

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Postgraduate education

University of Oregon

2019 – Present

Ph.D. in Sociology

Thesis title: *Ecological Imperialism: A Holistic Analysis of the Guano Trade in 19th-century Peru*

Supervisor: Prof. John Bellamy Foster

Degree Expected: June 2022

University of Oregon

2017 – 2019

Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Sociology

Thesis title: *The effect of Cuban agroecology in mitigating the metabolic rift: a quantitative approach to Latin American food production*

Supervisor: Prof. John Bellamy Foster

Date of Award: June 17, 2019

National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) 2015 – 2017

Masters in Philosophy of Science

Thesis title: *An Analysis of the Nature-Society Relation in Capitalism and Socialism* (in Spanish)

Supervisor: Prof. Jaime Fabrizio Guerrero Mc Manus

Date of Award: August 9, 2017

Undergraduate education

National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) 2010 – 2014

Biólogo (BSc in Biology)

Thesis title: *The Literary, Scientific, and Sociopolitical Origins of Environmentalism in the United States of America and its Development During the Cold War* (in Spanish)

Supervisor: Prof. Edna María Suárez Díaz

Date of Award: October 27, 2014

RESEARCH
INTERESTS

I am interested in the interactions between economy and ecology, environmental sociology, and global environmental change. So far, my research has focused on humanity's impact on the environment, agriculture and global food systems, and unequal exchange and development. Other than this, I am interested in conservation biology and evolution, social theory, and environmental history. I utilize quantitative and historical methods.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed publications

- [1] Loustaunau, L., **Betancourt, M.**, Clark, B, and Foster, J.B. (2021). “Worse than Slavery”? Racialized Contract Labor, the Corporeal Rift, and Ecological Imperialism in Peru’s Nineteenth-Century Guano Boom. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2021.1979966>.
- [2] **Betancourt, M.** (2020). The effect of Cuban agroecology in mitigating the metabolic rift: A quantitative approach to Latin American food production. *Global Environmental Change*, 63, 102075. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2020.102075>.

Other publications

- [3] **Betancourt, M.** (2021). El papel de la ciencia en la URSS: un esbozo de la ecología y las ciencias ambientales soviéticas. *Palabras pendientes*, 14:70–77.
- [4] González, C., Alonso, C., Mora, E., **Betancourt, M.**, Uscanga, A., and Benítez, M.(2017). Modos de producción agrícola y conservación de la biodiversidad en México. *Biodiversitas*, 132: 3-6.
- [5] **Betancourt, M.** (2016). En torno al entorno: Pensamiento ambiental y literatura. In F. Guerrero Mc Manus, E. Vizcaya Xilotl, and O. Valadez Blanco (Eds.), *Naturaleza, ciencia y sociedad: Cuarenta años de pensamiento crítico-interdisciplinario en la Facultad de Ciencias de la UNAM* (1st ed., pp. 43–59). Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Facultad de Ciencias and CopIt-arXives.

Peer-reviewed manuscripts in preparation

- [6] Sikirica, A., Theis, N., **Betancourt, M.** Hydropower, agriculture, and methane: the social effects of dams amid a changing climate. To be submitted to *Energy Research & Social Science*.
- [7] **Betancourt, M.** The ecological bases for economic processes: South American guano formation and commodification. To be submitted to *Human Ecology*.

CONFERENCES, CONGRESSES & MEETINGS

1. 2021. American Sociological Association 116th Virtual Annual Meeting, August 6-10.
2. 2021. Pacific Sociological Association 92nd Annual Conference, Virtual Meeting, March 17-21.
3. 2020. Ecological Society of America, Virtual Meeting, August 3-6.
4. 2016. Agroecological Forum for Food Sovereignty, Territory and National Resources Defense. Zaachila, Oaxaca, Mexico, November 17-18.
5. 2015. V International Meeting on Agroecology, Sustainable Agriculture and Cooperativism. National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP). Havana, Cuba, November 22-29.
6. 2015. II Congress of the Iberoamerican Association of Philosophy of Biology (AIFIBI). Valle de Bravo, Mexico, September 7-11.
7. 2015. Meeting on Exchanges and Procedures on Agroecology. Zaachila, Oaxaca, Mexico, April 9-12.

TALKS

1. The formation and commodification of guano off 19th-century Peru and northern Chile: a case of ecological imperialism, Department of Sociology Colloquium (virtual), University of Oregon, January 2021.
 2. Radical responses to the environmental crisis (together with Prof. Victor Wallis and Prof. Fred Magdoff), Global Justice Center (virtual), November 2020.
 3. The analysis of Peter Marcuse's views on cooperatives on the path to socialism, National Laboratory of Sustainability Sciences (LANCIS), UNAM, April 2016.
 4. The industrialization of agriculture: the health of the planet and the health of humanity. Complexity Sciences Seminar, UNAM, November 2015.
 5. The relationship between Henry D. Thoreau's Transcendentalism and Aldo Leopold's land ethic prior to the emergence of U.S. Ecology. Institute of Ecology, UNAM, February 2015.
 6. The development and establishment of environmentalism in the United States of America, LANCIS, November 2014.
 7. Effect of the coverage of *Astrocaryum mexicanum* in the development of seedlings in a Mexican rainforest. 29th Symposium on Ecology of the School of Sciences, UNAM, May 2014.
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TEACHING

University of Oregon

Instructor of record for:

1. Community, Environment, and Society (SOC 304), Spring 2020

Teaching Assistant for:

1. Community, Environment, and Society (SOC 304), Fall 2021
2. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 204), Spring 2021
3. Social Theory (SOC 310), Winter 2021
4. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 204), Fall 2020
5. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 204), Winter 2020
6. Community, Environment, and Society (SOC 304), Fall 2019
7. Sociology of Mass Media (SOC 317), Spring 2019
8. Community, Environment, and Society (SOC 304), Winter 2019
9. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 204), Fall 2018
10. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 204), Spring 2018
11. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 204), Winter 2018
12. Homelessness in the U.S. (SOC 410), Fall 2017

National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)

Instructor of record for:

1. History and Philosophy of Biology, Fall 2016
2. History and Philosophy of Biology, Fall 2015

Institute of Humanities and Sciences (INHUMYC) (Senior High School)

1. Research and Pre-University Texts, 2016-2017
 2. Research and Pre-University Texts, 2015-2016
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AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FUNDING

Awards

1. Small Grants Fund. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, May 11, 2021.
2. Wasby-Johnson Dissertation Award. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, April 15, 2021.

3. Research Award for Publication. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, April 15, 2021.
4. Award for the best M.A. paper in the 2018-19 academic year. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology.
5. Recipient of the *Alfonso Caso Medal* for the 2016-17 Masters in Philosophy of Science Program (most prestigious distinction awarded by UNAM to the graduate student with the highest average). October 29, 2019.
6. Graduated with honorable mention (Masters) for an outstanding thesis and *viva voce* exam. UNAM, August 2017.
7. Diploma of Achievement for academic excellence. Second highest average of the 2011 cohort, BSc in Biology. February 2016.
8. Undergraduate candidate to the *Gabino Barreda Medal* (highest distinction awarded by UNAM to undergraduate students). February 2016.
9. Graduated with honorable mention (BSc) for an outstanding thesis and *viva voce* exam, UNAM, October 2014.

Scholarships

1. Ph.D. scholarship “Becas al Extranjero Demanda Libre 2018-1” Mexican Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT), 2018-2022.
2. Marquina Graduate Grant, University of Oregon, June 2017.
3. Masters scholarship, Mexican Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT), 2015-2017.
4. Undergraduate international exchange scholarship, General Direction for Cooperation and Internationalization (DGEI), UNAM, 2013.
5. Telmex Scholarship, 2012-2014.

Funding

1. Summer funding 2020. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology.

METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING & SKILLS

Software/Technical

R, ArcMap, LaTeX, SPSS

Graduate Courses

Advanced seminars: Spatial Analysis; Comparative/Historical Methods in Sociology; Environment and Society; Race, Gender & Society; Field Methods I; Advanced Sociological Research Methods; Environmental Sociology and the Anthropocene (University of Oregon).

Other Training

Advanced Graduate Teaching Initiative, University of Oregon (2021-22); Analytical biochemistry, biocomplexity, and plant biotechnology courses, University of Technology Sydney, Australia (2013); Rural pedagogy courses, Mexico City (2006-2012).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

1. American Sociological Association (ASA) May 22, 2021–present; Nov 20, 2017–2018.
2. Ecological Society of America (ESA) Aug 11, 2020–present.
3. National Geographic Society 2017–present.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Member and co-founder of the Agroecological Assembly of Zaachila, 2015-2017.
2. Undergraduate Exchange Student at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Sydney, Australia, July-December 2013.
3. Rural teacher in Mexican communities, 2006-2012.

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| LANGUAGES | Spanish (native) |
| | English (fluent) |
| | French (fluent) |
| | Italian (basic) |