

Dr. Rebecca L. Austin



Rebecca Austin is currently an Associate Professor and the Anthropology Program Leader at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers. She earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Georgia in 2003. Her dissertation research was funded by a Fulbright grant and focused on the intersection of local/global dynamics through analyses of environmental movements, social justice, and community-based coastal resource

management on Palawan Island, Philippines. Her research included analyses of both fisherfolk and environmentalist perceptions of nature and resource management policy, as well as local knowledge of tropical coastal ecosystems.

Dr. Austin has also earned a Master of Arts degree from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fort Lewis College in Colorado where she was also a Visiting Instructor in the Department of Anthropology, teaching Ethnobotany of the Southwest, and Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology.

Dr. Austin has many years of experience working as an applied anthropologist with tribal governments and as a consultant in the private sector. She has extensive archaeological experience in the southwestern U.S., has worked on ethnohistoric projects, and developed a cultural history exhibit on the Yavapai-Apache Tribe in Arizona. Early in her career she was employed in the field of cultural resource management as an ethnographer and supervisor on the Navajo Nation. She also worked as a field researcher and analyst on a major study of the social impacts of the EXXON Valdez oil spill in Alaska. She currently serves on the boards of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society and Audubon of Southwest Florida. Dr. Austin dedicates herself to finding solutions for the urgent problems caused by unsustainable human-environment interactions.