

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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 Lexington, Virginia, 24454

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EMPLOYMENT

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

UNAM
 B.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] **Betancourt, M.** (2024). The Corporeal Rift: From 19th-Century Guano Diggers to the Present. *Environmental Sociology*, doi:10.1080/23251042.2024.2425644.
- [2] **Betancourt, M.** (2024). Guano and the Rise of the American Empire. *Socius*, 10, doi:10.1177/23780231241274187.

- [3] Theis, N., **M. Betancourt**, and A. Sikirica. (2024). Appraising Sociological Approaches to Ecologically Unequal Exchange: Theoretical Considerations and Quantitative Consequences. *Journal of World-Systems Research*, 30(2):610–634. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5195/jwsr.2024.1253>.
- [4] Sikirica, A., Theis, N., and **Betancourt, M.** (2022). Conflicting outcomes of alternative energies: agricultural methane emissions and hydroelectricity, 1975-2015. *Environmental Research: Climate*, 1(2). doi:10.1088/2752-5295/ac8ca9.
- [5] Loustaunau, L., **Betancourt, M.**, Clark, B., and Foster, J.B. (2021). Chinese contract labor, the corporeal rift, and ecological imperialism in Peru’s nineteenth-century guano boom. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 49(3):511–535. doi: 10.1080/03066150.2021.1979966.
- [6] **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.

Book Chapters

- [7] **Betancourt, M.** (2024). The Metabolic Rift. In Overdeest, C. (Ed.), *The Elgar Encyclopedia of Environmental Sociology*, Edward Elgar Publishing (pp. 417-21). doi:10.4337/9781803921044.ch74.
- [8] **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.

Book Reviews

- [9] **Betancourt, M.** (2024). “To Struggle!” *The Last Years of Karl Marx. Monthly Review*, 75(9): 58–61.

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.

Submitted Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts

- [12] **Betancourt, M.**, N. Theis, and A. Sikirica. Revisiting sustainable development: A time-series, cross-national study of the nexus between human well-being and environmental impact. Submitted to *Environment, Development and Sustainability*.

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts in Preparation

- [13] **Betancourt, M.** *Empire of Guano: How Bird Dung Shaped the Modern World*. To be submitted to Routledge.

- [14] Theis, N., A. Sikirica, and **M. Betancourt**. Does militarism decrease the effectiveness of renewable energies in reducing emissions? A cross-national analysis of carbon dioxide emissions, 1990-2022. To be submitted to *Environmental Sociology* (special issue).

Translations

Lage Dávila, A. (2024). *The Knowledge Economy and Socialism: Questions and Answers*. New York: Monthly Review Press. Translated from Spanish by **Betancourt, M.**

GRANTS,
SCHOLARSHIPS,
& FUNDING

2024	Lenfest Summer Fellowship. W&L University, Summer.
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

2024	Nominated for the 2025 Mednick Memorial Fellowship Award. Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges, November 1.
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,
TALKS &
MEETINGS

	Presentations
2025	“An Emery Analysis of the Guano Trade in 19 th -century Peru.” 12 th Biennial Conference, Emery and Environmental Accounting. University of Florida, January 16-18 (forthcoming).
2024	“Towards or away from sustainable development?: A cross-national, longitudinal study of human development and environmental impacts.” <i>American Sociolog-</i>

- ical Association, 119th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 8-13.
- 2024 “Political Ecology and Critical Agrarian Studies.” The 5th International Writeshop in Critical Agrarian Studies and Scholar-Activism, Beijing, China, 27 July - 8 August.
- 2023 “The 19th-century guano diggers and the corporeal rift.” American Sociological Association, 118th 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 Agricultural Productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean (1961-2015).” Pacific Sociological Association 92nd 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 “Workshops 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

- 2024 “The Peruvian Guano Trade: Ecological Degradation From 1840 to the Present.” Lenfest Research Colloquium, Washington and Lee University, November 20.
- 2024 “The effect of Cuban Agroecology in Mitigating the Metabolic Rift.” University of Chile, Santiago (online), October 28.
- 2024 “Agroecology and the Metabolic Rift.” National Laboratory of Sustainability Sciences (LANCIS), UNAM, Mexico, May 14.
- 2024 “Agroecology: A Sustainable mode of food production.” W&L Soils and Crop Science Club, March 7.
- 2024 “Nature and Society.” Istituto d’Istruzione Superiore *Caterina Canina*. Bergamo, Italy (online), January 31.
- 2023 “Social Sciences and the Environment.” W&L University, Environmental Studies Department, September 27.
- 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 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, Mexico, 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 2024, Winter 2024, Fall 2023
2. Society and Natural Resources (ENV 202), Fall 2024, Winter 2024
3. The Commodification of Nature (ENV 282), Winter 2025, Fall 2023
4. Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture (ENV 295), Spring 2025 (forthcoming)
5. Applied Mixed Methods in Environmental Studies (ENV 390), Winter 2025
6. Precapstone Seminar (ENV 396) (co-taught), Fall 2024

Oberlin College

Visiting Assistant Professor for:

1. Introduction to Sociology (SOC 165), Spring 2023, Fall 2022
2. Sociology and the Global South (SOC 364), Spring 2023
3. Empires and World Inequality (SOC 464), Spring 2023
4. Environmental Sociology (SOC 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
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MENTORSHIP

1. Alonso Fernández, Cristina. (2024). *Interacciones ciudad-campo basadas en un análisis del balance de agua y de nutrientes: el caso de la zona metropolitana de la Ciudad de México y el Valle del Mezquital* (in Spanish). Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination in Earth Science, UNAM. (Reader).
 2. 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).
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**PUBLISHED
INTERVIEWS**

- 2024 “The U.S. empire was built on bird dung.” *Science News*, October 25.
2022 “Il y a une urgence climatique” (in French). *Le Défi Quotidien*. Mauritius, November 2.
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**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. Secretary of the Advisory Council of the NGO Transformación de Conflictos Socioambientales, A.C., Mexico, 2023–present.
 4. Coordinator of the Literacy Campaign for Rural Adults *Alfabetiza*, ADECO, Mexico, 2010.
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**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. Collective of Agrarian Scholar-Activists from the Global South (CASAS). August 2024–present.
 2. National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD). August 2022–present.
 3. Ecological Society of America (ESA). 2020–present.
 4. American Sociological Association (ASA). 2017–present.
 5. 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)