

MARCELA VÁSQUEZ-LEÓN
Director, Center for Latin American Studies
Professor, School of Anthropology
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EDUCATION

Ph. D. Anthropology. Dec. 1995. University of Arizona. Doctoral Dissertation: "Environmental Adaptation, Political Coercion, and Illegal Behavior: Small-scale Fishing in the Gulf of California." Directed by Prof. Thomas Park and Prof. Thomas McGuire
M.S. Agricultural Economics. 1991. University of Arizona. "The Development of Agrarian Capitalism in Nicaragua: Coffee in the North Central Region." Directed by Prof. Roger Fox
M.A. Cultural Anthropology. 1990. University of Arizona.
B.A. Sociology. 1986. College of Saint Teresa, Minnesota. Summa Cum Laude.

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Topics: Rural development and grassroots collective action; women's leadership; environmental anthropology and vulnerability to climate change; political ecology; maritime anthropology; environmental justice; human rights, migration, and rural displacement; ethnographic film.

Geographic Areas: Latin America (Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay) and US Southwest, including U.S.-Mexico Border.

EMPLOYMENT

2020-Present Professor, School of Anthropology and Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)
2016-Present Director, Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)
2010-2020 Associate Research Anthropologist, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA). Associate Professor, School of Anthropology and CLAS, University of Arizona.
2012-2014 Co-director of Global Studies, University of Arizona
2004-2010 Assistant Research Anthropologist, BARA and CLAS, University of Arizona.
2000-2004 Research Associate, Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona.
1998-1999 Adjunct Faculty, BARA, University of Arizona.
1996-1997 Adjunct Faculty, Pima Community College, Tucson. Postdoctoral Researcher Latin American Studies, University of Arizona
1993-1995 Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Guaymas, Mexico.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2019-2020 Academic Leadership Institute Fellowship. Office of the Provost, University of Arizona.
2012-2013 Fulbright Scholar, funded by the U.S. State Department, fishing communities and conservation in the Gulf of California.
2012 Magellan Circle Award for Graduate Student Field Research and Training, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona.

- 2008 Magellan Circle Award: Collaborative Video Documentary as a Communications Tool for Communities, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona.
- 2008 Magellan Circle Award for Graduate Student Research and Training, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona.
- 2008 Nominated by Department Head for the Magellan Circle/Earl H. Faculty Fellows, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona.
- 2007-2008 UDALL Fellowship. A Preliminary Assessment of The Marine Ecological Organizing Plan for the Gulf of California.
- 2003 Nominated by graduate students for UA Graduate College Outstanding Mentor Award, University of Arizona.
- 1995 International Association for the Study of Common Property Conference Student Award.
- 1995 Graduate College Faculty Development Fellowship, University of Arizona.
- 1994 Minority Graduate Student Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Arizona.
- 1993 Teresan Scholarship Fund Dissertation Award, Order of St. Francis, Rochester, Mn.
- 1991 Edward H. Spicer Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona.
- 1989 President's Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Arizona.
- 1986 Phi Delta Gamma National Honor Society.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

External Sources

- 2022-2026 Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Areas Studies grant. PI, US Department of Education, \$2,000,000.
- 2022 -2025 US Department of State. Women’s Leadership Institute for Indigenous and Afro descendant Latin American Students, Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders. (\$400,000 per year).
- 2020-2025 Field Research Collaborative. Tinker Foundation (\$75,000.00 plus \$75,000 matching funds)
- 2020-2022 Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant. “Central American Studies: Undergraduate Student Engagement in Human Security, Environment, Health and Migration.” PI, US Department of Education, \$197,122 (Total with UA matching funds: \$266,480),100% Effort.
- 2019-2021 Field Research Grants. Tinker Foundation (\$30,000 plus \$30,000 matching funds)
- 2018-2022 Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Areas Studies grant. PI, US Department of Education, \$2,000,000.
- 2018-2021 US Department of State. Women’s Leadership Institute for Indigenous and Afro descendant Latin American Students, Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders. (\$400,000 per year).
- 2016-2018 US Department of Education, UISFL Grant. “Brazilian Studies through Research, Instruction, and Outreach: A Model for Undergraduate Student Engagement” With Ana Carvalho, Spanish and Portuguese [(\$182,000) plus UA matching funds (Total: \$400,000)].
- 2009-2018 US Department of State. Leadership Institute for Latin American Indigenous Students, Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders. With Co-PI Alberto Arenas. (\$400,000 per year).

- 2014-2015 World Food Program. “Assistance to Refugees and People Impacted by Colombia’s Internal Conflict”. Ecuador. With Luis Ramirez and Monica Muller, TANGO International. (\$200,000).
- 2012-2013 Fulbright Scholar Award. “Fishing at the edge of extinction: Vaquita conservation in the Upper Gulf of California” (\$9,000).
- 2012-2015 US Department of State. “Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders,” Co-PI with Alberto Arenas. (\$1,140,000).
- 2011-2013 NOAA-Climate and Societal Interactions Program. “Managing Demand and Rethinking Supply: Adaptation, conservation, and Planning in the Drought-prone Southwestern United States and northwest Mexico.” PI Margaret Wilder. (\$300,000).
- 2010-2014 US Department of Education. Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Programs. Contributor. PI Scott Whiteford. (\$1.8 million)
- 2009 Partner University Fund (PUF). Water, Environment and Urban Development: US and EU Case Studies. Juan Valdes and Graciela Schneier-Madanes (PIs), co-PI with Pierre Ribstein and Nadine Cattan. (\$234,000).
- 2004-2010 USAID, ACDI/VOCA. “Development and Expansion of Economic Assistance Programs That Fully Utilize Cooperatives or Credit Unions.” With Timothy J. Finan. (\$510,000).
- 2000-2006 NOAA. “Assessment and Monitoring of Vulnerability and Adjustment, Social Science Component of the Climate Assessment for the Southwest Project (CLIMAS).” Project Manager. PI Timothy J. Finan (\$80,000 per year).
- 2004 CONAHEC. “Environmental Indicators for Sustainable Agriculture: A Northwestern Sonora Study.” PI with Alvaro Bracamonte, Colegio de Sonora, Mexico (\$13,000).
- 2002-2003 Inter American Institute for Global Change - Small Grants Program,. “The Human Dimensions of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources: An Integrated Assessment of Lessons from Three Co-management Initiatives in the Americas.” PI with Daniela Kalikoski, Universidade Federal de Rio Grande du Sur, Brazil and Roberto Enriquez, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, Mexico. (\$30,000).
- 2000-2002 National Science Foundation. “Responding to Crisis: Rapid Environmental and Economic Change in the Mid-Gulf of California Fisheries”. (\$75,000).

Internal Institutional Support

- 2019 Student/Faculty Interaction Grant. UA Office of Student Affairs.
- 2017-2018 CAZMEX-Haury. Artisanal Fishing Communities and Natural Protected Areas in the Gulf of California. In collaborations with Gerardo Rodríguez Quiroz, CIIDIR-IPN, Unidad Sinaloa (\$60,000). 2017-2018.
- 2016 SBSRI Leverage Grant
- 2013-2014 Confluence Innovation and Collaboration Faculty Grants. “New Blueprint for success: Micro-entrepreneurs and cooperatives in Brazil in High Definition Television.” With Daniel Duncan. (\$25,000).
- 2013 SBSRI Small Faculty Grant
- 2012 Development of Cuba Study Abroad Program. Small Grants for Academic Collaboration. Center for Latin American Studies.
- 2012 Magellan Circle Award for Graduate Student Field Research and Training

- 2008 Nominated by Department Head for the Magellan Circle/Earl H. Faculty Fellows, University of Arizona
- 2008 Magellan Circle Award: Collaborative Video Documentary as a Communications Tool for Communities.”
- 2008 Magellan Circle Award for Graduate Student Research and Training
- 2007-2008 UDALL Fellowship. A Preliminary Assessment of The Marine Ecological Organizing Plan for the Gulf of California.
- 2006 Foreign Travel Grant Awards, International Affairs
- 2005 Association for Women Faculty Travel Grant Award
- 2003 Nominated by graduate students for UA Graduate College Outstanding Mentor Award,
- 2003 Association for Women Faculty Travel Grant Award, University of Arizona
- 2002 Foreign Travel Grant Awards, International Affairs, University of Arizona
- 2000 International Association for the Study of Common Property Conference Student Award

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Books

- Duncan Daniel, Marcela Vásquez-León, and Dereka Rushbrook. 2020. Portraits of Cuba. University Press of Florida.
- Vásquez-León, M, B. Burke, and T. Finan (eds). 2017. Cooperatives, Grassroots Development, and Social Change: Experiences from Rural Latin America. Edited Volume. The University of Arizona Press.

Chapters in scholarly books

- Vásquez-León, M and T. Finan. 2017. Introduction: Smallholder Cooperativism as a Development Strategy in Latin America. In M. Vásquez-León, B. Burke, and T. Finan, eds. Cooperatives, Grassroots Development, and Social Change: Experiences from Rural Latin America. The University of Arizona Press.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2017. The Paraguayan Context of Social Inequality. In M. Vásquez-León, B. Burke, and T. Finan, eds. Cooperatives, Grassroots Development, and Social Change: Experiences from Rural Latin America. The University of Arizona Press.
- Vásquez-León, M and Andrés Gonzalez Aguilera. 2017. Collective Challenges and the Fair Trade Alternative: The Manduvirá Cooperative. In M. Vásquez-León, B. Burke, and T. Finan, eds. Cooperatives, Grassroots Development, and Social Change: Experiences from Rural Latin America. The University of Arizona Press.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2017. Capiibary Cooperative: A strategy of Diversification to Reverse the Rural Exodus. In M. Vásquez-León, B. Burke, and T. Finan, eds. Cooperatives, Grassroots Development, and Social Change: Experiences from Rural Latin America. The University of Arizona Press.
- Vásquez-León, M and B. Burke. 2017. Cooperatives as Change Agents in Rural Latin America: Synthesizing Experiences Across Countries. In M. Vásquez-León, B. Burke, and T. Finan, eds. Cooperatives, Grassroots Development, and Social Change: Experiences from Rural Latin America. The University of Arizona Press.
- Bidwell, M., C. Landry, D. McGranahan, J. Molnar, L. Morton, M. Vásquez-León. 2014. Rural Communities. In J. M. Melillo, T. C. Richmond, and G. W. Yohe, eds. Climate Change

- Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment. U.S. Global Change Research Program. Pp. 333-346.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2012. Policies of Conservation and Sustainable Development: the case of fishing communities in the Gulf of California, Mexico. In T. Weaver, ed. *Neoliberalism and Commodity Production in Mexico*. University Press of Colorado.
- West, C.T. and M. Vásquez-León. 2003. Testing Farmers' Perceptions of Climate Variability: a case study from the Sulphur Springs Valley, Arizona. In B. Orlove and S. Strauss, eds. *Weather, Climate, Culture: Building Anthropological Bridges from Past to Future*, Berg Publishing: New York.
- Vásquez-León, M. 1999. Neoliberalism, Environmentalism, and Scientific Knowledge: re-defining natural resource use rights in Mexico. In J. M. Heyman, ed. *States and Illegal Practices*. Berg Publishers, Oxford, UK.

Editor of Journal Volumes

- Arenas, A. And M. Vásquez-León. 2012. Militarism in the Americas. *Revista de Estudos Universitários*, Sorocaba, 38(1): 9-12.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2010. Walking the Tight Rope: Latin American Agricultural Cooperatives and Small Farmer Participation in Global Markets. *Latin American Perspectives*. 175 (37): 3-11.

Refereed journal articles

- Ramírez Monárrez, J.A., M. Pensado Leglise, M. Vásquez-León, W. Valenzuela Quiñonez, L.A. Gallardo Millán, G. Rodríguez Quiroz. 2023. Percepción de Incidencia de Políticas Públicas en las Áreas Naturales Protegidas Marinas, en el Desarrollo Económico en Cinco Comunidades del Golfo de California, México. *Revista de Gestão e Secretariado(GeSec)*, Sao Paulo, SP, 14 (7):12339-12354.
- Rodríguez-Franco, I., G. Rodríguez Quiroz, P. Muñoz Sevilla, D. García Urquidez, M. Vásquez-León. 2020. Participación Social en el Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Islas Golfo de California. *Región y Sociedad*. 32, e1323.
- Vásquez-León, M. and J. Lindsay-Poland. 2012. Will Common Sense Ever Prevail? Lost Lessons, Militarization, and Cycles of Violence and Impunity in Colombia and Mexico. *Revista de Estudos Universitários, Sorocaba*, 38(1): 53-74.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2010. Free Markets and Fair Trade, Collective Livelihood Struggles, and the Cooperative Model: Two Case Studies from Paraguay. *Latin American Perspectives*. 175 (37):53-73.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2009. Hispanic Farmers and Farmworkers: Social Networks, Institutional Exclusion, and Climate Vulnerability in Southeastern Arizona. *American Anthropologist*. 111(3):289-301.
- Vásquez-León, M., B. Burke, L. Radonic. 2009. Engaging Students in Applied Research: Experiences from Collaborative Research and Learning in Brazil and Paraguay. *Learning and Teaching*, Summer Issue 2(2):46-65.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2009. One Decade of Drought and Two of Neoliberal Reforms in the Sierra Sonorense: Responses by the Rural Poor. *Journal of Southern Rural Sociology* 24(1):44-66.
- West, C. T. and M. Vásquez-León. 2008. Misreading the Arizona landscape: challenging received wisdom on ecological destruction in southeastern Arizona. *Human Organization*. 67 (4):363-383.

- Ray, Andrea J., G. Garfin, M. Wilder, M. Vásquez-León, M. Lenart, and A. Comrie. 2007. Applications of monsoon research: Opportunities to inform decisionmaking and reduce regional vulnerability *Journal of Climate*. 20:1608-1627.
- Vásquez-León, M. and D. Liverman. 2004. The Political Ecology of Land-Use Change: The Case of Affluent Ranchers and Destitute Farmers in the Mexican Municipio of Alamos. *Human Organization*. 63 (1): 21- 33.
- Vásquez-León, M, C. T. West, T. J. Finan. 2003. A Comparative Assessment of Climate Vulnerability: Agriculture and Ranching on Both Sides of the US–Mexico Border. *Global Environmental Change*. Vol. 13 (3): 159-173.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2002. Assessing Vulnerability to Climate Risk: The Case of Small-Scale Fishing in the Gulf of California, Mexico. *Investigaciones Marinas* Vol. 30(1): 204-205.
- Vásquez-León, M. 1994. Avoidance Strategies and Governmental Rigidity: the Case of the Small-scale Shrimp Fishery in Two Mexican Communities. *Journal of Political Ecology* 1:67-81.
- Vásquez-León, M, and T. McGuire, 1994. La Iniciativa Privada in the Mexican Shrimp Industry: Politics of Efficiency. *Maritime Anthropological Studies* 6(1/2):59-73.

Peer-reviewed scholarly reports

All listed reports have been peer reviewed by other researchers, agency personnel, and community members.

- Ramirez, L., M. Muller, and M. Vásquez-León. 2015. Evaluación de Operación: Ecuador, Operación Prolongada de Socorro y Recuperación, 200275, Operación de Asistencia a Refugiados y Personas Afectadas por el Conflicto en Colombia: Una evaluación de la operación del PMA. Reporte Final. Commissioned by the WFP.
- Vásquez-León, M. and Alberto Arenas. 2013. End of year report to the US Department of State “Study of the U.S. Institute” for Indigenous Student Leaders.
- Vásquez-León, M. Brian Burke, Luis Barros, Lucero Radonic, Paola Canova, and Fernando Mayorga. 2008. An Annotated Bibliography on Rural Cooperatives with a Focus on Latin America. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology. Report prepared for ACDIVOCA. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, The University of Arizona.
- Vásquez-León, ed. 2007. Water is Life: A Community Level Assessment of Climate Vulnerability in the Upper Gila River Valley. With the contribution of Barbara Wolf, Colin West, and Donald Anderson. CLIMAS Report prepared for NOAA. Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona.
- Vásquez-León, M. 2006. The Human Dimensions of Biodiversity conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources: An Integrated Assessment of lessons from Three Co-Management Initiatives in the Americas. News Letter for the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. Issue 1:15.
- Vásquez-León, M. and Olga Lucia Cuellar. 2006. Cooperativas y Cambio Rural en América Latina: Cooperativa de Producción Agro Industrial Manduvira Ltda. Arroyos y Esteros, Paraguay. Report prepared for ACDIVOCA, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, The University of Arizona.
- Canova, Paola, J. Rinke, and Vásquez-León, M. 2006. Cooperativas y Cambio Rural en América Latina: Cooperativa Guayaibi Unido Ltda. Guayaibi, Paraguay. Report prepared for ACDIVOCA, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, The University of Arizona.
- Brian Burke, Blanca Méndez, Germán Riquelme, and Marcela Vásquez-León. 2006. Cooperativas y Cambio Rural en América Latina: Cooperativa de Producción Agro Industrial y de Servicios

- “Coronel Oviedo” Ltda. Caazapá, Paraguay. Report prepared for ACDIVOCA. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, The University of Arizona.
- Vásquez-León and T. Finan. 2006. Agricultural Co-operatives in Latin America: Research Results from Brazil and Paraguay (Phase I). Report prepared for ACDIVOCA.
- Vásquez-León, M. and A. Bracamonte. 2005. Indicadores Ambientales para la Agricultura Sustentable: Un Estudio del Noreste de Sonora. Final Report for CONAHEC. El Colegio de Sonora, Sonora, Mexico.
- Vásquez-León, C. West, B. Wolf, T. Finan. 2005. Assessment and Monitoring of Vulnerability and Adjustment. Section for CLIMAS Annual Progress report prepared for NOAA.
- M. Vásquez-León, M., C. West, B. Wolf, J. Moody, and T. Finan. 2002. Vulnerability to Climate Variability in the Farming Sector: A Case Study of Groundwater Dependent Agriculture in Southeastern Arizona. Final Report for NOAA. CLIMAS Report CL1-02. Institute for the Study of Planet Earth.

MEDIA

- Vásquez-León, M. 2021. Pesca y Conservación: Conflicto en el Golfo de California. Spanish language Website/<https://www.vaquitacrisis.com/> (Español)
- Vásquez-León, M. 2020. Fishing and Conservation: Conflict in the Gulf of California. Website. <https://www.vaquitacrisis.org/> (English)
- Vásquez-León, M. (Director) and Daniel Duncan (Producer). 2018. Documentary series “Fishing at the Edge of Extinction: Vaquita Conservation in the Upper Gulf of California”. Gecko Production and Center for Latin American Studies.
- Duncan, D. and M. Vásquez-León. 2015. “Documenting Social Entrepreneurs and Cooperatives in Brazil for HD Television.” Gecko Productions and BARA
- Vásquez-León, M. (Director) and Daniel Duncan (Producer). 2013. “Environmental Justice and the Voices of Communities in the Upper Gulf of California”, BARA and Gecko Productions.
- Vásquez-León, M. (Director and Producer). 2012. “Environmental Justice and the Voices of Communities in the Upper Gulf of California”
- Vásquez-León, M. (Director). 2010. Cooperatives and Small Farmers in Paraguay/Cooperativas y Pequeños Productores del Paraguay: Capiibary Cooperative, San Juan Nepomuceno, Caazapa. DVD. Spanish and Spanish with English subtitles. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology and VisualArte, Chile.
- Vásquez-León, M. and E. Rubinstein-Avila. 2010. Retratos Fronterizos/Border Portraits. DVD. Produced as part of a video documentary workshop with Daniel Duncan.
- Vásquez-León, M. (Director). 2009. Cooperatives and Small Farmers in Paraguay/Cooperativas y Pequeños Productores del Paraguay: Manduvira Cooperative. DVD. Spanish and Spanish with English subtitles. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology and VisualArte, Chile. DVD donated to the to the Center for Latin American Studies Library and the University of Arizona Main Library, freely available in the online repository.
- Vásquez-León, M. (Director). 2005. Arenas a Contraluz: El Uso y Conservación de los Recursos Naturales en la costa central del Golfo de California. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology and VisualArte, Chile.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2005)

Colloquia

- 2020 Introductory Lectures. LAS 405/505 Sabores de Mexico. August.
- 2019 Conservation and Diplomacy in the US-Mexico Border” ENGR 495A/595A Science, Health and Engineering Diplomacy. March 18.
- 2019 “Cuba Today” LAS 150 Modern Latin America. Spring semester.
- 2018 Vaquita Conservation and the Colorado River: Impact on Food Security” LAS 280 Food and Culture in Latin America
- 2018 “The Latin America Region: an Introduction” Global Studies 250
- 2017 “Cuba from a Historical Perspective” LAS 150 Moderna Latin America
- 2017 “NAFTA, Immigration and the US Mexico Border” LAS 365
- 2017 “Cuba from a Historical Perspective” LAS 150
- 2017 “The Latin America Region: an Introduction” Global Studies 250
- 2016 “Cuba from a Historical Perspective” and “Immigration and the US Mexico Border”, LAS undergraduate course
- 2016 Discussant and organizer of round –table discussion “Violence and Human Rights in Latin America” Graduate students from LAS, SoA, and SGRD presented.
- 2016 “The Latin America Region: an Introduction” Global Studies 250
- 2015 “Cuba from a Historical Perspective” and “Immigration and the US Mexico Border”, LAS undergraduate course; “Drug Wars from a Latin American Perspective” graduate seminar School of Law
- 2015 Invited discussant for the symposium “Men with Guns: Cultures of Paramilitarism and the Modern Americas”. Department of Spanish and Portuguese, UA. Hacienda del Sol. November 13th.
- 2014 “Cuba from a Historical Perspective” LAS undergraduate course.
- 2014 Round Table Discussion on Colombia’s Displaced Population and Public Health Policies. School of Public Health.
- 2014 “Plan Colombia” LAS undergraduate course
- 2013 “Culture and Global Health” School of Public Health.
- 2013 “Use of Video as Research Method” Undergraduate Geography Course
- 2013 “Drug Wars from a Latin American Perspective” Undergraduate Course
- 2012 “Perspectives on the Role of the U.S. Military in Colombia” Center for Latin American Studies, September 13. University of Arizona.
- 2011 “Reflections from Cuba” September 16. Latin American Studies Coffee with Colleagues. University of Arizona.
- 2009 “Marine and Coastal Conservation Policies in the Gulf of California: Who Benefits?” Udall Center Lecture Series. University of Arizona.
- 2008 “Free-Markets and Fair Trade: Collective livelihood Struggles and the Cooperative Model in Paraguay.” Anthropology Department Lecture Series, April 23. University of Arizona.
- 2006 “Globalization and Rural Co-operatives in Latin America: Research Results from Brazil and Paraguay”. BARA Brown Bag Series. Feb. 7 and 21.
- 2005 “Fisheries and Sustainable Development”. Sustainable-development Seminar, College of Law, University of Arizona.
- 2005 “The Impact of Plan Colombia on the Colombian Amazon Region”. Teacher Outreach Program.Center for Latin American Studies (Funded).

Conferences and Workshops Organized

- 2018-2022 Environmental Justice and Human Rights Workshop Series: Indigeous and Afro-descendant Experiences in Latin America. Co-organizer of four-year workshop series focused on Indigeous and Afro-descendant environmental justice movements in Latin America. A collaboration with the University of Florida Center for Latin America Studies.
- 2021 Co-organizer. SUSI Alumni Virtual Conference. In collaboration with the Institute of Training and Development, Miami University, US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. February 7-13.
- 2020 Co-organizer. “*Juntos ante la Pandemia: Juventud Indígena y Afrodescendiente en Acción*” (Together in front of the Pandemia: Indigenous and Afro descendent Youth in Action). Virtual Seminar in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, Universidad de Las Americas Puebla (UDLAP), Instituto Tecnológico Autonomo de México (ITAM), and the University of New Mexico. July 27-31.

Conferences (invited)

- 2023 Infusing cultural content and non-English materials into the classroom and co-curricular activities: Two examples from the University of Arizona UISFL grant for Central American Studies. Title VI UISFL Project Directors Meeting. August 23-24, Washington D.C.
- 2021 Moderator. Virtual Seminar “Arms Trafficking between the United States and Mexico - Tráfico de Armas em la Frontera Mexico-Estados Unidos”. La Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, Mexico, the Center of Mexican Studies UNAM-Tucson, The University of Arizona. Feb. 3.
- 2021 “Feminismos en las Americas”. Keynote Address. SUSI Alumni Conference. Feb. 8.
- 2019 “Glocal Partnerships: Connecting the UA and Pima Community College”, Association of International Education Administrators. San Francisco. Jan 20-Jan 22
- 2018 “La Pesca al Borde de la Extinción: Conservación de la Vaquita en el Alto Golfode California.” 2do Congreso Internacional sobre Areas Naturales Protegidas. CIBNOR. Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, Mexico. October 10 and 11.
- 2014 The National Climate Assessment: Role of Anthropologists in Building Assessment Capacity and Implementing a Sustained Assessment Process. Panel Discussion. Dec. 4. Washington, DC
- 2012 Border Network for Human rights El paso, Texas July 13-14
- 2012 Group Leader. Rural Communities Technical Workshop. National Climate Assessment. Charleston, NC.
- 2010 Speaker and Workshop Organizer. ACDIVOCA, Conferencia del Programa Mundial de Desarrollo Cooperativo-PDC. May, Asuncion, Paraguay.
- 2010 Speaker. The US-Mexico Border from a Historical Perspective. United States-Mexico Border Center of Excellence Consortium Arizona State Conference. April 30th.
- 2010 Speaker. Development and Sustainability. Paper presented at The Scholar & Feminist Conference XXXV, Feminism and Climate Change. February 27, 2010. Barnard College, New York.
- 2008 Panel Discussant. TINKER Symposium 2008: Graduate Field Research in Latin America. Latin American Studies, University of Arizona
- 2008 “History of Coastal Communities and Fisheries by the Sea of Cortes in Mexico”. Symposium on Water History of the Southwestern United States. International Water History Association. March 19, Tucson, Az.

- 2008 “La Cadena Productiva del Banano en la Cooperativa Guayaibi Unido”. Ampliando Oportunidades en el Mundo. ACDIVOCA, Conferencia del Programa Mundial de Desarrollo Cooperativo-PDC. March 3-7, Asuncion, Paraguay.
- 2006 “Equilibrando o Social com o Econômico no Processo de Desenvolvimento”. OCB V Seminário de Tendências do Cooperativismo, November. Manus, Brazil.
- 2006 “Agricultural Cooperatives in Brazil and Paraguay: Project Results”. Seminario Modernización de la Cultura Empresarial en las Cooperativas Bogotá, Colombia, July 17 and 18 (Funded).
- 2005 “ASCOPE Cooperativa dos Produtores Rurais da Comunidade Sagrado Coração de Jesus do Paraná da Eva”. Presentation at Fenacoop – Feira Internacional de Cooperativas, Fornecedores e Serviços. October 5-7. Sao Paulo, Brazil (Funded).

Conferences (submitted)

- 2020 Women’s Leadership Institute (SUSI) Latin American Studies Association. Panel organizer. Guadalajara, Mexico.
- 2020 Colombian Refugees in Ecuador: Women’s Empowerment as a Tool for Conflict. Resolution and Food Security. European Social Science History Conference. March 18-20. Leiden, the Netherlands.
- 2017 Citizenship on the Periphery: Race, Class and the Struggle for Full Citizenship. Session Discussant. American Anthropological Association. Nov. 29-Dec. 3.
- 2016 “Colombian refugees in Ecuador: dealing with food insecurity and conflict with local communities”. Society for Applied Anthropology. March 29-April 2. Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- 2016 “A Grassroots Strategy to End the Rural Exodus in Paraguay: The CapiiBary Cooperative”. World Bank Land and Poverty Conference: Scaling up Responsible Land Governance, March 14-18, Washington DC.
- 2014 With Daniel Duncan. Documenting Social entrepreneurs and cooperatives in Brazil for HD Television. Short documentary video presented at the Society for Applied Research in Anthropology, Albuquerque, New Mexico. March 18-22.
- 2014 With Rodrigo Renteria. “A Semiotic Gillnet: Marine Reserves, Narcotraffic and Small-scale Fisheries in the Gulf of California”. Society for Applied Research in Anthropology, Albuquerque, New Mexico. March 18-22.
- 2013 With Rodrigo Renteria “Marine Reserves, Narco-Traffic, and Small-Scale Fisheries in the Upper Gulf of California, Mexico. American Anthropological Association Conference. Chicago.
- 2012 “Collaborative governance and building adaptive capacity in the Colorado River Delta/Upper Gulf of California”. Adaptation Futures Conference. May 29-31st. Tucson, AZ.
- 2012 “The CapiiBary Cooperative: A Collective Struggle to Reverse the Rural Exodus”. Society for Applied Anthropology, 72nd Annual Meeting. March 27-31, Baltimore.
- 2011 “Small-holder Cooperatives as Agents of Grassroots Sustainable Development: Cases from Paraguay and Brazil” Society for Applied Anthropology, 71st Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington.
- 2011 “Pesca al borde de la extinción: Conservacion de la Vaquita en el alto Golfo de California” Foro Binacional Sobre el Desarrollo Humano Transfronterizo en la Region Sonora-Arizona. November 1st. Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.
- 2010 “Fishing at the Edge of Extinction: Vaquita Conservation in the Gulf of California. Society for Applied Anthropology, 70th Annual Meeting. March 24-27, Merida, Mexico.

- 2009 “Fishing Communities, Conservation, and Representation: a Preliminary Assessment of the Marine Ecological Organizing Plan for the Gulf of California, Mexico”. Latin American Studies Association, June 11-14. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2009 “Cooperatives and Small Scale Producers from Paraguay: Negotiating Visual Perspectives of Representation”. With Lucero Radonic. Video presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology 69th annual meeting, March 17-21. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2009 “Autonomy, Governance, and Sustainable Development: Small Rural Cooperatives in the New Paraguay. Society for Applied Anthropology 69th annual meeting, March 17-21. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2008 “Defying Power: Nature and Local Communities in Latin America”. Panel Discussant. Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies 55th Annual Conference, April 9-12. Flagstaff, Arizona.
- 2008 ”Exploring the Challenges of Engaging Students in Understanding Policy: Experiences from Collaborative Research in Brazil and Paraguay”. Society for Applied Anthropology 68th Annual Meeting • March 25 – 29. Memphis.
- 2007 ”The Role of Cooperatives as Agents of Change in Rural Latin America”. Panel organizer for the Latin American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada. September 5-9.
- 2007 “Are Rural Cooperatives a Viable Alternative in a Globalized World?: Cases from Brazil and Paraguay”. Latin American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada. September 5-9.
- 2007 “Ethnicity and Adaptation to Climate Variability in Southeastern Arizona”. Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Tampa, FL. March 27-31.
- 2006 “Walking the Tight Rope: A Comparative Analysis of Small-scale Agricultural Cooperatives in Latin America” Parts I and II. Sessions organized for the Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Vancouver, BC, March 28-April 2.
- 2006 “Latin American Agricultural Cooperatives: A Viable Alternative in a Globalized World?” Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Vancouver, BC, March 28-April 2.
- 2006 “Colombian Coffee and Neoliberalism Al Estilo Juan Valdez”. Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Vancouver, BC, March 28-April 2.
- 2005 “Visual Anthropology in the Portrayal of Conflicting Views on Marine Resource Use”. Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Santa Fe, New Mexico. April 5-10.

SERVICE/OUTREACH (SINCE 2005)

Local/state outreach

- 2020 Co-organizer. Everyday Realities and Politics in Venezuela Today. Virtual Dialogue. Jan. 24.
- 2019 Co-organizer. Chile Despertó: Repression, Resistance, and Reform in Neoliberal Crisis.
- 2019 Host. Confluence Center Show and Tell “Reprinting Geographies” Feb 25
- 2019 Speaker. “Food Security, Displacement and Conservation in the Upper Gulf of California, Mexico. Desert Lab series on Vaquita Conservation. March 20.
- 2018 Translator. Mailer Translations for Casa Alitas, Tucson.
- 2017 Invited talk with Daniel Duncan. Presenting “In the Americas”, behind the scenes and the use of expert knowledge. Raytheon Tucson Networking Club. February 16.
- 2016 Invited speaker. Safety in the Field: Perspectives from Anthropology, Archaeology, and Journalism. Student Professional Development Session. Center for Middle Eastern Studies. November 4.

- 2016 Invited speaker. Colombia' Peace Agreement. Information session organized by LASSO students.
- 2016 Discussant and organizer of round –table discussion “Violence and Human Rights in Latin America” Graduate students from LAS, SoA, and SGRD presented.
- 2015 Interpreter and Commentator. “Result on the Ayotzinapa Case”, Carlos Beristain, Inter-disciplinary Group of Independent Experts. Oct. 22-23.
- 2015 Invited TV interview for “Arizona Week”, Drug Wars in Latin America and the Border. Arizona Public Media . September 25.
- 2015 Invited exhibit “Documenting Social Entrepreneurs and Cooperatives in Brazil for HD Television.” Confluence Center for Creative Inquiry Showcase. April 21st. University of Arizona.
- 2015 Invited Speaker. UA Anthropology’s 100th Anniversary. Sept. 15.
- 2015 Invited Panelist. Celebrating Excellence: Women in Anthropology. School of Anthropology Centennial Celebration. March 31.
- 2014 Invited Talk “Ethnicity and Vulnerability to Drought in Rural Arizona”. Climate Conversation with Hispanic Leaders. Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions. Presentation and Round Table discussant. Nov. 13.
- 2014 Interviewed for Seafood in the Sea of Cortez. Edible Baja Arizona Magazine. Issue No. 6, May/June.
- 2013 Organizer. Series of talks on violence in Ciudad Juarez through Latin American Studies.
- 2012 Organizer. Caravana por La Paz y Dignidad. Participated in hosting and organizing members. Also hosted several members at different times who gave talks at the UA and other community events.
- 2011 Invited talk, “The Andean Region” Latin-American Orientation Course. LAOC-AFSOUTH. Davis Monthan Airforce, Tucson, Arizona. March 2-4.
- 2010 Invited talk, “The US-Mexico Border from a Historical Perspective”. United States-Mexico Border Center of Excellence Consortium Arizona State Conference. April 30th.
- 2009 Invited talk, “International Efforts and Indigenous Health Issues in Latin America”. Presented at the “Health Inequities: Local Solutions Workshop”. American College of Physicians, Board of Governors meeting, Scottsdale, Arizona. Oct. 1.
- 2009 Television Interview and Feature Story. Western Hemisphere Institute: Connecting Latin American students to UA. Arizona Public Media. Arizona Illustrated. By Kim Craft. August 27. (<http://ondemand.azpm.org/videosshorts/watch/2009/8/27/kuat-western-hemisphere-institute/>).
- 2009 Interview for UA News. “The Western Hemisphere Institute connects Latin American Student Leaders with Southern Arizona Community Programs”. By Rebecca Ruiz-McGill. April 9.
- 2007 Meeting organizer on Climate and Water, San Carlos Apache Reservation, February 28.
- 2005-2007 Class lectures on Latin American history at St. Ambrose Middle School, Tucson.
- 2006 Presenter at Decision Center for a Desert City at Arizona State University, Tempe.
- 2006 Volunteer for Central American teachers involved in the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships (CASS) program at Language, Reading and Culture.
- 2006 Radio interview on the Gulf of California. KUAT. Reflexiones.
- 2004-2006 Organizer and speaker, Arizona Cancer Center, Research group on Hispanic women and breast cancer.

National/international outreach

- 2023 Conference Series Organizer and Presenter. Introducción al contexto de las conflictividades sociales en Colombia. May 15-19. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia June : History, Politics, Economy
- 2020 Member of the Expert Panel Report to evaluate fisheries proposals. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- 2020 Gender based violence. Observatorio de Género, Universidad UTE, Ecuador.
- 2020 Training for the Colombian Truth Commission for the collection of victim testimonies in the U.S. February 21-24. Philadelphia.
- 2019 Manuscript Reviewer for the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute
- 2019 Manuscript Reviewer for Region y Sociedad, Sonora, Mexico.
- 2018 Documentary Film Contest Judge in CUCA, Fortaleza, Brazil. August.
- 2018 Contributing producer, on camera talent, translator and voice over interpreter for “In the Americas with David Yetman”. Collaboration for programs in Colombia.
- 2018 Contributing Producer, translator and voice over interpreter for Emmy Award-winning PBS Television series “In the Americas with David Yetman”. Collaboration for programs in Guatemala.
- 2017 Contributing Producer, translator and voice over interpreter for Emmy Award-winning PBS Television series “In the Americas with David Yetman”. Collaboration for programs in Ecuador.
- 2017 Coalition's Title VI/Fulbright-Hays March 8-9 Advocacy Event, Washington DC
- 2016 Welcome speaker. PROACTIVA LIDER, Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca. September.
- 2014-2016 Contributing Producer, on camera talent, translator and voice over interpreter for Emmy Award-winning PBS Television series “In the Americas with David Yetman”. Collaboration for programs in Bahamas and Cuba.
- 2014 Vásquez-León, M. Colombia’s Unrelenting Cycle of Violence: Reevaluating Plan Colombia. Asuntos Del Sur/Virtual Dialogues. Online Publication.
- 2014 Drug Policies in Latin America: From Repression to Regulation. Round Table Presentation. Asuntos Del Sur/Virtual Dialogues. School of Government and Public Policy. The University of Arizona. Oct. 2.
- 2014 Manuscript Reviewer for World Development; American Ethnologist; Maritime Studies
- 2013 Manuscript Reviewer for Ecology and Society; American Ethnologist
- 2012 Participant in Academic Sector narrative. The Border Network for Human Rights. El Paso, Texas. July 13-14.
- 2012 Manuscript Reviewer for Region y Sociedad; Journal of Political Ecology; Agriculture and Human Values; Environmental Science and Policy
- 2011 Invited as one of eight Lead Authors for the National Climate Assessment’s Rural Communities Chapter. This is a large-scale national project that is part of the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). The NCA report will be presented to the President and Congress

- 2011 Manuscript Reviewer for Human Ecology; Region y Sociedad; Society and Natural Resources; Conservation and Society
- 2010 Manuscript Reviewer for the Association of American Geographers (2); Current Anthropology; Latin American Research Review
- 2010 Video presentation and distribution to community members “Cooperativas y Pequeños Productores del Paraguay. Asuncion, Paraguay.
- 2009 Presenter Colombian Indigenous Leaders Project. Office of Community Relations, Maricopa Community Colleges. April 19th – 27th.
- 2009 Manuscript Reviewer for Human Ecology; Region y Sociedad; Society and Natural Resources (2)
- 2008 Manuscript Reviewer Book Chapter, Multiple Intelligences and the Colombian Experience
- 2007 Round Table Leader. Continent at a Crossroads: Prosperity, Justice and Security in South America. 49th Annual Academy Assembly. February 6-9. US Air Force Academy, Colorado.
- 2006 Manuscript Reviewer for Region y Sociedad
- 2006 Volunteer ACDIVOCA-Colombia. Evaluation of coca substitution project in the departments of Huila and Cauca, Colombia.
- 2006 Ethnographic Methods Training Workshop and Practicum. Universidad Catolica de Asuncion. July 1- July 3.
- 2005 Presentation on Cooperative Development among Indigenous Groups in Latin America. Maues-Satere tribal indigenous area, Brazil. Organized by the Organização das Cooperativas Brasileiras (OCB), Amazonas (invited).
- 2005 Ethnographic Methods Training Workshop conducted at Fenacoop – Feira Internacional de Cooperativas, Fornecedores e Serviços. October 5-7. Sao Paulo, Brazil. In collaboration with T. Finan.
- 2005 Ethnographic Methods Training Workshop and Practicum. Department of Human Ecology, Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Paraguay. July 8 to August 27.
- 2005 Consultantship in working session on El papel de la Investigación Científica en el Proceso de Ordenamiento Ecológico Marino del Golfo de California, Semarnat, La Paz, Baja California, December 5-6.
- 2005 Manuscript Reviewer for International Third World Studies Journal and Review
- 2005 Manuscript Reviewer for Journal of Political Ecology.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Executive Committee, The Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs.

Centro de Estudios de Ecología Política (CEEP), Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Universidad del Rosario, Bogota, Colombia.

Member of Advisory Committee, SEMARNAT (Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources) Marine Ecological Territorialization of the Gulf of California, Mexico (Ordenamiento Ecológico Marino del Golfo de California).

Latin American Studies Association

Society for Applied Anthropology

Political Ecology Society

TEACHING (REGULAR COURSES AND PROGRAMS)

In the field

Summer Study Abroad in Colombia (with Susan Brewer-Osorio)

Summer Study Abroad: Contemporary Cuba, Collective Visions (with Dereka Rushbrook)

Sabores de Mexico: From Farm to Table, Spring break fieldtrip to Oaxaca

Certificate Program: Study of the US Institute (SUSI) for Latin American Indigenous Student Leaders

In the classroom

LAS 150 Modern Latin America: Environment, Development, and Politics

HNRS 195 The Drug Trade: A Latin American Perspective

HNRS 150 Modern Latin America and Human Rights

ANTH/LAS 348 Drug Wars and Oil Fortunes in Latin America

LAS 405/505 Sabores de Mexico: From Farm to Table

LAS 498 Senior Capstone

LAS 500 Introduction to Latin American Studies: Identity, Modernity, and Development in Latin America

LAS 550 Qualitative Research Methods

ANTH/LAS 595N Environment and Conflict in Latin America