

Dr. Richard J. Chacon Biography

Dr. Richard J. Chacon is a Professor of Anthropology at Winthrop University who conducts anthropological research throughout the Americas. He documented the subsistence patterns and belief systems of the Yanomamö of Venezuela, the Yora of Peru, and the Achuar (Shiwiar) of Ecuador. Additionally, he investigated the traditional belief patterns of the Kuna of Panama. He studied ritual violence among the Otavalo and Cotacachi Indians of Highland Ecuador. He analyzes natural resource utilization among the Haida of British Columbia. His specializations include subsistence strategies, optimal foraging theory, conservation, natural resource utilization, warfare, ritual violence, native beliefs, leadership, collective action, inequality and the rise of social complexity, long distance exchange, secret societies, ethnohistory, and the effects of globalization in addition to analyzing the impacts of missionization on indigenous peoples. He has a special interest in encouraging members of minority communities to pursue higher education. He currently serves as Editor for Springer's *Conflict, Environment, and Social Complexity (CESC)* Series. He also serves as Editor for Springer's *Anthropology and Ethics* Series. He co-organizes the “Warfare, Environment, Social Inequality and Pro-Sociability” (WESIPS) Biennial Conference in Seville, Spain. His publications include: *Trade Before Civilisation: Long Distance Exchange and the Rise of Social Complexity*, eds., J. Ling, R. Chacon, and K. Kristiansen, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (in press). *Feast, Famine or Fighting? Multiple Pathways to Social Complexity*, eds., R. Chacon and R. Mendoza, New York: Springer (2017). *The Great Awakening and Southern Backcountry Revolutionaries*. Co-authored with Michael Scoggins. New York: Springer (2014). *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research: Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare*, eds., R. Chacon and R. Mendoza, New York: Springer (2012). *North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*, eds., R. Chacon and R. Mendoza, Tucson: University of Arizona Press (2007). *Latin American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*, eds., R. Chacon and R. Mendoza, Tucson: University of Arizona Press (2007). *The Taking and Displaying of Human Body Parts as Trophies by Amerindians*, eds., R. Chacon and D. Dye, Springer: New York (2007). He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden in 2016 and 2018.

Contact information:

Dr. Richard J. Chacon
Professor of Anthropology
Department of Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology
Winthrop University
Rock Hill, SC 29733
Office: (803) 323-4656
E-mail: chaconr@winthrop.edu