

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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EMPLOYMENT

July 2023 – present

Washington and Lee University

Assistant Professor in Environmental Studies

2022 – 2023

Oberlin College

Visiting Assistant Professor in Sociology

2015 – 2016

National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)

Instructor of Record in Biology

EDUCATION

Postgraduate

2022

University of Oregon

Ph.D. in Sociology

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

2019

University of Oregon

M.A. in Sociology

2017

UNAM

M.A. in Philosophy of Science

Undergraduate

2014

UNAMB.Sc. in Biology, *Summa cum laude*

RESEARCH &

TEACHING

INTERESTS

Environmental Sociology; Political Economy; Ecological Economics.
Global Environmental Change; Agriculture and Food Systems; Imperialism.
Social Theory; Sociology of Science; Environmental History; Evolution.
Quantitative and Historical Research Methods.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

[1] Sikirica, A., Theis, N., and **Betancourt, M.** (2022). Conflicting outcomes of alternative energies: agricultural methane emissions and hydroelectricity, 1975-2015. *Environmental Research: Climate*, doi:10.1088/2752-5295/ac8ca9.[2] Loustaunau, L., **Betancourt, M.**, Clark, B., and Foster, J.B. (2021). Chinese con-

tract labor, the corporeal rift, and ecological imperialism in Peru's nineteenth-century guano boom. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, doi: [10.1080/03066150.2021.1979966](https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2021.1979966).

- [3] **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:[10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2020.102075](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2020.102075).

Submitted Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts

- [4] **Betancourt, M.** Guano and the Rise of the American Empire: the Ecological Bases of Trade and Expansion. Submitted to *Social Problems*.
- [5] **Betancourt, M.** The Corporeal Rift: The Condition of the Guano Diggers in 19th-Century Peru. Submitted to *Sociological Theory*.
- [6] **Betancourt, M.** The Metabolic Rift. Submitted to the *Encyclopedia of Environmental Sociology*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts in Preparation

- [7] **Betancourt, M.** *Empire of Guano: How Bird Dung Shaped the Modern World*. To be submitted to Routledge.
- [8] **Betancourt, M.** The ecological bases for economic processes: South American guano formation and commodification. To be submitted to *Human Ecology*.
- [9] **Betancourt, M.** Sustainable development: Towards human and planetary well-being in the Anthropocene. To be submitted to *Environmental Sociology*.

Other Publications

- [10] **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.
- [11] 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.
- [12] **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.

Translations

- Lage Dávila, A. (submitted). *The Knowledge Economy and Socialism: Questions and Answers*. Translated from Spanish by **Betancourt, M.** for Monthly Review Press.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & FUNDING	2021	Small Grant. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, Summer.
	2021	Small Grant. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, Spring.
	2020	Summer funding. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology.
	2020	Small Grant. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, Spring.
	2018–22	Ph.D. Scholarship “Becas al Extranjero Demanda Libre 2018-1.” Mexican Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT).
	2015–17	Masters Scholarship, CONACyT.
	2013	International Exchange Scholarship, General Direction for Cooperation and Internationalization (DGEI), UNAM.
	2012–14	Telmex Scholarship.
AWARDS & HONORS	2021	Wasby-Johnson Dissertation Award. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, April 15.
	2021	Research Award for Best Publication. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology, April 15.
	2020	Best M.A. Paper Award. University of Oregon, Department of Sociology.
	2019	<i>Alfonso Caso Medal</i> to the most distinguished graduate in the Philosophy of Science Master. UNAM, March 28.
	2018	Marquina Award. Prof. John Bellamy Foster, University of Oregon, Department of Sociology.
	2017	Honorable mention (M.A.) for outstanding thesis and <i>viva voce</i> exam. UNAM, August 2017.
	2016	Diploma of Achievement for Academic Excellence. B.Sc. in Biology, UNAM, February.
	2016	<i>Summa cum laude</i> distinction. Candidate to the <i>Gabino Barreda Medal</i> . B.Sc. in Biology, UNAM, February.
	2014	Honorable mention (B.Sc.) for outstanding thesis and <i>viva voce</i> exam. UNAM, October.
CONFERENCES, CONGRESSES & MEETINGS	Presentations	
	2023	“The 19 th -century guano diggers and the corporeal rift.” American Sociological Association, 118 th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 17-21.
	2022	“The Metabolic Rift: Guano, Agroecology, and the Global Ecological Crisis.” For Lives and Future, School of Ecology, Centre for Alternative Research and Studies (CARES), Mauritius, October 26 - November 2.
	2021	“Cuban Agroecology and the Metabolic Rift: A Comparative Study of Agri- cultural Productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean (1961-2015).” Pacific Sociological Association 92 nd Annual Conference, Online, March 17-21.
	2020	“Improving soil quality: A time series comparison of agroecology and industrial agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Ecological Society of America, Online, August 3-6.
	2015	“Workshps at the Zaachila Encounter on Agroecology.” V International Meeting on Agroecology, Sustainable Agriculture and Cooperativism. National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP). Havana, Cuba. November 22-29.
	2015	“The philosophical and historical evolution of the concept of ‘nature’ and the human-nature relationship.” II Congress of the Iberoamerican Association of Philosophy of Biology (AIFIBI). Valle de Bravo, Mexico, September 7-11.
	2015	“How can academia and the countryside work together?”

Meeting on Exchanges and Procedures on Agroecology. Zaachila, Oaxaca, Mexico, April 9-12.

Attendee

- 2021 American Sociological Association, 116th Annual Meeting, Online, August 6-10.
- 2016 Agroecological Forum for Food Sovereignty, Territory, and National Resources Defense. Zaachila, Oaxaca, Mexico, November 17-18.

TALKS

Invited

- 2023 “Climate Change and Environmental Politics with focus on Brazil and Mexico.” Oberlin College, Politics Department, April 19.
- 2022 “Green capitalism or ecosocialism?” (together with José Sarrión). Tertulias en Cuarentena, Spain (Online), October 22.
- 2020 “Radical responses to the environmental crisis” (together with Victor Wallis and Fred Magdoff). Global Justice Center, Online, November 23.
- 2016 “The analysis of Peter Marcuse’s views on agricultural cooperatives.” National Laboratory of Sustainability Sciences (LANCIS), UNAM, April 12.
- 2015 “The industrialization of agriculture: the health of the planet and the health of humanity.” Complexity Sciences Seminar, UNAM, November 5.
- 2015 “The relationship between Henry D. Thoreau’s Transcendentalism and Aldo Leopold’s land ethic prior to the emergence of United States Ecology.” Institute of Ecology, UNAM, February 18.
- 2014 “The development and establishment of environmentalism in the United States.” LANCIS, November 11.

Departmental

- 2021 “Guano commodification and extraction: the guano rush in Peru and beyond.” Department of Sociology Colloquium, University of Oregon, November 19.
- 2021 “The formation and commodification of guano off 19th-century Peru and northern Chile: a case of ecological imperialism.” Department of Sociology Colloquium, University of Oregon, January 22.
- 2014 “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 29.

TEACHING

Washington and Lee University

Assistant Professor for:

1. Introduction to Environmental Studies (ENV 110), Fall 2023 (forthcoming)
2. The Commodification of Nature (ENV 295), Fall 2023 (forthcoming)

Oberlin College

Visiting Assistant Professor for:

1. Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 165), Spring 2023, Fall 2022

2. Sociology and the Global South (SOCI 364), Spring 2023
3. Empires and World Inequality (SOCI 464), Spring 2023
4. Environmental Sociology (SOCI 284), Fall 2022

University of Oregon

Instructor of record for:

1. Community, Environment, and Society (SOC 304), Spring 2022, Winter 2022, Spring 2020

Teaching Assistant for:

1. Community, Environment, and Society (SOC 304), Fall 2021, Fall 2019, Winter 2019
2. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 204), Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Winter 2020, Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Winter 2018
3. Social Theory (SOC 310), Winter 2021
4. Sociology of Mass Media (SOC 317), Spring 2019
5. 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, Fall 2015

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

Instructor of record for:

1. Research and Pre-University Texts, 2015-2017

MENTORSHIP

1. Mexia Moreno, Aniza. (2023). *Restauración de la brecha metabólica campo-ciudad: un diagnóstico integral y pistas hacia la agricultura urbana en Pedregal de Santo Domingo, Coyoacán* (in Spanish). Masters thesis in Sustainability Sciences, UNAM. (Reader).

PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS

- 2022 “Il y a une urgence climatique” (in French). *Le Défi Quotidien*. Mauritius, November 2.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. International Student Committee Member, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon, 2018–2019.
2. Member of the Graduate Student Forum. Department of Sociology, University of Oregon, 2019–2020.

Volunteer

3. Coordinator of the Literacy Campaign for Rural Adults *Alfabetiza*, ADECO, Mexico, 2010.

METHODOLOGICAL
TRAINING &
SKILLS

Software/Technical

R, ArcMap, Illustrator, 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

Analytical biochemistry, biocomplexity, and plant biotechnology courses, University of Technology Sydney, Australia (2013); Rural pedagogy courses, Mexico City (2006–2012).

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS

1. National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD). August 2022–present.
 2. American Sociological Association (ASA). 2021–present; 2017–2018.
 3. Ecological Society of America (ESA). 2020–present.
 4. National Geographic Society. 2017–present.
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OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Member and co-founder of the Agroecological Assembly of Zaachila, 2015–2017.
 2. Undergraduate Exchange Student. 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)