

# Mackinley “Mack” FitzPatrick

Anthropology Ph.D. Candidate

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

South America (Andes); Record Keeping Systems (Khipu); Chaîne Opératoire; Computational Archaeology; Ancient Media; Fiber Technologies

## EDUCATION

- 2020–      Ph.D., Anthropology, Harvard University.  
Dissertation (working title): *Structure of the Khipu Code: A Chaîne Opératoire Approach to Understanding Inka-Style Khipus*.
- 2022      M.A., Anthropology, Harvard University.
- 2020      B.A., Computer Science (with a minor in Archaeology), Harvard University.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Articles** (\* = peer-reviewed)

- In revision\*      **FitzPatrick, Mackinley.** “Knot Tricks: What Mathematical Knot Theory Can Reveal about the Structure of Khipu Knot Encoding.” Submitted to *Latin American Antiquity* on January 19, 2025.
- In press\*      Beck, Jess, Rowan Flad, Bridget Alex, Ari Caramanica, Andre Costopoulos, Nicholas C. Kawa, Ben Marwick, Christina Warinner, Dana Bardolph, Lewis Borck, Kristina Douglass, Alan Farahani, **Mackinley FitzPatrick**, Lars Fogelin, Laura E. Heath-Stout, Scott Hutson, Matthew Magnani, Natalia Magnani, Ana Cecilia Mauricio, Lisa Overholtzer, Matthäus Rest, Daniel Scott Souleles, and Renata Verdun da Silva Carmo. “Changing the Landscape of Archaeological Publishing.” Accepted to *Current Anthropology* on July 16, 2024.
- 2024\*      **FitzPatrick, Mackinley.** “New Insights on Cord Attachment and Social Hierarchy in Six Khipus from the Santa Valley, Peru.” *Ethnohistory* 71(4):443–469.  
<https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-11266328>.  
(Recognized by *Ethnohistory* as one of the journal’s five most-read articles of 2024)

- 2022\* Hammer, Emily, **Mackinley FitzPatrick**, and Jason Ur. "Succeeding CORONA: declassified HEXAGON intelligence imagery for archaeological and historical research." *Antiquity*:1–17. <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2022.22>.

## Book Chapters

- Forthcoming **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "Primary Questions: A Survey of Inka-Style Khipu Primary Cords." In *Symmetry, Repetition, and Pattern Recognition in Andean Khipus*. Barnardsville: Boundary End Archaeology Research Center.

## Popular and Web

- 2025 **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "The Khipu Effect." *In Situ: News and Events of the Harvard Standing Committee on Archaeology*:4–7. Spring Semester. [[Link](#)].
- 2024 **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "The Daily Life of a Khipologo." *In Situ: News and Events of the Harvard Standing Committee on Archaeology*:8–12. Fall Semester. [[Link](#)].
- 2024 **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "Into the Cloud Forest." *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*. David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. [[Link](#)].
- 2024 **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "Khipus at Harvard: Misadventures with Khipu Naming Conventions." *In Situ: News and Events of the Harvard Standing Committee on Archaeology*:20–24. Spring Semester. [[Link](#)].
- 2023 **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "Why Knot Chacha? A Summer with the Khipus of Lagunas de Los Cóncores". *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*. David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. [[Link](#)].
- 2022 **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "Field Notes and Notes on Feeling: Mental Snapshots from an Archaeological Excavation in Peru". *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*. David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. [[Link](#)].
- 2022 **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. "Khipu, the ancient Inka accounting system". *ADP ReThink Quarterly* (6). [[Link](#)].

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (\* = forthcoming)

### Papers Presented

- 2025      **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. “What Good is a Broken Cord? Beyond the Study of Complete Inka Khipus”. Presented at the *Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, April 23–April 27.
- 2025      Robles, Erika Lucero, **Mackinley FitzPatrick** and Solsiré Cusicanqui Marsano. “A Case of Looting and Alteration of Archaeological Objects: An Andean Dressed Figurine at Harvard's Peabody Museum”. Presented at the *Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, April 23–April 27.
- 2024      **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. “The Andean Khipu and a Pre-Columbian Computer System: A Postcolonial Perspective”. Presented at the *Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, April 17–21.
- 2023      **FitzPatrick, Mackinley**. “Primary Questions: A Survey of Inka-Style Khipu Primary Cords”. Presented at the *Symposium on the Andean Khipu at the Boundary End Archaeology Research Center*, Barnardsville, NC, August 8–14.
- 2022      Caramanica, Ari, Renata Verdun de Silva Carmo, **Mackinley FitzPatrick** and Ana Mauricio. “A Continental Divide: Barriers to Publishing in American Journals for Latin American Scholars”. Presented at the *Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, March 30–April 3.

### Roundtables

- 2024      Roundtable discussant for “New Approaches to Historical Evidence: Rethinking Indigenous and Non-European Sources”. *History of Science Society (HSS) 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, November 7–10.

### GUEST LECTURES

- 2024      “Inka Khipus” in *ANTHRO 1179: Rise of the Sun and Gold Empire: Archaeology of the Central Andes* at Harvard University. April 11th.
- 2023      “Inka Khipus: Knot what you think?” in *Americas before Columbus* at Boston University. April 19th.

2023 “Khipu Primer” in *ANTHRO 2177: Rise of the Sun and Gold Empire: Archaeology of the Central Andes* at Harvard University. April 14th.

## **PUBLIC TALKS**

2025 “Empire of String: Unraveling the Enigma of Inka Khipus” for the *2025 Harvard Horizons Symposium* at Harvard University's Sanders Theatre. April 8th. [[Video Link](#)]

2025 “Decoding the Inka Khipus of Laguna de los Cóndores, Peru” at the Minocqua Public Library. January 9th.

2024 “Investigando los quipus y la colección del Museo Leymebamba” for the Seminar Workshop *Explorando el Mundo de los Quipus de la Laguna de los Cóndores* at Museo Leymebamba. October 5th.

## **GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS**

2025 Harvard University Department of Anthropology Summer Research Grant from the Charlene C. LeFebre Fund (\$5,920)

2025 Harvard University Department of Anthropology Professional Development and Conference Funding from the Teschmacher Fund (\$750)

2025 Harvard Horizons Scholar (\$1,000) [[Link](#)]

2025 John H. Coatsworth Latin American History Fellowship (\$12,000)

2024 GSAS Merit/Graduate Society Term-Time Research Fellowship (\$20,415)

2024 John G. Owens Fellowship (\$4,000)

2024 Harvard University Department of Anthropology Summer Research Grant from the Hemenway Fund (\$4,730)

2024 David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Travel Grant (\$4,500)

2024 Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Student Council Spring Conference Grant (\$487)

2024 Harvard University Department of Anthropology Professional Development and Conference Funding (\$500)

2023 Bliss Symposium Award in Pre-Columbian Studies (\$600)

2023 Harvard University Department of Anthropology Summer Research Grant from the Barbara Bell Fund (\$5,000)

2023 David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Travel Grant (\$4,500)

2022 Harvard University Department of Anthropology Summer Research Grant from the Charlene C. LeFebre Fund (\$5,000)

2020	Alex G. Booth '30 Traveling Fellowship (\$2,500)
2018	Harvard Global Health Institute Summer Internship Fund (\$1,500)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Harvard University (Served as Teaching Assistant)

2024	Anthro 98B: Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Anthropology. Instructed by Damina Khaira.
2024	Anthro 1080: American History Before Columbus. Instructed by Matthew Liebmann
2023	GenEd 1105: Can we know our past?. Instructed by Rowan Flad and Jason Ur.
2023	GenEd 1178: Mexico and the Making of Global Cuisine. Instructed by Jennifer Carballo.
2022	GenEd 1105: Can we know our past?. Instructed by Rowan Flad and Jason Ur. *Awarded Student Recognition of Teaching by the GSAS Office of Academic Programs

## FIELD WORK and RESEARCH PROJECTS

2025–	<i>Consultant.</i> Quipu Project (Universidad del Pacífico & Museo de Arte de Lima). Providing expertise on documentation and analysis of the Temple-Radicati quipu collection.
2024	<i>Dissertation Research.</i> 3 months studying and analyzing the khipus housed in the Museo Leymebamba. Amazonas, Peru.
2023	<i>Pre-dissertation Research.</i> 1 month studying and analyzing the khipus housed in the Museo Leymebamba. Amazonas, Peru.
2022	<i>Unit Lead.</i> Proyecto de Investigación Arqueológica de la Colina Santa Apolonia (PIACSA). Cajamarca, Peru. PI: Solsiré Cusicanqui Marsano.
2021	<i>Field School Student.</i> Central Wyoming College / Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Archaeological Field School. Casper and Bighorn Mountains, WY. PI: Todd Guenther.
2020–22	<i>Research Assistant.</i> GIS Mapping for Jason Ur. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
2019–20	<i>Research Assistant.</i> Khipu Database Manager for Gary Urton. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
2019	<i>Field School Student.</i> San José de Moro Archaeological Field School. La Libertad, Peru. PIs: Luis Jaime Castillo Butters and Gary Urton.
2018	<i>Field School Student.</i> Sol de Campinas Archaeological Field School. Acre, Brazil. PIs: Eduardo Góes Neves and Gary Urton.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 2022– Member of the Peabody Museum’s “Virtual Archaeologist in a Classroom” program. Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge, MA. [[Program Link](#)].
- 2025 “Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard.” Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge, MA. April 6.
- 2024 “Explorando los Khipus Inka.” Community education and outreach program for local school children. Museo Leymebamba, Amazonas, Peru. October 10 and 16.
- 2024 “Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard.” Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge, MA. April 7.
- 2023 “Los Khipus Inka.” Community education and outreach program for local school children. Museo Leymebamba, Amazonas, Peru. July 24.
- 2023 “Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard.” Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge, MA. March 26.
- 2022 “International Archaeology Day: Meet an Archaeologist.” Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge, MA. October 15.
- 2022 “Amazing Archaeology Fair at Harvard.” Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Cambridge, MA. March 27.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE and MENTORSHIP**

- Ad hoc Reviewer: *Advances in Archaeological Practice* (2024)
- 2022– Co-organizer of the Harvard Andean Working Group. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2024 Mentor for two high school seniors from the Community Charter School of Cambridge during their Senior Internship Program, Harvard University, Department of Anthropology, Cambridge, MA. January 31–May 29.

## **AFFILIATIONS and PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

Open Khipu Repository (Administrator)  
Khipu Field Guide (Affiliate) [[Link](#)]  
Society for American Archaeology (Member)  
History of Science Society (Member)

## **PROFICIENCIES**

Languages: English (Native) and Spanish (Intermediate)

Software: ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, SPSS, Python, C, R, Java, SQL, Ocaml, Javascript, HTML, CSS

## **INTERVIEWS and PRESS**

- 2025 “Cutting drug costs, embracing aging, demystifying AI — and more research ideas.” in *The Harvard Gazette*. April 11. [[Link](#)].
- 2025 “Cords of History: The Inkas.” Video feature in *Research Matters*, Harvard Griffin GSAS monthly newsletter. March 27. [[Link](#)].