephi, OpenRefine, Adobe Creative Suite)

## TEACHING AWARDS AND PEDAGOGY

**Teagle Foundation Award, UC Berkeley, 2016**

Highest teaching award at UC Berkeley, awarded to only 2 Graduate Student Instructors; a published essay of my teaching methodology may be found at:

<http://gsi.berkeley.edu/programs-services/award-programs/tea-teagle-award/escobar-essay/>

**Teaching Effectiveness Award, UC Berkeley, 2016**

Awarded to only 14 Graduate Student Instructors: <http://gsi.berkeley.edu/escobare-2016/>

**Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Award, UC Berkeley, 2016**

## PUBLICATIONS

### EDITED VOLUMES

Crisostomo, C. Jay, Eduardo A. Escobar, Terri Tanaka, and Niek Veldhuis, eds. 2018. *"The Scaffolding of Our Thoughts": Essays on Assyriology and the History of Science in Honor of Francesca Rochberg, Ancient Magic and Divination*. Leiden/Boston: Brill.

### ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

2018. with Laurie Pearce. "Bricoleurs in Babylonia: The Scribes of *Enūma Anu Enlil*." In *"The Scaffolding of Our Thoughts": Essays on Assyriology and the History of Science in Honor of Francesca Rochberg*, edited by C. Jay Crisostomo, Eduardo A. Escobar, Terri Tanaka and Niek Veldhuis, 264–286. Leiden/Boston: Brill.

2018. "Numbers Culture: Old Babylonian Mathematics at Yale." In *Ancient Mesopotamia Speaks. Highlights from the Yale Babylonian Collection*, edited by Agnete Wisti Lassen, Eckart Frahm, and Klaus Wagonsonner. Yale University Press.

## WEB ESSAYS

2017. "Babylonian Knowledge and the Challenge of History"  
<http://sifk.uchicago.edu/news/babylonian-knowledge-and-the-challenge-of-history/>
2016. "Constructing Live Knowledge from Dead Civilizations"  
<http://gsi.berkeley.edu/programs-services/award-programs/tea-teagle-award/escobar-essay/>

## FORTHCOMING

2019. "Towards a History of Cuneiform Procedures: From Mathematics to Technology." In *A Cultural History of Mathematics*, edited by David Rowe and Joseph Dauben. Bloomsbury Publishing.
2019. "Knowledge of the Artificial in Ancient Assyrian Scholarship," *KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge*, vol. 3.2.

## IN PREPARATION

- The Scribal Craft: Cuneiform Recipe Knowledge and the Language of Technology* (monograph)
- "Perfumery in Assyria: A Neo-Assyrian Perfume Recipe IM56867 (ND 460)"
- "Learning Cuneiform Signs Computationally: A Statistical Approach" (in collaboration with Eshan Asgari, Life Language Processing Project, UC Berkeley)

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- GLASS | Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus (ORACC)**, 2012–  
Principal investigator for text editions of cuneiform technical recipes (<http://oracc.org/glass>)
- Early Knowledge of the Heavens (EKOH)**, 2014–  
Executive Assistant to the Directors (Alan Bowen, Francesca Rochberg)

## RESEACH APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, 2017–19  
Center for Science, Technology, Medicine, Society (CSTMS), 2012–17  
UC Berkeley Digital Humanites Fellows, 2016–17  
Assyrian Heritage Fund Advisory Committee, 2013–17  
Institute for the Study of Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), 2009–15  
Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW), 2010  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Dept. of Ancient Near Eastern Art Curatorial Intern, 2007–08

## GRANTS

Bard Graduate Center Visiting Fellow, September 2018  
Digital Humanities Collaborative Fellowship, *UC Berkeley*, 2016–17  
Student Mentoring and Research Teams (SMART), *UC Berkeley*, 2016  
Student Technology Fund, *UC Berkeley*, 2016  
Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI) Tuition Fellowship, *Victoria, BC*, 2015, 2016  
Stahl Endowment, Archaeological Research Facility (ARF), 2015, 2016  
NSF Travel Grant, *History of Science Society*, 2014  
Butler Eyles Grant, *British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference*, 2014  
Sidney Hellman Ehrman Studentship for Study at King's College, Cambridge, 2013–14  
Anglo-California Foundation Pre-Dissertation Grant, *Center for British Studies*, 2013  
Chancellor's Fellowship, *UC Berkeley*, 2010  
The Jack and Lewis Rudin Internship, *The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, 2007–08

## RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

### SESSION ORGANIZER AND PRESENTER

2015 “The Morphology of 'Natural' Materials in Ancient Babylonia”  
Organizer and Presenter for Knowing Nature in the Ancient World  
*History of Science Society (HSS) Annual Meeting*, **San Francisco, CA**

### PRESENTER

2018 “The Babylonian Mode of Thought” (Invited Talk)  
Near Eastern Studies Lecture Series  
*University of Michigan*, **Ann Arbor, MI**

2018 “Lost Knowledge: The Babylonian Mode of Thought”  
Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge Workshop Series  
*University of Chicago*, **Chicago, IL**

- 2018 "What Kind of Classification? Cuneiform Scribal Knowledge of the Material World"  
Fishbein Workshop Series in the History of Human Sciences  
*University of Chicago, Chicago, IL*
- 2017 "Networking Plants in Cuneiform Cultures"  
Ancient Societies Workshop  
*University of Chicago, Chicago, IL*
- 2017 "An Assortment of Kinds: Determinatives in Cuneiform Scholarship"  
Panel Title: Ambiguity in the Ancient Near East: Mental Constructs, Material Records, and their Interpretations  
*American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA*
- 2016 "Glassmaking as Scribal Craft"  
Panel Title: Glass in the Ancient Near East  
*American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX*
- 2016 "Sumerian Debates and the Material World"  
Advanced Seminar in the Humanities  
*Venice International University, Venice, Italy*
- 2016 "Networks of Astronomical Knowledge: The Scribes of *Enuma Anu Enlil*"  
Panel: Early Astronomy; co-presenter Emily Wang (SMART mentee)  
*Framing the Infinite: The Social Sciences of Space and Cosmology, Berkeley, CA*
- 2014 "Technical Knowledge and Epistemic Values in Ancient Assyrian Procedure Texts"  
Panel Title: The Alchemy of the Unexpected: Interpreting Alchemical Sources from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century  
*History of Science Society (HSS) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*
- 2014 "Assyrian Technical Procedures and the Language of Alchemy"  
*British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) Annual Meeting, St. Andrews, Scotland*

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

**Saronic Harbors Archaeological Research Project (SHARP)**, Greece, 2009, 2010  
Architectural illustrator of Mycenaean structures found at Kalamianos and Stiri; object and Pottery drawing at Isthmia dig-house; Directors: Tom Tartaron, Daniel Pullen

**Tell Mozan (ancient Urkesh)**, Syria, 2008

Excavator in A20 trench; objects illustrator; oversaw the organization of metal artifacts to be sent to museum in Deir Ezzor; described and presented technological features in metal objects; Director: Giorgio Buccellati

## **LANGUAGES**

**MODERN** | Spanish (native fluency), Italian (near fluency), French (reading), German (reading)

**ANCIENT** | Sumerian, Akkadian