

Andrea Ballesterro
-Curriculum Vitae-
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Research Interests:

Legal and political anthropology, science and technology studies, political economy, feminist theory, anthropology of expert knowledge, value, financialization, property, nature, water, aquifers, and the subterranean.

Academic Appointments:

- 2021- Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Southern California.
- 2019-21 Associate Professor of Anthropology, Rice University.
- 2012-19 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Rice University.
- 2011- Founder and Director, The Ethnography Studio.
- 2010-12 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.

Education:

- 2010 Ph.D. Anthropology, University of California-Irvine.
- 2004 M.Sc. Natural Resource Policy. School for Natural Resources and Environment (now SEAS), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2002 M.Sc. Environmental Law. University for International Cooperation, San José, Costa Rica.
- 1997 B.A. Law. Universidad Autónoma de Centroamérica, Escuela Libre de Derecho, Costa Rica.

Publications:

Books

- In prep. Expanding the Social World Downwards: Aquifers, Science, and Property in Costa Rica.
- 2019 *A Future History of Water*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [Open access file here](#).
Reviewed in: Anthropological Notebooks; Anthropos; Australian Review of Books; Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience; Cidades, Comunidades e Territórios; Current Anthropology; Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics; Lectures Anthropologiques; LSE Review of Books; Luso-Brazilian Review; Political and Legal Anthropology Review; Science as Culture, Public Books, City and Society, Allegra Lab, Law and Social Inquiry, Journal of Cultural Economy, Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Anthropological Quarterly, Progress in Development Studies.

Edited Books

- 2021 *Experimenting with Ethnography: A Companion to Analysis*. **Andrea Ballester** and Brit Ross Winthereik, Eds. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [Open Access file here](#).
- 2009 Aportes para la Discusión sobre el Derecho Humano de Acceso al Agua en Costa Rica. Andrea Ballester, Ed. San José, Costa Rica: CEDARENA.
- 2008 de Camino, Ronnie, **Andrea Ballester**, y Jan Breitling, eds. *Políticas de Recursos Naturales en Centroamérica: Lecciones, Posiciones, y Experiencias para el Cambio*. Costa Rica: Universidad para la Paz, 2008.

Journal Articles (* indicates peer reviewed)

- In prep. “De-Commodification, Commons, and Human Rights,” for Annual Review of Law and Social Sciences
- In prep. “Plumes, concentration, liveliness: aquifers and underground choreographies of harm and responsibility in Costa Rica.”
- 2026 [“Planetaryidades Casuais: Coreografias, Ressonância e a Presença Geológica de Pessoas e Aquíferos”](#) Interseções 27(1):1-21 (Translation by: Miguel da Cruz Almeida Rocha).
- 2025 Spackman, C., Ulrich, K., Benson, E., and **Ballester**, A. Retooling: A Model of Sociotechnical Change for Turbulent Times, 11(3): 71-97, Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*
- 2025 [“Under the Surface,”](#) Limn (12), Climate’s Interiors Issue. (12) 79-84*
- 2024 [“The Persistence of Long Facts: Truth and Consequence in Costa Rica’s Aquifers.”](#) Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology, and Society 7(1)*
- 2024 **Ballester**, A., K. Hetherington and E. Medina. [“Los Hechos Nunca Andan Solos: The Futures of Facts in Latin America.”](#) Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology and Society. 7(1)*
- 2023 [“Casual Planetarities: Choreographies, Resonance, and the Geologic Presence of People and Aquifers,”](#) Environmental Humanities 15(3): 266-283.*
- 2023 [“Trusts at the Financial Frontier: The Flickering Form of Property, Water, and Governance.”](#) Journal of Cultural Economy 16(3): 423-438.*
- 2023 **Ballester**, A., Muehlebach, Andrea & Gloria Pérez-Rivera. [“What is a Financial Frontier?”](#) Journal of Cultural Economy 16(3): 311-322.
- 2022 **Ballester**, A. & Oyarzun, Yesmar. [“Devices: A Location for Feminist Analytics and Praxis.”](#) Feminist Anthropology 3 (3): 227-33.*
- 2021 **Ballester**, A. & Flores, Lupe. [“Learning to Listen to the Underground.”](#) Multimedia piece in Listening to the Anthropocene Issue of Sensate, A Journal for Experiments in Critical Media Practice.
- 2019 [“The Anthropology of Water,”](#) Annual Review of Anthropology. Volume 48:405-421.
- 2019 [Touching with Light, or, How Texture Recasts the Sensing of Underground Water.](#) Science, Technology and Human Values: 44(5): 762-785.*
- 2019 E. Reddy, B. Caciki and **A. Ballester**. [“Beyond the Detective Mystery: Algorithmic Accountability in Context.”](#) Big Data and Society. 6(1):1-7.*

- 2017 Ethnography and the Governance of I/legality: Some Methodological and Analytical Reflections. Werth, Robert J, & **Ballestero, Andrea**. Social Justice: A journal of Crime, Conflict and World Order, 44(1): 10-26.*
- 2017 "[Capacity as Aggregation: Promises, Water and a Form of Collective Care in Northeast Brazil](#)." The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology 35(1): 31-48.*
Translation: 2018. Capacidade de Agregação: Compromissos, água e uma forma de cuidado coletivo no Nordeste do Brasil. Revista Culturas Jurídicas 5(11) mai/ago.
- 2016 Howe, et al. "[Paradoxical Infrastructures: Ruins, Retrofit and Risk](#)." Science, Technology and Human Values. (41) 3: 547-565 [collaborative piece, **Ballestero** one of fifteen co-authors].*
- 2015 "[The Ethics of a Formula: calculation and the financial-humanitarian price of water](#)." American Ethnologist (42) 2:262-278.*
- 2014 [What's in a percentage? Calculation as the poetic translation of human rights](#). Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies 21(1): 27-53.*
- 2012 Turem, Z. Umut, and **Andrea Ballestero**. Regulatory Translations: Affect and Expertise in the Global Scene, Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies 21(1): 1-25.*
- 2012 "[Transparency Short-Circuited: Laughter and Numbers in Costa Rican Water Politics](#)." PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review 35(2): 223-241.*
- 2012 Transparency in Triads. PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review 35(2): 160-166.*

Journal Special Issues Edited

- In prep. Retooling, **Andrea Ballestero**, Katie Ulrich and Christy Spackman
- 2024 The Future of Facts in Latin America, **Andrea Ballestero**, Kregg Hetherington, Eden Medina (Eds). Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology and Society. (7)1
- 2023 What is a Financial Frontier? **Andrea Ballestero** and Andrea Muehlebach (Eds.), Journal of Cultural Economy. (16)3
- 2014 Turem, Z. Umut and **Andrea Ballestero** (eds.) Regulatory Translations: Uncertainty, Affect and Expertise in the Global Scene, Special Issue of Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies, 21(1).
- 2012 Transparency in Triads. Special Issue of Political and Legal Anthropology Review 35(2).

Book Chapters (* indicates peer reviewed)

- 2023 **Ballestero, A.** & Melanie Ford Lemus. "Ethnography: a first overarching look" in The Handbook of Teaching Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research: A Step-by-Step Guide, eds. Bernard, H. Russel, Alissa Ruth, and Amber Wutich. London; New York: Routledge.
- 2023 "Wonderings." In [Reclaiming Technology: A Poetic-Scientific Vocabulary](#), edited by James Maguire and Brit Ross Winthereik, Copenhagen, Denmark: Ctrl+Alt+Delete Books, 24-27.*
- 2022 Aquifers beyond countable water. In J. Roca & J. F. Salazar (Eds.), Rivus (pp. 38-42). Sydney, Australia: Biennale of Sydney.

- 2021 Capacity as Aggregation: Promises, Water and a Form of Collective Care in Northeast Brazil. In Hope and Insufficiency: Capacity Building in Ethnographic Comparison, edited by Rachel Douglas-Jones and Justin Shaffner. New York: Berghahn. (Reprint)
- 2021 **A. Ballester** and B. Ross Winthereik "Analysis as Experimental Practice". In: Experimenting with Ethnography: A Companion to Analysis. **A. Ballester** and B. Ross Winthereik, Eds. Durham, NC. Duke University Press. Pgs. 1-14.*
- 2021 Danyi, E., M. Spencer, J. Maguire, H. Knox, and **A. Ballester**. "Propositional Politics." In Energy Worlds, in Experiment, edited by James Maguire, Laura Watts and Brit Ross Winthereik, (pg. 66-94). Manchester, UK: Mattering Press.*
- 2019 "Underground as Infrastructure? Figure/Ground Reversals and Dissolution in Sardinal." In: Environment, Infrastructure, Life. Ed. K. Hetherington. Duke University Press. Pgs. 17-44.*
- 2015 "Theory as Parallax and Provocation." In: Theory is not what it used to be. D. Boyer, J. Faubion, and G.E. Marcus, eds. Pp. 171-179. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.*
- 2015 "Dialogue" In Theory Can Be Much More Than It Used To Be. D. Boyer, J. Faubion and G. Marcus, ed. Pp. 210-232 Cornell University Press. [Collaborative piece, **Ballester** is one of eight co-authors]*
- 2012 "The productivity of non-religious faith: openness, pessimism, and water in Latin America." In Nature, Science and Religion: intersections shaping society and the environment. Ed. C. Tucker, School for Advanced Research Press, New Mexico. pg. 169-190.*
- 2009 "Derecho Humano de Acceso al Agua: propiciando una mejor discusión en Costa Rica." In Aportes para la Discusión del Derecho Humano de Acceso al Agua en Costa Rica. Edited by A. Ballester. San Jose: CEDARENA. Pg. 5-17.
- 2009 "La Nebulosa del DDHH al Agua en Costa Rica." In Aportes para la Discusión del Derecho Humano de Acceso al Agua en Costa Rica. Edited by A. Ballester. San Jose: CEDARENA. Pg. 145-153.
- 2007 Knowledge, action and reflection: "we" the experts and our participation in natural resource policy in Central America, In Natural Resource Policies in Central America: Lessons, Positions, and Experiences for Change. Edited by R. de Camino, A. Ballester and J. Breitling, San Jose: United Nations University for Peace. Pg. 347-362. [In Spanish]
- 2006 Bajo Jaguaribe: The Creation of Political Space through Water Policies. In: Re-estruturação produtiva e urbanização no Baixo Jaguaribe. Ed. Denise Elias, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, Ceará State University Press. [In Spanish]*

Other Articles, Reviews, Reports, and Commentaries

- 2025 [Borrowing Facts on the Street](#). Cultural Anthropology, Theorizing the Contemporary: Necessary but Never Sufficient: Rethinking Facts from Latin America.
- 2025 Hetherington, K; **Ballester**, A. and E. Medina. [Los Hechos Nunca Andan Solos](#), Cultural Anthropology, Theorizing the Contemporary: Necessary but Never Sufficient: Rethinking Facts from Latin America.
- 2023 [Sensing from above via transitional concepts \(Aquifer, Porosities, Image\)](#). Writing with Light: Photography, Ethnography, Design, ICER Press. Issue 2. The View from Above: 43-44.

- 2023 ["Trust: too much, too little, never just enough."](#) *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* 41(2): 105-111.
- 2022 ["The Re-Combinatory Nature of Property within Racial Regimes of Ownership."](#) An Essay on Brenna Bhandar's Colonial Lives of Property (DUP 2018). *Law & Social Inquiry* 47 (3):1061-1067.
- 2022 No more groundwater, more aquifers! In T. Dryer (Ed.), *Water Justice and Technology: The COVID-19 Crisis, Computational Resource Control, and Water Relief Policy* (North America and Central America). New York, NY: AI Now Institute.
- 2021 ["Doña Ana and the possibilities of de-objectified sound,"](#) Field Sights collection on Atmospheric Noise. Cultural Anthropology Website.
- 2021 [Deciphering Water, Stone, and Movement.](#) Ways of Water Series, Items, Social Science Research Council.
- 2020 ["The Plume,"](#) in Geological Anthropology series, *Theorizing the Contemporary, Cultural Anthropology*.
- 2019 ["Aquifers \(or, Hydrolithic Elemental Choreographies\),"](#) for *Theorizing the Contemporary Series, Cultural Anthropology*
- 2019 "Success through Failure: translation, temporal tricks and numeric concept work." Book Forum Essay on *The Seductions of Quantification* by Sally Engle Merry, *American Anthropologist*.
- 2018 ["SpongiForm"](#) for *Theorizing the Contemporary, Cultural Anthropology*.
- 2018 "Transparency" entry for the *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Ed. Carol Greenhouse, Wiley Blackwell.
- 2017 "Lineages and Discomforting Relatives" Commentary on *New ontologies? Reflections on some recent 'turns' in STS, anthropology and philosophy.* *Social Anthropology* 25(4): 540-541.
- 2016 "Spongy Aquifers, Messy Publics." *Limn* 7: 48-52. <http://limn.it/spongy-aquifers-messy-publics/>
- 2015 Ballester, A., B. Campbell and E. Storer ["What can Twitter do to/for the Field?,"](#) invited entry at Platypus: Blog of the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology and Computing:
- 2015 ["Underground water: from infrastructures to sponges"](#) Invited entry for Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences at Rice University.
- 2013 ["Techno-scientific numbers as fields of mobilization."](#) Invited entry in *Mobilizing Ideas*, a blog published by the Center for the Study of Social Movements at University of Notre Dame.
- 2003 Policies and Institutions for Protected Area Management. AMBIENTICO No. 121, San José, Costa Rica, National University of Costa Rica. [In Spanish]
- 2002 Ballester, A. and E. Müller (Ed). *Guide for Biosphere Reserve Management*. San José. Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional-UNESCO-CYTED. [In Spanish]
- 1999 Training for the type of development one should aspire to. In: *South-South Perspectives Working Paper 28, UNESCO-Third World Academy of Sciences-Universidade de Lisboa*. [In Spanish]

- 1999 Rojas, M., E. Muller and A. Balletero. Red Iberoamericana de Reservas de Biosfera: perspectives. In: South-South Perspectives Working Paper 28, UNESCO-Third World Academy of Sciences-Universidade de Lisboa. [In Spanish]
- 1999 Rojas, M., E. Muller and A. Balletero. Reconstruction, conservation, and sustainable development in the Savegre Watershed. In: South-South Perspectives Working Paper 28, UNESCO-Third World Academy of Sciences-Universidade de Lisboa. [In Spanish]

Book Reviews

- 2018 Review of Helmreich, S. Sounding the Limits of Life: Essays in the Anthropology of Biology and Beyond. (Princeton University Press). *American Ethnologist* 45(1):131-33.
- 2014 Review of Comaroff, J. and J. L. Comaroff. Theory from the South: or, How Euro-America is evolving toward Africa. (Paradigm Publishers) *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 37(1).
- 2011 Review of Strang V. Gardening the World: Agency, Identity, and the Ownership of Water. (New York, Berghahn) *American Anthropologist* 113(3):535.

Art and Media Works

- In Prep. Photo Essay: Inefficient Marks: lines, textures, and time in underground aerial imagery. In: Demarcation, Eds. Meghan Morris, LaShandra Sullivan, and Gregory Morton.
- In Prep. Photo Essay: Downwards: bodily, scientific, and political orientations. In: *Geology Otherwise*, Eds. Alessandro Rippa and Zeynep Oguz.
- 2023 Porosities: a photographic installation, with Nick Bauch for the Porosities Ethnographic Salon, University of Southern California, April 12th.
- 2019 [Under]Gallery: a large-scale multimedia exploration of subterranean spaces combining sound, moving images, virtual reality, and the architectural transformation of an exhibition hall. Developed with students at Rice University, and Marie Saldaña, Mario Norton, and Johannes Birringer. Moody Center for the Arts, April 23rd.

Research Grants

- 2024 National Science Foundation (STS and Cultural Anthropology Programs, BCS 2341872) Collaborative Research: Retooling at the Hydro-Frontier: Devices for Resource Extraction in the 21st Century (\$300,000).
- 2022 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), Infrastructures of Ethnography. PI Gregg Hetherington, Co-PIs **Andrea Balletero** (University of Southern California), Joshua Barker (University of Toronto), Marcel LaFlamme, Fiona McDonald (University of British Columbia), Deborah Thomas (University of Pennsylvania). (USC portion CAD \$30,000).
- 2021 National Science Foundation (Cultural Anthropology and Spatial Sciences Programs, BCS-2043785): Aquifers, Science and Spatial Imaginaries in Costa Rica. (\$452,988)
- 2021 Wenner Gren Foundation, Fieldwork Grant: Expanding the Social World Downwards. (\$3,525.00)

- 2015 Humanities Research Center Seed Award, Objectification, with Neyran Turan, Architecture-(declined).
- 2013 Center for Sustainability, Rice University. Ethnographic investigation of the underground, with C. Masiello (Earth Science and Chemistry), K.B. Medlock (Economics) and E. Siemann (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Rice University.
- 2008 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (BCS-0751987) for “Human Rights, Commodities and Expertise: re-composing water in Brazil and Costa Rica” co-funded by the Cultural Anthropology and Law and Social Sciences Programs (\$14,920.00).
- 2007 Wenner Gren Foundation Dissertation Grant for “Between Human Rights and Commodities: Water, Expertise and Politics in Latin America” (\$24,120).
- 2007-8 CGPACS Small Research Grant, for preliminary fieldwork research in Costa Rica and Mexico, University of California-Irvine (\$1,500).
- 2007 Urban Water Research Center, Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of California-Irvine (\$5,000).
- 2007 H. Mills-McCartney Fellowship on Human Security Granted by the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs, University of California-Irvine (\$5,000).
- 2006 School of Social Sciences Summer Research Grant, University of California, Irvine.
- 2005-6 CGPACS Research Grant for conducting fieldwork research in Costa Rica and Brazil. University of California-Irvine.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2025 Mercator Fellow, Fixing Futures Group, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2025 Streisand Resident Scholar, Center for the Study of Women, UCLA, Spring Quarter.
- 2024-26 Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, University of Southern California.
- 2024 Undergraduate Research Award, University of Southern California (to support student research opportunities).
- 2023 Undergraduate Research Award, University of Southern California (to support student research opportunities).
- 2023 Sustainability Initiative, New Course Award, University of Southern California.
- 2022 Finalist for the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching, Rice University (based on votes from alumni graduating between 2017-20).
- 2022 Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New Interdisciplinary Projects for The Future of Facts in Latin America, **PI Andrea Ballesterio**, Co-PIs Eden Medina (MIT), Kregg Hetherington (Concordia), and Andrew Lakoff (USC) (\$50,000).
- 2021 Fulbright Scholar Award, IIEE, Department of State (\$20,000).
- 2021 New Directions Fellowship for “From Mines to Aquifers”, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$295,000).
- 2020 Future Nature of Facts in Latin America Award, Humanities Research Center, Rice University (postponed due to Covid).
- 2019 Sophia Meyer Farb-Phi Beta Kappa Prize for Teaching Excellence, Rice University.
- 2018 Nominated by students for the Presidential Mentoring Award, Rice University.
- 2018 Underground Spatialities Design Studio, Spatial Humanities Initiative, Humanities Research Center, Rice University.

- 2018 Brasil@Rice Travel Grant, Rice University.
- 2017-8 Award for Institutional Collaboration with University of Costa Rica, with Nia Georges.
- 2016-7 Award for Institutional Collaboration with University of Costa Rica, with Nia Georges.
- 2016 Treybig Teaching & Innovation Colloquy, Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University.
- 2016 Feminist Research Group Workshop Award, CSWGS, Rice University.
- 2016 Social Analytics Cluster Manuscript Workshop Award, CENHS, Rice University.
- 2015 Research Professorship, Social Science Research Institute, School of Social Sciences, Rice University.
- 2014 Brasil@Rice Travel Grant, Rice University.
- 2011-12 World Society and Regulation Fellowship, National Humanities Center, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany & Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2011-12 Fellow, Institute for Humanities Research, Arizona State University.
- 2009 Human Rights Center Fellow, University of California-Berkeley.
- 2008-9 Fellow of the Center in Law, Society and Culture, University of California-Irvine.
- 2007-8 Miguel Velez Merit Fellowship, University of California, Irvine.
- 2007 School of Advanced Research (SAR) Prize for Nature, Science and Religion in Latin America, for “Fragmented and Sutured Faith: Scenarios and the Law in Latin American Water Politics.” Shared with session panelists presenting at the Latin American Studies Association annual meeting in Montreal, Canada.
- 2007 School of Social Sciences Order of Merit Award for Outstanding Graduate Service, University of California-Irvine.
- 2004-5 Warmington Fellowship, Merit award offered to one student per year, University of California-Irvine.
- 2004 Service and Social Justice Award, The Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, University of Michigan.
- 2002-4 Fulbright-LASPAU Fellowship United States Department of State, for Masters Degree at the University of Michigan.
- 2002 WWF-COSUDE Fellowship for Environmental Policy Design, United Nations University for Peace, Costa Rica.
- 2000-2 University for International Cooperation Fellowship to conduct graduate studies in Environmental Law, Costa Rica.
- 1999 INTERCAMPUS-AECI. Research Fellowship on European Environmental Policy, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Spain.
- 1994 Academic Excellence Award, Universidad Autónoma de Centroamérica, Costa Rica.

Keynotes and Named Lectures

- 2025 Inaugural Round Table, Living Knowledge Workshop, Laboratory for Multimodal History, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany, Sept. 24th.
- 2025 Threaded keynote: Political Waters, Society for the Social Study of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, September 4th, Seattle.

- 2024 Casual Planetarities: Force Fields and Movement as Terms of Engagement, Opening keynote for “Planetary Design: Reclaiming Futures Conference,” Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin, October 24th
- 2024 Juntando Fuerzas con el Agua: Acuíferos, Ciencia y la Imaginación de lo Subterráneo, Conferencia Plenaria, Congreso Internacional Derechos de la Naturaleza, UNAM, Mérida, Yucatán, October 4th.
- 2024 El Agua, la Piedra, y los Hechos en el SXXI, Keynote for biannual ESOCITE (Latin American STS Association) conference, Campinas Brazil, July 23rd.
- 2024 Joining Forces! Deciphering Aquifers and Stretching the Imagination Downwards, Darnell Distinguished Lecture, Western University, London, Ontario, Jan 25th.
- 2024 “Water, Anthropologically,” Keynote for the Swamplife Summit, Storefront for Art and Architecture, Fundación Transformación y Arte, y Jorge Pardo (Organizers). Yucatán, México. Feb 1-4.
- 2023 Joining forces with water: Resonance and the geologic presence of people and aquifers. Keynote for Groundwater Commons? Transboundary Challenges and Opportunities in the Anthropocene Symposium, Uppsala University. Oct 23rd.
- 2023 Casual planetarities: choreographies, resonance, and the geologic presence of people and aquifers. Keynote at the Tracing Temporalities, Unearthing Archives COST, Potsdam Institute of Sustainability and Humboldt University, Potsdam/Berlin, April 28th-29th.
- 2023 Joining Forces with Water, Teale Lecture, University of Connecticut, Oct 12.
- 2023 Running Deep Roundtable Annual DeLuca Forum, Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 9th.
- 2022 Joining Forces! Presidential Panel for the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) and Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia y Tecnología (ESOCITE) joint annual conference, Puebla, Mexico, December 9th.
- 2021 “Una Historia Futura del Agua: el asombro y los dispositivos técnicos-jurídicos,” Keynote for Brazilian Rede de Antropologia da Ciência e Tecnologia Annual conference, Brazil, November 15th.
- 2021 “The financialization of trust, or, how does water sculpt effervescent geographies of science and nature.” Keynote for Goethe University Frankfurt and Marburg University, Waterworlding Conference, Germany, June 17th.
- 2021 “La duda y la libertad: la etnografía como espacio de creatividad intelectual,” Inaugural Panel, Centro de Investigación Antropológica, Universidad de Costa Rica. May 5th.
- 2021 “O futuro da água entre a commodity e os direitos humanos na América Latina,” Inaugural Lecture for the Programa de Pós-Graduação em Política Social e Direitos Humanos, Universidade Católica de Pelotas, Brasil, April 26th.
- 2020 “Interruption, Pause, Reorientation,” Keynote for Research Interrupted Workshop, ITU Copenhagen, June 10th.
- 2020 “Surrendering to the pull and the cultivation of volumetric awareness,” Keynote at Anthropology in Transit Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Irvine, February 7th.
- 2019 “A Future History of Water,” Keynote for Living with Water Summit, Art Hub Copenhagen, June 11-12.

- 2015 “Ethnography by other means: cultural artifacts and theoretical experiments in an anthropology of the contemporary,” Keynote for III Jornadas de Investigación Antropológica, Escuela de Antropología, Universidad de Costa Rica, April 28th.
- 2014 “Regulation, the Human Right to Water and the Ethics of Numbers,” Keynote Presentation at Biannual Legal Anthropology Conference UBA-UnSAM-RELAJU, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 23rd.

Invited Presentations

- 2025 Planetaridad, pero de forma casual, presented at mesa Historias Subterráneas at 10a ReACT, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct 10th
- 2025 Bajo la superficie: el tiempo, la distancia y la textura como claves etnográficas. Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct 3rd.
- 2025 An Anthropologist Under the Surface: Time, Distance, Texture, Goethe University Frankfurt Germany, June 10th.
- 2025 Shape-shifting Aquifers, Ecology and Culture Seminar, Columbia University, March 7th.
- 2025 An Anthropologist Under the Surface: Time, Distance, Texture, New York Academy of Sciences, March 3rd.
- 2024 Water+Stone=Movement, States of Emergence Summit, Creative Time, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Brooklyn, New York, September 21st.
- 2024 Aquifers: Ethnography and Responsibility at the Edges of a Concept, Anthropology Department, New School for Social Research, New York, September 17th.
- 2024 Joining Forces! GERMINATIONS, Online Series, University of Essex, Trinity College Dublin, CLACS-University of London, and University of Bristol, May 23rd.
- 2024 Joining Forces! Conversation with Caribe Mutuo for South Designs for Planetary Futures, Governing by Design, University of Basel, May 21st.
- 2024 Joining Forces! Deciphering Aquifers and Stretching the Imagination Downwards, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Feb 22nd.
- 2023 Aquifers: Ethnography at the Edges of a Concept, Department of Anthropology, Uppsala University, Oct 25th
- 2023 Aquifers: Ethnography at the Edges of a Concept. IRC Elemental Thinking, CLALS, University of Pennsylvania, Oct 5th.
- 2023 Plumas, Venas y Mantos: el Agua Subterránea como Coreografía Hidro-geo-social, Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua (IMTA), Mexico. Sept. 21
- 2023 Groundwater Workshop, IriThesis-Humboldt University, Berlin, May 4th.
- 2023 Discussant at Seminario Inagural, La Invención Etnográfica, with Adolfo Estalella y Tomás Sanchez Criado, Universidad Complutense de Madrid & Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. March 2nd.
- 2023 Ethnography at the Edges of a Concept: From Groundwater to Aquifers in Costa Rica, CLACS, University of Arizona, Tucson. February 10th.
- 2023 The Ripple Effect: Water Politics in a Global Context Roundtable, Global Dialogues Series, Stanford University, January 27th.

- 2023 Ethnography at the Edges of a Concept: From Groundwater to Aquifers in Costa Rica, CLACS, Latin American Natures Working Group, University of California, Berkeley. January 23rd.
- 2022 Aquifers: Ethnography and responsibility at the edges of a concept, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia, October 19th.
- 2022 Trusts at the Financial Frontier: Property and Nature as Flickers of Collective Life, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago, October 10th.
- 2022 Aquifers: Ethnography at the Edges of a Concept, Anthropology Department, Ohio State University, October 7th.
- 2022 “Aquifers: Ethnography at the Edges of a Concept,” Anthropology Department and IFEK, University of Bremen. July 1st.
- 2022 “Venas, Plumas y Mantos: Coreografías hidro-geo-sociales frente a la idea de la responsabilidad,” presentation for the Aguas Revueltas series, CIGIDEN, Universidad Católica de Chile, June 23rd.
- 2022 “Aquifers: Ethnography at the Edges of a Concept,” presented at the Fixing the Future Series organized by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, Goethe University Frankfurt. June 22nd.
- 2022 “Nature, Trusts, and Flickering Frontiers,” Institutskolloquium at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Goethe University Frankfurt. March 26th.
- 2022 “Los Acuíferos como formaciones hidro-geo-sociales,” Día Mundial del Agua, SENARA, Costa Rica. March 22th.
- 2022 “Plumes: Making sense of form and responsibility in underground worlds,” Sense Colloquium Series, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania, March 14th.
- 2022 “Veins, plumes, and mantles: the slippery form of subterranean water movement in Costa Rica,” Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. February 7th.
- 2022 “How to wonder with techno-legal devices? Lists, Taxonomies, and the Making of a Future History in Costa Rica.” Anthropology Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. February 4th.
- 2021 “A future History of Water,” Human Rights Speaker Series, HASTS Program, MIT, Cambridge, November 16th.
- 2021 “Expanding the Social World Downwards: Aquifers and Post-Extractivist Futures,” Anthropology Department, Australian National University, September 27th, 2021.
- 2021 “Una Historia Futura del Agua desde el Asombro y los Dispositivos Técnico-Jurídicos,” Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de América Central (CIHAC), Universidad de Costa Rica, September 22nd.
- 2021 “Una Historia Futura del Agua, Red de Humanidades Ambientales,” Museo La Tertulia, Colombia, June 23rd.
- 2021 “A future history of water, or, how to wonder with techno-legal devices?,” Boğaziçi University, Turkey, March 26th.
- 2021 “Expanding the Social World Downwards: Aquifers and Post-Extractivism in Costa Rica.” Anthropology Department, Yale University, March 15th.
- 2020 “How to wonder with techno-legal devices?,” Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany, Nov 23rd.

- 2020 “Expanding the Social World Downwards: Aquifers and Post-Extractivist Imaginaries in Costa Rica.” Anthropology Department, University of Southern California, Nov. 3rd.
- 2020 “A future history of water, or, how to wonder with techno-legal devices?,” American Bar Foundation, Chicago, Oct. 21st.
- 2020 “Interruption, Pause, Reorientation,” AusSTS, TopeEnd STS, and Science and Society Network workshop, August 6th.
- 2020 “Construyendo Futuros: La Sensibilidad Etnográfica como Ventana de la Vida en Colectivo,” Kaleidos, Universidad de Cuenca, FLACSO Ecuador, May 29th.
- 2020 “How to wonder with technolegal devices?,” Anthropology Department, London School of Economics, June 5th.
- 2020 “How to wonder with technolegal devices?,” Anthropology Department, Northwestern University, March 9th.
- 2020 “How to wonder with technolegal devices?,” Anthropology Department, University of Texas-Austin, March 6th.
- 2020 “How to Wonder with Techno-Legal Devices?,” Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Houston, January 22nd.
- 2020 “How to Wonder with Techno-Legal Devices?,” Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, January 15th.
- 2019 “Assetization, Aquifers, and Plumes,” Anthropology Department, Johns Hopkins University, December 14th.
- 2019 “La Etnografía como Espacio para la Creación Metodológica,” Escuela de Antropología, Universidad de Costa Rica, December 10th.
- 2019 “Plumes, Concentrations, Liveliness: underground choreographies of harm and responsibility,” Life Revitalized Workshop, Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder, October 25.
- 2019 “A Future History of Water,” Anthropology Department and Center for the Study of Women, University of California Los Angeles, May 13th.
- 2019 “Surrendering to the pull,” Fluid Ecologies Symposium at Center for South Asia and Anthropology Department, Stanford University. Feb 21st.
- 2018 “Surrendering to the pull, sensing subterranean space,” Institute for Science, Innovation and Society and School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, Oxford University, December 12th.
- 2018 “Spongy Aquifers and the Cultivation of Volumetric Awareness in 21st Century Costa Rica,” Institute at Brown for Environment and Society and Anthropology Department, Brown University, Nov 26th.
- 2018 Roving Panelist, The Anthropocene Campus, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. September 6th.
- 2017 “Touching with light: Sympathetic sensing and the Stickiness of History,” at Volatile Futures/Earthly Matters, Center for Advancement of Public Action, Bennington College, Vermont, May 25th.
- 2017 “The Commodity and The Right,” Food for Thought STS series, University of California-Davis, March 13th.

- 2017 “Algorithmic materials, or, instructions and the substances they depend upon,” Algorithm Network Workshop, February Linköping University, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- 2017 “Analytic Moves-A workshop,” ETHOS Lab, IT University Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2017 “#ESIFRice an Ethnographic Experiment,” IT University Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2017 “Social Sustainability: Nano-Scale,” invited presentation at NEWT Core Graduate Course, Rice University, February 6th .
- 2016 “Pact as Experiment: the cumulative energy of aggregation,” at Alien Energy Workshop, IT University Copenhagen, Oct 20th.
- 2016 “Objects, materials and aggregates: the endo-politics of algorithmic numeration,” Stockholm Algorithm Summer School, Linköping University, Sweden. July 5th.
- 2016 “Doing Openness @ Ethnography Studio,” Ethnography and Pedagogy Workshop, Center for Ethnography, UC Irvine. April 21st.
- 2015 “Capacity as Aggregation,” at Capacity Building Wenner Gren Workshop, Copenhagen IT University, Denmark. May 25th.
- 2015 “The Ethics of a Formula: prices and the financial-humanitarian calculation of water,” Anthropology Department, Brown University, Providence, March 6th.
- 2015 “The Ethics of a Formula: prices and the financial-humanitarian calculation of water,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology Anthropology Colloquium, Boston, March 11th.
- 2014 “Formulas and Public Goods: the regulation of the collective,” Programa de Ciências Ambientais (PROCAM), Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2014 “The Ethics of a Formula,” Anthropology Department, University of Texas, Austin, April 8th.
- 2013 “Pacts and the Political Economy of Possibility,” American Bar Foundation, Chicago, October 16th.
- 2013 “Pacts,” Scientia Institute Mini-Lectures, Rice University, October 8th.
- 2012 “Prices without Markets: Water, Ethical Entanglements and Calculation in the Era of Rights,” at Trans-Science Symposium University of Chicago, December 14th.
- 2012 “The Territories of Care: Water, Politics and Pacts in Brazil,” at Fragmented Territorialities Conference, Hamburg University, Germany. Nov 16th.
- 2012 “Prices without Markets: Water, Ethical Entanglements and Calculation in the Era of Rights,” at CRESC, University of Manchester. November 9th.
- 2012 “Prices as Political Devices,” Center for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation and Accounting Department, London School of Economics. October 16th.
- 2012 “How do Beets and Pantyhose make Water (un)affordable? Technique, Ethics and the Future in Costa Rica,” Anthropology Department, Rice University. February 1st.
- 2011 “Prosthetic Experiments with the Self: the politics of transparency in Costa Rica,” to Intel Social Science Research Lab, Portland, Oregon. August 16th.
- 2011 “How do Anthropologists think about Science and Technology?,” to HSD 601: Human Dimensions of Science and Technology-ASU. September 16th.
- 2010 “The Policy, the Regulator, the Price and its Number: Quantifying the Human Right to Water in Costa Rica,” Anthropology Department, University of Florida. February 24th.

- 2010 "The Policy, the Regulator, the Price and its Number: Quantifying the Human Right to Water in Costa Rica," School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.
- 2008 "Conocimiento Experto, Agua y Antropología en Costa Rica," at the Critical Studies of Science Colloquium, Physics Department, University of Costa Rica. March 26th.
- 2005 "Adaptação institucional do manejo participativo das Aguas," at the Universidade Estadual do Ceará, Brazil. August 18th.

Conference Presentations

- 2025 "Distance+Descent," Earth in Phases Panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Nov. 20th.
- 2025 "The trust: retooling the legal geographies of science and nature in the era of ... Neo-Fascism/Populism/something else?," Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, Sept 5th, Seattle.
- 2023 "Plumes as Spatial Figures of Sovereignty," Topology and Sovereignty, American Anthropological Association Meetings, Nov 14-18, Toronto.
- 2022 "Aquifers: Ethnography and Responsibility at the Edge of a Techno-Scientific Concept," Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) and Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia y Tecnología (ESOCITE) joint annual conference, Puebla, Mexico, December 9th.
- 2022 "Future of Facts in Latin America Roundtable," Andrea Ballester, Pablo Gómez, Vivette García-Deister, and Gregg Hetherington, Programa de Postgrado, Filosofía de la Ciencia, UNAM, Ciudad de México.
- 2022 "Veins and Plumes: water and responsibility within underground worlds" delivered at the Water and Value Conference, University of Glasgow, May 13th.
- 2021 "Movement and Mixture in Subterranean Worlds," Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 23rd.
- 2020 Experiments in Collaboration Roundtable, Raising our Voices, American Anthropological Association, Nov 12th.
- 2019 "The Plume," at American Anthropological Association Meetings, Nov 21-24, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2019 "Listening to the sound-work of the underground," Soundtable, at American Anthropological Association Meetings, Nov 21-24, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2018 "Water, wonder, and ice cubes," at American Anthropological Association Meetings, Nov 14-18, San Jose, CA.
- 2018 "Surrendering to the pull, inhabiting subterranean water worlds," Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, August 29-September 1st, Sydney, Australia.
- 2018 Author Meets Reader Panelist for "Reinventing Hoodia" by Laura Foster and "Patent Politics" by Shobita Parthasarathy, Law and Society Association Meetings, Toronto June 5-10.
- 2017 "Surrendering to the Pull, Underground Water in Movement," American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, D.C. November 29th-December 3rd.

- 2017 “Socio-legal Studies meets STS: a roundtable,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, June 20-23.
- 2016 “After Lines” Roundtable, American Anthropological Association Meetings, Minneapolis.
- 2016 “The wonders of aggregation,” Executive Board Invited Panel, Anthropological Expertise on Trial, American Anthropological Association Meetings, Minneapolis, November 16th-20th.
- 2016 “International Relations meets Anthropology,” International Studies Association Meetings, Atlanta, Georgia, March 16th-19th.
- 2015 “Subterranean Liquidity: thinking with sponges” at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Denver, CO. November 16-20th.
- 2015 “The deep future of legal instrumentalism: underground water and the drift of time” at Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. November 11-14th.
- 2015 “Hypercontextualized Obligations and the Political Economy of the Possible in Northeast Brazil” at Law and Society Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA. May 27th.
- 2014 “Aggregate Obligations and the Summation of Sentiments in Brazil,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. December 6th.
- 2014 Author meets reader panelist for Eve Darian Smith’s “Law and Societies in Global Contexts” at Law and Society Association Meeting, Minneapolis, May 29th-June 1st.
- 2014 “Libertarian Ice Cubes: the Carving of Liberal Legal Objects,” at Law and Society Association Meeting, Minneapolis, May 29th-June 1st.
- 2013 “Translating Human Rights and the Private: Water Regulation in Costa Rica” at Law and Society Annual Meetings, Boston May-June 1st.
- 2013 “Libertarian Ice Cubes and Expropriated Bodies: Continuities in the Carving of Liberal Objects,” at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- 2013 “What’s in a percentage? Calculation as the creative translation of human rights. At Regulatory Translations: Affect, Uncertainty and Expertise in the Global Scene,” Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey. May 17-18th.
- 2013 Panelist, Cultures of Energy Spring Symposium, Rice University.
- 2012 “Prices as Political Devices” at Joint 4S and EASST Annual Meetings, Copenhagen, Denmark. October 17-19.
- 2012 “How do Beets and Pantyhose make Water (un)Affordable? Experiments against definitional desires in thinking water materially” presented at the Society for Cultural Anthropology bi-annual meetings, Providence, Rhode Island. May 11-13.
- 2011 “Bureaucratic Pacts As Moral Infrastructures: Water and Movement in Northeast Brazil” presented at the 109th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, Nov 16-20.
- 2011 “The Pricing of a Human Right: Water, Profit Control, and Ethics in Costa Rica” presented at Sociolegal Studies Association-United Kingdom, Brighton, UK. April 12-15.
- 2010 “Numbers, Extensions, and Laughter in a Costa Rican Auditing Project” presented at the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, Nov 17-21.

- 2010 “Ontological indeterminacies, humor and gravity” presented at SWARM: Multispecies Salon, at the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, Nov 17-21.
- 2010 “Laughter, auditing, and the emergence of transparent objects in Central American Water Politics” presented at the Law and Society Association Meetings in Chicago, Ill, May 26-31.
- 2009 “Prices without Markets: ethics, surrogacy and water in Costa Rica” presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Philadelphia, PA, December 2-6.
“Prices without Markets: ethics, surrogacy and water in Costa Rica” presented at the Social Studies of Science Conference, Washington D.C., October 28-31.
- 2008 “Faith in the Future: Scenarios, Science and Water in Costa Rica” presented at the 107th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA, November 19-23.
- 2008 “How do you know what you know? Laughter, auditing and “democratic” water projects in Costa Rica” presented at HYDROUS event at joint 4S/EASST meetings, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, August 21st.
- 2008 “Conocimiento Experto, Agua y Antropología en Costa Rica” Invited presentation at the Critical Studies of Science Colloquium, Physics Department, University of Costa Rica. March 26th.
- 2008 “Found Objects, Water, and De-stabilizing Ethnography” presented at “Experimental Systems as Ethnographic Modality” conference organized by the Center for Ethnography and Department of Anthropology, University of California-Irvine, March 14-15th.
- 2007 “The policy, the regulator, the price and its number: quantifying the human right to water in Costa Rica,” presented at the American Anthropological Association meeting at Washington D.C., November 28-December 1st.
- 2007 “Fragmented and Sutured Faith: The Making of Scenarios and the Law in Latin American Water Politics” presented at Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Montréal, Canada September 5-8.
- 2007 “Are Human Rights and Commodities Different? Water and Expert Knowledge in Latin America” presented at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. July 24-28.
- 2007 “Re-composing water: Commodities, human rights, and expertise in Latin America,” at “What is so hard about soft law? De-texturizing law’s structures of feelings” Conference, at the Anthropology Department & Center for Ethnography, University of California, Irvine. May 4-5.
- 2006 “Social Change as Policy Practice: water conflicts and political subjectivities in Northeast Brazil,” presented at the Annual Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Graduate Student Research Panel, University of California, Irvine. May 12.
- 2006 “Water Policies, Resistance and Social Change: scenes from Northeast Brazil.” Paper presented at the meeting of the Latin American Studies Association-LASA, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15-18.
- 2005 “Adaptação institucional do manejo participativo das Aguas.” Invited colloquium at the Universidade Estadual do Ceará, Universidade Estadual do Ceará, Brazil. August 18th.

- 2004 “Institutional adaptation in collaborative water management: understanding change within change in Northeast Brazil.” Paper presented at the meeting of the Latin American Studies Association-LASA, Las Vegas, NV, October 6-8.
- 1999 “A review of Costa Rica’s experience in conservation through eco-development” with E. Muller and E. Castillo. Paper presented at the Sustainable Development in the Atlantic Coast of the Americas, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina-UNESCO-Third World Academy of Science, Santa Catarina, Brazil. December 4-10.
- 1998 “Perspectives on International Cooperation through Latin American Networks,” Meeting for Cooperação para o desenvolvimento sustentável entre América Latina e os Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa, Universidade de Lisboa-UNESCO, Sesimbra, Portugal. May 17-22.

Collaborative projects

- 2024-27 Retooling the hydrofrontier with Christy Spackman (ASU) and Katie Ulrich (USC-Harvard).
- 2022-2024 Future of Facts in Latin America Working Group with Eden Medina (MIT), and Gregg Hetherington (Concordia).
- 2023 Tercer Espacio: Ethnographic Sensibilities in Public Service, with Oswaldo Medina (University of Florida) and Luis Carlos Martínez (MINAE).
- 2023 Porosities: art and ethnography in the exploration of a concept with Nicholas Bauch (ESRI).
- 2021 Arquitecturas Subterráneas with Valeria Guzmán Verri, Escuela de Arquitectura, Universidad de Costa Rica.
- 2018-20 Cuerpos en Transformación: Una propuesta metodológica para el trabajo colaborativo, with Carolina Quesada, Denia Román, and Claudia Palma, School of Anthropology, University of Costa Rica.
- 2011-20 Ethnographies of Designed Space with Gould-Evans Architects.
- 2011-12 Echo: System Project with Grisha Coleman, Assistant Professor of Arts, Media and Engineering at Arizona State University.
- 2009-12 Transparency Research Collaboratory, with Dr. Gemma John (Manchester University-UK), Dr. Amy Levine (Changwon National University-Korea), and Dr. Leticia Barrera (CONICET-Argentina)

Media, Podcasts, and Interviews

- 2023 Center Theater Group Writers Workshop, Interview with Amy Berryman (Author and Playwriter), Los Angeles, CA, March 22nd.
- 2023 NBC Now (National) with Gadi Schwartz, Interview on Human Right to Water for World Water Day, March 22nd.
- 2023 La Historia Futura del Agua, Programa Radial La Telaraña: Arte y Ciencia, Radio Amplify, Costa Rica, March 13th.
- 2022 A Future History of Water Interview with Gustavo Gutiérrez, New Books in Anthropology Network,
- 2022 Interview on Experimenting with Ethnography (Ballesterio and Wintehereik editors) by Gustavo Gutiérrez New Books Network:

- 2021 Objecthood #8 Podcast MACBA- Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona, Re-Imagine Europe program of the European Union. Music commissioned to Jessica Ekomane. Curated and produced by Roc Jiménez de Cisneros
- 2021 Interview for Radio MACBA- Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona Podcast: MACBA Radio Web by Ana Ramos:
- 2021 Interview on Experimenting with Ethnography (Ballesteros and Wintehereik editors) by Fulya Pinar New Books Network:
- 2021 A Future History of Water, Interview for Into the Wild Podcast.
- 2021 Practicar el Asombro: Entrevista con A. Ballesteros alrededor de Una Historia Futura del Agua. Nicolás Gaitán-Albarracín y Claudia Grisales Bohórquez. International Journal of Engineering, Social Justice and Peace, v. 8, n. 1, pp. 195-216.
- 2020 A Future History of Water Interview with Colin Hoag from Engagement: Anthropology of the Environment Society.
- 2020 A Future History of Water Interview with Alejandro Ponce (UC Davis) New Books in Science and Technology Network,
- 2020 Escalas, Esponjas y Dispositivos Técnicos. Valeria Guzmán en conversación con Andrea Ballesteros. Revista Arquis Universidad de Costa Rica.
- 2019 Interview for Interstitial Podcast by Thinkbelt
[Interview for This is hell](#) Radio, Oct 4.

Courses:

Contemporary Anthropological Theory (ANTH 502)
 Water (ANTH 313)
 Feminist Science and Technology Studies (ANTH 428/628)
 Future of Facts in Latin America (ANTH 499)
 Slow Reading Seminar (ANTH 409/609)
 Values and Valuables (ANTH 623)
 Underground Spatialities (ANTH 426/626)
 Anthropology Journal Club (ANTH 397)
 The Anthropology of Water (ANTH 451/651)
 Law and Resistance in the Everyday (ANTH/SOC 296, ANTH 596)
 Law, Power and Culture (ANTH 326/526)
 Anthropological Theory: A Survey (ANTH 302)
 Exploring the Underground Lab (ANTH 441)
 Anthropologies of Nature (ANTH 348/548)
 Ethnography Studio (ANTH 420/620)
 Regulatory Translations Lab (ANTH 440)
 Ethnography, Theory, Imagination (ASB 591)
 Peoples of Latin America (ASB 322)
 Ecological Anthropology: Nature, Knowledge, and Consumption (ANT 125B)
 Teaching Assistant: Origins of Global Interdependence (ANTH41), Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2A), Sustainable Development II (ENVIRON 100).

Ethnography Studio Events organized:

2011-present. Founder and Director, “The Ethnography Studio” <https://ethnographystudio.org/>

Public Workshops/Conferences Convened:

- Property+Materiality, at Multistudio, with LaShandra Sullivan, Jamie Cross, and Kregg Hetherington, New Orleans, November 20th, 2025.
- Missing, Underappreciated, Found II: thinking with ethnographic objects, with Goethe University Frankfurt-Fixing Futures Research Training Group, June 12th, 2025.
- Missing, Underappreciated, Found I: thinking with ethnographic objects, UCLA, Goethe University Frankfurt- Fixing Futures Research Training Group & USC, September 27th, 2024.
- Ethnographic Salon: Shifting Matter(s), Slippery Maps, with Dr. Shannon Mattern (University of Pennsylvania) and Dr. Annette Kim (USC), March 4th, 2024.
- Ethnographic Salon: POROSITIES, with Dr. Eleana Kim (UCI), Dr. Teresa Montoya (University of Chicago), and Dr. Gabriela Soto Laveaga (Harvard University), April 20th, 2023.
- Ethnographic Salon: Refusing Poetic Restraint with Dr. Nomi Stone (UT Dallas), Dr. Maura Finkelstein (Muhlenberg College), and Dr. Duana Fullwiley (Stanford University), May 14th, 2021.
- Ethnographic Salon GRAPHIC, with Dr. Coleman Nye (Simon Fraser University), Dr. Juan Llamas Rodríguez (UT Dallas), and Dr. Jeffrey Himpele (Princeton University). February 28th, 2020.
- Experiments in Decolonization, with Dr. Tim Neale (Deakin University, Australia), September 11, 2019.
- Ethnographic Salon SONIC, with Dr. Marina Peterson (UTAustin), Dr. Stefan Helmreich (MIT), March 1, 2019.
- Being the Rogue Ethnographic Goat, a workshop with Dr. Paige West (Columbia University), October 19th, 2018.
- Ethnographic Salon: OPTICS, with Dr. Kristina Lyons (UCSC), Dr. Dana Powell, (Appalachian State University), and Dr. Joe Masco, (University of Chicago). March 2, 2018.
- CONVERSIONS: ethnographic fieldwork workshop, October 5th and 13th, 2017.
- Ethnographic Salon: FACT, with Dr. Danilyn Rutherford (UCSC/Wenner Gren Foundation), April 15th, 2017.
- Sensorial Excess, with Dr. Patricia Alvarez Astacio (Brandeis) and Dr. Dawn Nafus (Intel Labs), March 10th, 2017.
- Intervention as Collaboration: a workshop with Dr. Brit Ross Winthereik, (IT University Copenhagen) April 15th, 2016.
- Ethnographies that Move: a workshop with Dr. Kim Fortun (RPI), October, 2015.
- Talking about Ethnographic Sparks: a conversation with Dr. Hugh Raffles (New School) March, 2015.
- Ethnographies of Capital and Activist Flows: with Dr. Julia Elyachar, (Princeton University), October, 2014.
- INVERSIONS workshop: with Dr. Valerie Olson (UC Irvine), 2014.

- Taking Ethnography out of the Lab: A conversation with Dr. Gail Davies, (University of Exeter), April, 2013.
- X is Power: experiments in knowledge mobility. A workshop with Dr. Dawn Nafus (Intel Labs), April 2012.
- Talking about insects, talking about ethnography: A workshop with Dr. Hugh Raffles (New School), February 2012.

Other conferences and workshops:

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| 2025 | Co-organizer Earth in Phases Panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Nov. 20th |
| 2025 | Co-organizer of a Four Panel Series, Retooling: a model for change in turbulent times, Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, Sept 3-7, Seattle. |
| 2024 | III Future of Facts in Latin America Workshop, USC, Los Angeles, CA. |
| 2023 | II Future of Facts in Latin America Workshop, USC/Wrigley Institute for the Environment, Los Angeles, CA. |
| 2022 | I Future of Facts in Latin America Workshop, UNAM-USC, Mexico City. |
| 2020 | <i>Cuerpos en Transformación</i> , Speaker series co-organized with the Anthropology Department, University of Costa Rica. |
| 2019 | Elements, Humanities Research Institute, University of California-Irvine. |
| 2019 | Water Bodies II, Arizona State University, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), NY. |
| 2018 | Faculty Borderlands Initiative: Water Bodies. Social Science Research Council (SSRC), NY. |
| 2015 | Co-organizer of Jornadas de Investigación Antropológica, Laboratorio de Etnología (UCR) y Ethnography Studio (Rice University), 28-30 April. |
| 2014 | Organizer Ecological Infrastructures Workshop, CENHS, Rice University. |
| 2013 | Co-organizer of Regulatory Translations: uncertainty, expertise and affect in the global scene, Boğaziçi University, May 14 th -16 th , Istanbul, Turkey. |
| 2011 | Co-organizer of the “Practices, Instruments and Techniques” Parallel Workshop during AAA meetings in Montreal, Canada. |
| 2010 | Organizer of the Early Career APLA mentoring workshops at the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, Nov 17-21. |
| 2008 | Co-organizer of five APLA student research workshops and a Professional Mentorship session at the 107 th American Anthropological Association Meetings in San Francisco, CA, November 19-23. |
| 2007 | Organizer of the Student Workshop: Expertise and legal and political anthropology, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology at the 2007 American Anthropological Association Meeting, Washington D.C., November 28 th -December 2 nd |
| 2007 | Co-Organizer of the Conference “What is so hard about soft law? De-texturizing law’s structures of feelings” at the Anthropology Department and Center for Ethnography, University of California, Irvine. May 4-5, 2007. |
| 2006 | Co-organizer of the Student Workshop of the Interest Group on Anthropology of Public Policy and the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology at the 2006 |

- American Anthropological Association Meeting, San Jose, California, November 15-19.
- 2005 Founder and Coordinator of the Development Studies Group at University of Irvine.
- 2004 Member of organizing committee, Environmental Justice and Global Climate Change Conference Ann Arbor, MI. Sponsored by the School of Natural Resources, the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Student Group, and the Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan. March 25-28.
- 2003 Costa Rican Delegate to the V World Parks Congress-IUCN, Durban, South Africa. This congress takes place every 10 years and participants are subject to invitation by IUCN.
- 2002 Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of “I Encuentro Latinoamericano de Gestión de Areas Protegidas, Reservas de Biósfera y Corredores Biológicos” Sponsored by WWF, TNC, UNDP-GEF, CYTED, UCI, Ministry of Environment of Costa Rica, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.
- 2001 International Conference on Biodiversity and Society, Columbia University, NY.
- 1996 “Sound Development in the Tropics” University of Yunnan-Third World Academy of Sciences-UNESCO, Yunnan, China.

Other Professional Experience

- 2008 Consultant for FANCA/Costa Rica/BothEnds-Netherlands. MFS 08 project, Gender and Water Management in Quebrada Grande, San Carlos, Costa Rica.
- 2008 Consultant for IUCN on Citizen Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment processes in Central America: Honduras, El Salvador and Belize.
- 1998-2007 Consultant on biodiversity conservation, local development, policy design, Biosphere Reserve design, participatory approaches and local planning. Consultancies done for UNESCO, GTZ-Government of Ecuador, Interamerican Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture IICA-OAS, IUCN, among others.
- 1997-2006 Founder and Director of the Latin American School for Protected Areas at the University for International Cooperation, Costa Rica.
- 1997-2003 Co-Chair of the Latin American Network of Biosphere Reserves, sponsored by UNESCO and the Government of Spain.
- 1996-1997 Assistant to the Law School Dean, University for International Cooperation, Costa Rica.

Service

To the Department:

- 2025-26 Director of Graduate Studies, Anthropology, USC.
- 2024-25 Director of Graduate Studies, Anthropology, USC.
- 2023-24 Director of Graduate Studies, Anthropology, USC.
- 2024-25 Advanced Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Search Committee Chair, USC.
- 2024-25 Merit Review Department-Wide Committee, Anthropology, USC.
- 2024-25 Mentoring Committee, Assistant Professor, USC.
- 2024-25 Developmental Review Assistant Professor, USC.

2023-24 Director of Graduate Studies, Anthropology, USC.
 2023-24 Website Committee, USC.
 2023-24 Advanced Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Search Committee Member, USC.
 2023-24 Curriculum Committee, Anthropology, USC.
 2022-24 Associate/Full Professor Medical Anthropology Search Committee Chair, USC.
 2021-22 Assistant Professor Search Committee, USC.
 2020-21 Anthropology-Center for African and African American Studies Search Committee Chair, Anthropology Department, Rice.
 2020-21 Short-term Lecturer Search Committee, Rice.
 2019 AAAS+Anthropology Committee, Rice.
 2019 Annual Chair's Lecture Committee, Rice.
 2018 Annual Chair's Lecture Committee, Rice.
 2017 Departmental Diversification Committee, Rice.
 2017-18 Weekly Colloquium Series Committee Co-Chair, Rice.
 2016-17 Weekly Colloquium Series Committee Co-Chair, Rice.
 2016-17 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Rice.
 2014-15 Undergraduate Curriculum Re-design Committee, Rice.
 2015-16 Weekly Colloquium Series Committee Co-Chair, Rice.
 2015-16 Website Redesign Committee, Rice University.
 2014-15 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Rice.
 2014-15 Undergraduate ROAR Committee, Rice.
 2014- Martell College Associate, Rice.
 2012-14 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Rice.
 2013-14 Medical Anthropology Search Committee, Rice.
 2012-13 Medical Anthropology Search Committee, Rice.
 2012-13 Weekly Colloquium Series Chair, Rice.
 2010-11 SHESC Library and Computing Committee, ASU.

To the School and University:

2023 USC Graduate School Endowed Fellowship Reviewer.
 2021-22 Precarious Ecologies Mellon Seminar Post-Doctoral Fellowship Selection Committee, USC.
 2020-21 Fellowships and Awards University Committee, Rice University.
 2019-20 Social Science Dean Search Committee, Rice University.
 2019-20 Social Science Research Institute Faculty Board, Rice University.
 2019-20 Fellowships and Awards University Committee, Rice University.
 2018 Post-Doctoral Search Committee, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS), Rice University.
 2018-19 Fellowships and Awards University Committee, Rice University.
 2017-18 Faculty Advisor to Social Science Undergraduate Journal Club: Rice Examiner, Rice University.

- 2017-18 Fellowships and Awards University Committee, Rice University.
- 2016-17 Faculty Sponsor for the Society for Anthropological Debates Graduate Student Club, Rice University.
- 2015-17 Faculty Sponsor for Ethnography Studio Graduate Student Club, Rice University.
- 2015-16 Fellowships and Awards University Committee, Rice University.
- 2017 Undergraduate and Graduate Paper Prize Committees, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS), Rice University.
- 2016-18 Steering Committee, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS).
- 2016-17 Gateway Program Evaluation Committee, School of Social Sciences, Rice University.
- 2015- Costa Rica Interest Group and Rice-University of Costa Rica Strategic International Collaboration, Rice University.
- 2014-15 Fellowships and Awards University Committee, Rice University.
- 2012-14 Dean's Advisory Committee, School of Social Sciences, Rice University.
- 2013 School of Social Science Gardner Award for Best Dissertation Committee, Rice University.
- 2012 Social Science Centennial Undergraduate Research Competition Judge.
- 2011-12 CLAS Academic Standards Committee, ASU.

To the Profession:

- 2025 Chair, Gregory Bateson Book Prize, Society for Cultural Anthropology
- 2025- Wheeler Committee, American Bar Foundation
- 2024 NSF Senior Proposal Panel A
- 2024 NSF Senior Proposal Panel B
- 2024 Chair, Culture@Large Lecture "Repression", Society for Cultural Anthropology, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2023 Rachel Carson Book Prize Committee, Society for Social Studies of Science.
- 2023 Faculty Chair, Cultural Horizons Prize Committee, Society for Cultural Anthropology.
- 2022 Chair of the Society for Cultural Anthropology program for the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Seattle.
- 2021 Co-Chair of the Society for Cultural Anthropology program for the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Baltimore Nov 17-21.
- 2020-25 Society for Cultural Anthropology Board Member (elected).
- 2018-19 Program Co-Chair for the 2019 Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Sept. 4-7.
- 2016-19 Board of Trustees Class 2017 (elected), Law and Society Association.
- 2016-18 Ethnography, Law and Society Collaborative Research Network Co-Chair (elected), Law and Society Association.
- 2016 National Science Foundation Advisory Panel, Law and Social Sciences Program.
- 2016 Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Book Prize Committee Chair.
- 2015 Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Book Prize Committee Chair.
- 2015 Law and Society Association Best Article Prize Committee Member.
- 2013-5 APLA Future of Publishing Committee.

- 2013-15 APLA Web content editor.
- 2007-09 Graduate Student Representative, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology.
- 2004-6 Board member, Environment Section, Latin American Studies Association.

Editorial Boards:

- 2025- Revista Brasileira de Estudos Ciência, Tecnologia e Sociedade
- 2024- Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience
- 2022- Cultural Anthropology Journal, American Anthropological Association.
- 2020-23 Law and Social Inquiry Editorial Board for International Book Essays.
- 2015- Cuadernos de Antropología, University of Costa Rica.
- 2015-2022 Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR), American Anthropological Association.
- 2013 Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University.
- 2009-10 Editorial Fellow, American Anthropologist

Mentoring

Dissertation Chair:

1. Katie Ulrich, Anthropology, Rice (PhD 2024)-Harvard Academy International and Area Studies Fellow.
2. Yesmar Oyarzun, Anthropology, Rice (PhD 2024)-Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University.
3. Charlie Lotterman, Anthropology, Rice (PhD 2023)-Red Associates.
4. Mel Ford, Anthropology, Rice.
5. Aline Bravo, Anthropology, USC.

Dissertation Committees:

1. Sook Lin Toh, Anthropology, USC
2. Joel Ferral, Anthropology USC
3. Maria Labourt, Sociology, USC
4. Elana Simon, Price School of Policy, USC
5. Gebby Keny, Anthropology, Rice
6. Mayra Flores Muñoz, EEES, Dartmouth College
7. Alistair Lomas, University of Manchester (external examiner, PhD 2025)
8. Megan Gette, University of Texas Austin, (PhD 2024)
9. Konstantin Georgiev, Anthropology, Rice (PhD 2024)
10. Yifan Wang, Anthropology, Rice (PhD 2023)
11. Kendra Jewell, Anthropology, University of British Columbia (external examiner PhD 2023)
12. Magnus Sigurdson, Anthropology, Rice (PhD 2023)
13. Eliot Storer, Anthropology, Rice (PhD 2022)
14. Liana Eustacia Reyes, Political Science, Rice (PhD 2020)
15. Santiago Sosa, Political Science, Rice (PhD 2018)
16. Tae-Eun Kim, Anthropology, ASU (PhD 2016)

17. Jieyoung Kong, Intercultural Communication, ASU (PhD 2012)

Candidacy Committees:

1. EJ Jetmore, MA Anthropology, Rice.
2. Marcel LaFlamme, PhD Anthropology, Rice
3. Denisse Rocca Servat, PhD Justice and Social Inquiry, ASU
4. Jessica Bray PhD Anthropology, Rice
5. Kristin Gupta, PhD Anthropology, Rice
6. Gizem Haspolat, PhD Anthropology, Rice

Undergraduate Mentoring:

1. Beatrix Heard, Global Studies, USC, Thesis Advisor.
2. Sunee Quirante, Anthropology, Rice, Honors Thesis Advisor.
3. Anna Croyle, Anthropology, Rice. Capstone Advisor
4. Molly Cisneros, Anthropology, Rice, Honors Thesis Advisor.
5. Emily Hughes, Anthropology, Rice, Outstanding Undergraduate, Honors Thesis Advisor.
6. Colin Ford, Anthropology, Rice, Honors Thesis Advisor, Outstanding Undergraduate and Outstanding Honors Thesis Advisor.
7. Amy Kuritzky, Anthropology, Rice. University Scholars Program and Honors Thesis Advisor.
8. Ashley Philips, Anthropology, Rice. Capstone Advisor.
9. Isabelle Soiffer, Anthropology, Rice. Capstone Advisor.
10. Lydia Smith, Anthropology, Rice. Watson Fellow, Capstone Advisor.
11. Jolen Martinez, Anthropology, Rice. Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Advisor.
12. Amanda Quan, Anthropology, Rice University Scholars Program Advisor.
13. Lidiana Rojas, Anthropology, University of Costa Rica.

Research Internship and Fellowship Mentoring:

1. Catalina Rivera, PhD Candidate, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia.
2. Gabriela Arguedas, PhD Candidate, University of Costa Rica.
3. Rodrigo Bulamah, PhD Candidate, Anthropology, UNICAMP, Brazil.
4. Grace Tran, PhD Candidate, University of Toronto, Canada.
5. Heloisa Ribeiro, BSc Economics, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.