

Theresa Preston-Werner

Theresa wears many hats. Anthropologist. Entrepreneur. Investor. Philanthropist. She has spent the past two decades working to understand global poverty and injustice and to support efforts on the ground aimed at transforming political, economic, and social systems in order to better the lives of individuals.

Theresa received her BA in Anthropology and Gender Studies from Scripps College and her PhD in Anthropology from Northwestern University. Her research focused on the development of enclave economies throughout Central America and the recent surge of international direct-sales companies in their wake. In particular, the work examined how companies are able to manipulate vulnerable populations, often poor, uneducated women and young, unskilled men. In the U.S. and abroad, Theresa has worked with, advised, and founded various non-profit and for-profit organizations in fields ranging from girls and education to women and family planning to youth and technology to the tech world and philanthropy.

These days Theresa works out of her office in the University of California, Berkeley at the Bixby Center for Population, Health, and Sustainability as an affiliate researcher focused on family planning and developing investment strategies for her family fund, Preston-Werner Ventures. She lives in San Francisco, CA with her husband and thought partner, Tom, and their two sons.