HÉCTOR BELTRÁN

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APPOINTMENTS

2026-	Associate Professor of Anthropology (without tenure), Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2024-2026	Associate Professor of Anthropology (without tenure), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Class of 1957 Career Development Chair
2023-2024	Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Class of 1957 Career Development Chair
2020-2023	Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2019-2020	Postdoctoral Associate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Anthropology
2018-2019	University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow, U.C. Irvine Department of Anthropology

EDUCATION

2018	**Ph.D.** Sociocultural Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. *Dissertation*: Hacking Imaginaries: Codeworlds and Code Work Across the U.S./Mexico Borderlands *Committee*: Charles L. Briggs (Chair), Aihwa Ong, Daniel Fisher, Patricia Baquedano-López
2012	**M.A.** Folklore, University of California, Berkeley. *Thesis*: 'Echandole Ganas' Across Borders: Narratives of La Frontera Sur from the Everyday into the Mainstream.
2007	**B.S.** Computer Science and Engineering**,** Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *Advanced Undergraduate Project:* Outbreak@MIT: Location-Aware Wireless Game, Scheller Teacher Education Program.

RESEARCH COMMITMENTS

My scholarship bridges media anthropology, critical computing studies, and Latinx/Latin American studies to examine transnational tech labor, digital infrastructures, and the mobilities — of code, work, and people — that connect the U.S., Mexico, and beyond. Using methodological innovations like "full-stack ethnography," I trace the social life of technical practice and the imaginaries that animate it, following questions of circulation, racial formation, and knowledge production across borderlands coding communities and itinerant remote worker networks.

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

2024	Audiobook version of *Code Work: Hacking Across the US/México Techno-Borderlands.* Recorded Books Media, Ascent Audio. https://rbmediaglobal.com/audiobook/9781663736826/
2023	*Code Work: Hacking Across the US/México Techno-Borderlands.* Princeton University Press.

Winner of the 2025 SAW Book Award,
Society for the Anthropology of Work (SAW)
Winner of the 2024 ALLA Book Award,
Association of Latina/o and Latinx Anthropologists (ALLA)
Winner of the 2024 Labor Tech Book Award,
Labor Tech Research Network
Winner of the 2023 Américo Paredes Book Award,
South Texas College
Honorable Mention (Sole) for the 2023 Arthur J. Rubel Book Prize,
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)

In Progress *Digital Nomads and their Others*

Refereed Articles:

2026 "Computer Programming as Cultural Practice." *Annual Review of Anthropology* Volume 55: pp. 445-466.
DOI: 10.1146/annurev-anthro-041624-015703

2026 "The Digital Nomad's Whole Earth Catalog." Illustrations by Rodolfo Sousa Ortega. In special issue "The Great Offshore." May Ee Wong, Michaela Buesse, Gökçe Günel, and Jamie L. Jones, eds. *Limn*, Issue 15.

2022 "Hacking, Computing Expertise, and Difference." *Just Tech*. Social Science Research Council. March 1, 2022.
DOI: 10.35650/JT.3029.d.2022

2020 "Code Work: Thinking with the System in México." *American Anthropologist* 122(3): pp. 487-500.
DOI: 10.1111/aman.13379

2020 "The First Latina Hackathon: Recoding Infrastructures from México." *Catalyst: Feminism,Theory, and Technoscience* 6(2).
DOI: 10.28968/cftt.v1i001.32904

In Preparation Digital nomadism and comparative infrastructure across Mexico City and San Juan.

Chapters in Edited Volumes:

2025 "Nodes and Codes: Iterating with the State in México." In *Just Code: Power, Inequality, and the Global Political Economy of IT*. Jeffrey R. Yost and Gerardo Con Diaz, eds., pp. 388-409. Johns Hopkins University Press.

2024 "The Ethno-Stack." In *The SAGE Handbook of Global Sociology*. Gurminder K. Bhambra, Lucy Mayblin, Kathryn Medien, and Mara Viveros-Vigoya, eds., pp. 455-465.

Under Review "Making, Unmaking, and Hacking Race and Data: Views from Anthropology." With Beth Semel, Marc Aidinoff, Stefan Helmreich, Heather Paxson. Fotini Christa, Sally Haslanger and Jason Jackson, eds.

Under Review "Hacktivism." In *Palgrave Handbook of Digital Latin American Studies*.
Thea Pitman, Tori Holmes, Edgar Gómez Cruz, Giuseppe Cocco, Sarah Bowskill, Ignacio Aguiló, eds.

Working Papers:

2017 "Staging the Hackathon: Codeworlds and Code Work in Mexico." Institute for the Study of Societal Issues. U.C. Berkeley. http://escholarship.org/uc/item/1ww7s9zh

Versions of this paper were selected for the following awards:

Association of Latina/Latino Anthropology Graduate Student Paper Prize, American Anthropological Association, 2017.

David Hakken Student Paper Prize Honorable Mention, Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing, American Anthropological Association, 2017.

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Graduate Student Paper Prize Finalist, American Anthropological Association, 2017.

Book Reviews:

2020 Book review of: Félix, Adrián. 2019. *Specters of Belonging: The Political Life Cycle of Mexican Migrants.* In *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* Volume 45(1): 305-310.

2017 "The Right to *El Mall.*" Book review of: Dávila, Arlene. 2016. *El Mall: The Spatial and Class Politics of Shopping Malls in Latin America.* In *Anthropology Now* Volume 9(2): 121-125.

Policy Briefs:

2017 "Latina/os and Tech: Toward a Holistic Approach for Diversifying Silicon Valley." Center for Latino Policy Research, Latina/os and Tech Initiative Policy Brief. U.C. Berkeley.

Other Publications:

2025 "Communities as Snakelike Beings." Comment on Sareeta Amrute, "Weapons of the Snake: Fugitive Cryptography in Indian Diasporic Activism." *Current Anthropology* 66(5):691–693.
DOI: 10.1086/737499

2024 Dennis, Dannah, and Héctor Beltrán. "Interpreting Transnational Code Worlds/Work: A Conversation with Héctor Beltrán." Just Tech. Social Science Research Council. April 3, 2024.

DOI: 10.35650/JT.3067.d.2024

2022 "In the Mood for Love (In and Out of the Code Worlds)." In *Parables of AI in/from the Majority World*, Singh, Ranjit, Rigoberto Lara Guzmán, and Patrick Davison, eds., pp. 81-87. New York: Data & Society Research Institute. https://datasociety.net/library/parables-of-ai-in-from-the-majority-world-an-anthology/

2021 "Cybraceros: The Promise and Perils of Border Hacking." *Hack_Curio*, September 7. https://hackcur.io/cybraceros-the-promise-and-perils-of-border-hacking/

2021 "Cybraceros: La promesa y los peligros del border hacking." *Hack_Curio*, September 7. https://hackcur.io/cybraceros-la-promesa-y-los-peligros-del-border-hacking/

2017 "Proficiency: Provocation." Correspondences, *Cultural Anthropology* website, June 12, 2017. https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1139-proficiency-provocation

Commentaries and Interviews:

2025 Interview by CaMP Anthropology blog, Ilana Gershon. "Héctor Beltrán on his book, *Code Work*." https://campanthropology.org/2025/10/20/hector-beltran-on-his-book-codework/

2024 Interview by New Books Network, Liliana Gil. "New Books in Anthropology" podcast. https://newbooksnetwork.com/code-work

2021 Interview by Northwestern's Center for Latinx Digital Media "El Café Latinx" podcast. *Journeys* web Editorial project. https://professionaljourneys.soc.northwestern.edu/beltran-hector/

2020 Interview with Christina Dunbar-Hester on *Hacking Diversity: The Politics of Inclusion in Open Technology Cultures*. Communication, Media, and Performance Anthropology Blog, May 4, 2020. https://campanthropology.org/2020/05/04/christina-dunbar-hester/

2019 Interview with Data and Society Research Institute for #unsettle: Strategies for Decolonizing Tech Research post, December 9, 2019. https://points.datasociety.net/unsettle-border-thinking-4d0fad788060

2018 Interview with Rihan Yeh on *Passing: Two Publics in a Mexican Border City*. Communication, Media, and Performance Anthropology Blog, March 12, 2018. https://campanthropology.org/2018/03/12/rihan-yeh-passing/

Media Appearances:

2023 "What it takes for Mexican coders to cross the cultural border with Silicon Valley." Lily Jamali and Jesús Alvarado, Marketplace Tech. https://www.marketplace.org/shows/marketplace-tech/coders-techno-borderlands-of-mexico-and-silicon-valley/

2023 "Writing code, and decoding the world." Peter Dizikes, MIT News. https://news.mit.edu/2023/writing-code-and-decoding-world-1114

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

External:

2018 University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship. U.C. Irvine, CA.

2018 University of Michigan LSA Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowship. Ann Arbor, MI. (declined)

2017 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies. New York, NY.

2017 School for Advanced Research Mellon Residential Scholar Fellowship Santa Fe, NM. (accepted residence; declined stipend)

2015 Social Science Research Council Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship. New York, NY.

2015 The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. New York, NY.

2012 Ford Foundation Multi-year Predoctoral Fellowship. Washington, D.C.

2012 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship: Honorable Mention. Washington, D.C.

Internal:

2025 James A. and Ruth Levitan Prize in the Humanities

2023 Class of 1957 Career Development Professorship (3-year chair)

2021	MISTI (MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives) Global Seed Faculty Fund
2016	Institute for the Study of Societal Issues Graduate Fellows Program. U.C. Berkeley.
2015	University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (U.C.-Mexus) Dissertation Research Grant.
2014	Center for Race and Gender Graduate Student Research Grant. U.C. Berkeley.
2014	Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Travel Grant. U.C. Berkeley.
2012	Regent's Multi-year Fellowship for Graduate Study. U.C. Berkeley.
2010	Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley.

OTHER HONORS AND AWARDS

2026	Teaching with Digital Technology Award, MIT Open Learning
2025	Society for the Anthropology of Work (SAW) Book Award, Winner
2024	Association of Latina/o and Latinx Anthropologists (ALLA) Book Award, Winner
2024	Labor Tech Research Network Book Award, Winner
2023	South Texas College Américo Paredes Book Award, Winner
2023	Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA) Arthur J. Rubel Book Prize, Honorable Mention (Sole)
2018	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, U.C. Berkeley GSI Teaching and Research Center
2013	Outstanding Mentor Award, Get Into Graduate School Program sponsored by U.C. Berkeley Graduate Diversity Program
2013	Jeanne P. Steager Memorial Prize in Folklore, U.C. Berkeley Folklore Program.
2007	Xerox Technical Minority Scholarship, Norwalk, CT.
2006	Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists Scholarship. Houston, TX.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

MIT:	
SP27, SP25, FA23,SP23	Anthropology 21A.500: Technology and Culture (Cross-listed with Science, Technology and Society)
FA26, SP25, FA23, SP21	Anthropology 21A.511: Hacking from the South (hackingfromthesouth.mit.edu)
FA26, FA24	Anthropology 21A.133: Latin American Migrations
FA21, FA20	Anthropology 21A.504: Cultures of Computing (Cross-listed with Science, Technology, and Society and Women's and Gender Studies)
SP23, FA21	Anthropology 21A.131: Latinx in the Age of Empire (Cross-listed with History, Co-taught with Tanalís Padilla)
UC Berkeley:	
2017	Anthropology R5B: Anthropology of Silicon Valley(s). Sole Instructor. U.C. Berkeley. (Open source syllabus: goo.gl/ZxFV52)
2015	Ethnic Studies 10AC: A History of Race and Ethnicity in Western North America, 1598-Present. Discussion Leader, U.C. Berkeley Summer Bridge.
2015	Geography 50AC: California. Workshop Leader, U.C. Berkeley Summer Bridge.
2014	Chicano Studies 135A: Latino Narrative Film 1950-1980. Graduate Student Reader, U.C. Berkeley.
2013	Anthropology/Folklore 160AC: The Forms of Folklore. Graduate Student Instructor, U.C. Berkeley.
Technical/Design:	
2014	MIT Global Startup Labs. Lead Technical Instructor, Universidad Anáhuac, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.
2013	MIT Global Startup Labs. Lead Technical Instructor, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

(UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico.

Community Volunteer:

2011-2012 Grupo Maya, Oakland, California - Volunteer Instructor.
Taught basic computing and graphic design to adults in nonprofit organization that helps recent migrants navigate US job market and educational system.

Guest Lectures:

2025 Anthropology: Digital Cultures. Professor Ethiraj Gabriel Dattatreyan. New York University.

2025 Media and Culture Studies: Global Media Industries. Professor Alix Johnson. Macalester College.

2024 Informatics: Social Analysis of Computing. Professor Roderic Crooks. UC Irvine.

2024 STS: History and Social Study of Computing. Professor Eden Medina. MIT.

2021 Anthropology/STS: Art, Craft, Science. Professor M. Amah Edoh. MIT.

2021 American Studies Graduate Course: Borderlands, Technology, and Race. Professor Iván Chaar-López. University of Texas, Austin.

2020 Anthropology 583: Technology and Culture. Professor Vijayanka Nair. San Diego State University.

2016 Ethnic Studies 101A: Social Science Methods in Ethnic Studies. Professor Chris Zepeda-Millán. U.C. Berkeley. “Anthropology and Latinidades in Tech Spaces.”

Student Awards

Viviana Cardenas-Habell won the 2025 James Howe Anthropology Paper Prize for her final essay, “Construction of Self in Latinas Descending from the 'Bell Family’” in 21A.133: Latin American Migrations.

Luisa Apolaya Torres won the 2021 James Howe Anthropology Paper Prize for her final essay, “Music, Technology, and Intergenerational Sharing” in 21A.504: Cultures of Computing.

Ph.D. Students (Primary Advisor)

Jorge Palacios. 2031 (anticipated), HASTS, MIT. Ph.D. Dissertation topic: how discourses of Mars colonization and their technoscientific infrastructure impact the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, centered on SpaceX's Starbase facility in South Texas.

Ámbar Reyes. 2029 (anticipated), HASTS, MIT. Ph.D. General Examination Committee member for reading list *Anthropological Perspectives on Border and Migration*. Dissertation: “From Hustle to Infrastructure: The Making of a Transnational Resale Economy.”

Ph.D. Students (Committee Member)

Salma Elkhaoudi. 2028 (anticipated), Anthropology, Stanford University. Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination Committee member for reading list *Arab Technofutures and the Cultural Worlds of Algorithms in the Gulf.*

Benjamin Trujillo Perez. 2028 (anticipated), Anthropology, Stanford University. Dissertation Committee member for Ph.D. Dissertation: “Location Independent Ecologies, Socialities, and Selves.”

Mariel García-Montes. 2026 (anticipated), HASTS, MIT. Ph.D. General Examination Committee member for reading list *Cultures of Computing.* Dissertation Committee member for thesis: “Birds on the Wire: The Sociotechnical Dimensions of Mexico’s Surveillance Culture.”

Raha Peyravi. 2026 (anticipated), HASTS, MIT. Ph.D. General Examination Committee member for reading list *Infrastructures and/of Computing*.

Ana Flavia Badue. 2025, Anthropology, Graduate Center The City University of New York. External Reader for Ph.D. Dissertation: “Pigeons, Satellites, and Angels: Industrial Agriculture, Digital Technologies, and Financial Investments in Brazil.”

Verónica Uribe del Águila. 2025, Communication and Science Studies, Department of Communication, U.C. San Diego. Doctoral Committee for Ph.D. Dissertation: “Technology as Sovereignty: Computing Popular Geopolitics and Forms of Political Participation in the Mexican Bajio.”

Xin Zhang. 2024, Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge. External Examiner for Ph.D. thesis: “Homo Computerus: The Making of Computational Subjectivity through Coding.”

Luis Nivardo Trejo Olvera. 2024, Critical Gender Studies, Universidad Iberoamericana Mexico City. Dissertation Committee member for Ph.D. thesis: “La mediación tecnológica de las prácticas y experiencias de lxs miembrxs de la cultura ballroom latinoamericana.”

Ph.D. Students (Mentor)

Jaime Landinez Aceros. 2025, Anthropology, Stanford University. Co-mentor as part of MIT SHASS Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship. Dissertation: "The Uses of Biodiversity: Scientific Knowledge and Post-Conflict Aspirations in Colombia."

Nicole Hernandez. 2027 (anticipated), Sociocultural Anthropology, Arizona State University. Mentor as part of Association of Latinx and Latina/o Anthropologists Graduate Mentoring Program. Dissertation about historical and contemporary Puerto Rican displacement toward the Pacific.

M.A. Students (Committee Member)

Ámbar Reyes. 2022, MIT Comparative Media Studies Program. M.A. Thesis Reader for thesis: "Los Delivreros: Labor, Platforms, and Transnational Flows of Information in Latin American Gig Workers."

Graduate Researchers Supervised

MIT:
Media Ethnography of Transnational Migrant Code Work
Ámbar Reyes-Lopez, HASTS, IAP 2022
Cripping the Cultures of Computing, Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing Active Learning Project
Di Wu, HASTS, Summer 2021

Undergraduate Researchers Supervised

MIT:
Media Coverage of Hacking in Latin America, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Valeria Martin Del Campo, Business Analytics, Summer 2020
Joshua Noguera, Mechanical Engineering, Summer 2020

Global Startup Labs México
Amin Manna, Computer Science, Summer 2014
Zachary Hulcher, Physics, Summer 2014

UC Berkeley:
Center for Latinx Policy, Latina/os and Tech Initiative
Chelsea Burroughs, Political Science, Spring 2017
Diana Arteaga, Sociology, Fall 2015, Spring 2016
Yesenia Luis, Applied Mathematics, Fall 2015, Spring 2016
Ulises Serrano, Political Science and Ethnic Studies, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

PRESENTATIONS

Invited colloquia, workshops, and panel presentations:

2026 Manuscript workshop for *Metricocracy: The Data and Symbolic Politics of a Chinese Social Credit System* by Chuncheng Liu. Expert reviewer. Cambridge, MA; May.

2026 "From Code Work to Place Work: Digital Nomads, Infrastructural Others, and the Grammar of Proximate Elsewheres." Invited Presentation. UCLA Information Studies Colloquium. Virtual; April.

2024 Book Talk "Code Work: Hacking across the US/México Techno-Borderlands." Invited Presentation. Texas State University Innovative Anthropologies Lab. Virtual; November.

2024 Book Talk "Code Work: Hacking across the US/México Techno-Borderlands." Invited Presentation. U.C. Berkeley Department of Anthropology. Berkeley, California; October.

2024 Book Talk "Code Work: Hacking across the US/México Techno-Borderlands." Invited Presentation. Center for Latin American Studies; Stanford University. Stanford, California; October.

2024 Book Talk "Code Work: Hacking across the US/México Techno-Borderlands." Invited Presentation. Labor Tech Research Network. Virtual; October.

2024 "Borders", a conversation with Juan Llamas-Rodriguez, Iván Chaar López, and Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal. Invited Presentation. Life In Pixels: Conversations on Living with Media and Technoscience Today, University of Notre Dame. Virtual; April.

2024 Book Talk "Code Work: Hacking across the US/México Techno-Borderlands." Invited Presentation. Center for Ethnographic Research; Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society; Media Studies Program; Latinx Research Center; Department of Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley. Berkeley, California; April.

2023 "Full-Stack Ethnography: Methodologies for the Code Worlds." Keynote Presentation. Mixed

Realities: Ethnographic Approaches to the Virtual Workshop, Yale University Department of Anthropology. New Haven, Connecticut; February.

2022 "Hacking desde el Sur." Keynote Presentation. II Encuentro Latinoamericano de Antropología Digital: Expandiendo Futuros, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Santiago, Chile; December.

2022 "From Code Work to the Ethnographic Stack." Invited Presentation. STS Methods Lab at TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation, and Culture, University of Oslo. Virtual; April.

2022 "From Internet Farming to Weapons of the Geek." Discussant for Biella Coleman's book project as part of Lewis Henry Morgan Lecture sponsored by University of Rochester Department of Anthropology. Rochester; March.

2022 "Borderlands and/as Machine." Invited Seminar in conversation with Iván Chaar-López. University College London Department of Anthropology. Virtual; January.

2021 "Making Latinx Makers." Center for Latinx Digital Media, School of Communication at Northwestern University. Invited Presentation. Virtual; November.

2021 "In the Mood for Love (in the Code Worlds)." Workshop Storyteller for Parables of AI in/from the Global South event. Data and Society Research Institute. Virtual; October.

2021 "Hacking from the South." Burchard Scholars. Invited Presentation. Cambridge; September.

2021 "Making, Unmaking, and Hacking Race and Data: Views from Anthropology." Systemic Racism and Computation Workshop Series at MIT. Panelist. Cambridge; May.

2020 "Code Work: Hacking Across the Techno-Borderlands." Science, Technology, and Society Circle at Harvard. Invited Presentation. Cambridge; March.

2019 "Methodological Currents in Anthropology." American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting, Emerging Themes and Methods of Humanities Research Fellows Panel. Invited Presentation. New York; April.

2019 "Code Work: Thinking with the System in Mexico." U.C. Irvine Anthropology Department Colloquium. Irvine; April.

2019 "Code Work: Thinking with the System in Mexico." U.C. Los Angeles Anthropology Department Colloquium. Invited Presentation. Los Angeles; April.

2019 "Hacking Difference: Coding Expertise from the South." U.C. San Diego Critical Anthropology Workshop. Invited Presentation. San Diego; April.

2019 "Code Work: Full-Stack Ethnography Across the Techno-Borderlands." New York University Anthropology Department Colloquium. Invited Presentation. New York; March.

2018 "Hacking Imaginaries in México" and "Conversatorio sobre la transición del campo a la escritura." El Colegio de Michoacán. Invited Presentation and Grad Student Workshop. Zamora, México; July.

2017 "Hacking Imaginaries: Loose Coupling in Borderlands Ethnography." MIT Anthropology Department Imaginaries, Materialities, Territories Colloquium Series. Invited Presentation. Cambridge; November.

2017 "Hacking Imaginaries: Codeworlds and Code Work Across the U.S./México Borderlands." School for Advanced Research Resident Scholar Colloquium, Santa Fe, New Mexico; November.

2017 "The Tech Inclusion Landscape." U.C. Berkeley School of Information Toward Inclusive Tech Conference. Panelist. Berkeley, California; September.

2017 "Qualitative Research Methods." Center for Ethnographic Research Summer Workshop. Speaker. Berkeley, California; May.

2017 "Staging the Hackathon: Codeworlds and Code Work in México." U.C. Berkeley Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, Berkeley, California; April.

2016 "Unpacking the 'Business Case for Diversity.'" Center for Latino Policy Research Diversity in Tech: Beyond Bootstraps Conference. Discussant. Berkeley, California; April.

2016 "Chapo Imaginaries: Re-working Migrant Hierarchies in Oakland." A Dialogue with Regina Bendix on Concepts of Circulation. Panelist. Berkeley, California; March.

2014 "The Rise of the Mexican Tech Startup Boom." U.C Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies, Berkeley, California; November.

Conference presentations:

(2026) "Platform Parasites: Using AI to Debug Nomadic Extraction." Presenter. MOSAICS Symposium: Meanings, Ontologies and Structures of Artificial Intelligence in Culture & Society, Charles Babbage

Institute. Virtual; October.

2025 “Gr*ngo Studies: Can We Speak About the Gr*ngo?” Discussant. American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR; November.

2025 “Digital Nomads and their Others.” Presenter. Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting 'Restorative Relations', “Reading/Writing Digitized Lives.” Virtual; May.

2023 “Technologies from the South as Method and Challenge.” Discussant. Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto; November.

2023 “Pivoting Across the Techno-Borderlands.” Presenter. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto; November.

2023 “Digital Selves, Datafication, and Transhumanism.” Chair. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto; November.

2022 “(Un)Settling Race, Technology and Borders Across Contexts of Refusal.” Discussant. Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle; November.

2021 “Borderlands and/as Machine: Technoscience in Unequal and Uncertain Lifeworlds.” Discussant. Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada; October.

2020 “Code Work: Thinking with the System in México.” Just Code: Power, Inequality, and Global Political Economy of IT Symposium. University of Minnesota Charles Babbage Institute. Minneapolis; October.

2019 “Iterating with the State: Coding the Political into Techno-Politics in Mexico.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada; November.

2019 “Data Capitalisms and Regimes of Value.” Panelist. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada; November.

2019 “Making Latinx Makers.” Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA; September.

2018 “Code Work: From Full Stack Developers to Full Stack Ethnographers.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA; November.

2018 “Code Work in Mexico: Hacking Imaginaries Across the Borderlands.” Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers, Montreal, Canada; October.

2018 “Hacking Imaginaries: Re-coding the Modern in Mexico.” International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Barcelona, Spain; May.

2017 “Staging the Hackathon: Codeworlds and Code Work in México.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.; November.

2016 “Becoming El Chapo: Re-working Latino Migrant Indexical Order in Oakland, CA.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota; November.

2016 “The Mexican/American Tech Startup Boom.” International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, New York City, New York; May.

2016 “Chapo Imaginaries: Re-working Migrant Hierarchies in Oakland, CA.” Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Berkeley, California; April.

2016 “Hacker-Entrepreneurs Between Mexico and the Bay Area.” Center for Latino Policy Research Diversity in Tech: Beyond Bootstraps Conference, Berkeley, California; April.

2015 “The Rise of the Mexican/American Tech Startup Boom.” Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Conference, Oaxaca, Mexico; March.

2013 “Mediatizing Echándole Ganas Across Digital Borders: From La Frontera Sur to Oakland to ‘New’ Media.” Critical Ethnic Studies Association Second Major Conference, Chicago, Illinois; September.

2013 “A Paredes Intervention in the Anthropology of ‘New’ Media.” National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas; March.

2012 “La Frontera Sur Across Digital Borders: *Echándole Ganas* (“Working Hard”) From the Everyday into the Mainstream Media.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California; November.

2012 “Mediatizing *Echándole Ganas:* From La Frontera Sur to Oakland to the Mainstream.” Ford Fellows Annual Conference, Irvine, California; September.

2012 “Don’t Mediatize this Ceremony: A Folkloric Perspective on ‘New’ Media.” Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Sacramento, California; April.

2011 “Constructing Spaces for ‘Illegal’ Border-Crossing Narratives.” Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California; April.

Conferences, workshops, and panels organized:

2023 “Labor and Technology.” Data Fluencies Research Development Workshop for Social Science Research Council and Digital Democracies Institute co-chaired with Ifeoma Ajunwa, Vancouver, Canada; July.

2021 “Borderlands and/as Machine: Technoscience in Unequal and Uncertain Lifeworlds.” Paper Presentation Session co-organized for Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada; October.

2018 “Alternatives in Racial Capitalism: Racial and State Formations in the Struggle for Inclusion.” Paper Presentation Session co-organized for American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA) section, San Jose, CA; November.

2017 “Fabricating Utopics; Hacking Imaginaries.” Paper Presentation Session co-organized for American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Society for Urban, National and Transnational/Global Anthropology (SUNTA) section, Washington, D.C.; November.

2016 Diversity in Tech: Beyond Bootstraps Conference. Discussant. Berkeley, California; April.

2015 “Latina Tech Entrepreneurs: Tackling Race and Gender in the Tech Startup Ecosystem.” Opening Speaker. Center for Latino Policy Research. U.C. Berkeley; April.

Public talks:

2022 “Hacking from the South.” Public Presentation for Ensayo en Sitio, Patronato de Arte Contemporáneo, Universidad de Xalapa, México; May.

2021 “Comunidades de práctica y conocimiento libre en la tecnología.” Public Presentation. Code-x machina: Prácticas de código crítico en las artes, Centro Multimedia del Centro Nacional de las Artes en México. Zoom; June.

2020 “Computing in/from the South: A Global Celebration.” Data and Society. Featured Discussant. Zoom; December.

2015 “Hacking Anthropology and Anthropology of Hacking: CS from the Borderlands.” Public Presentation. Upsilon Pi Upsilon superCS “Crushing Stereotypes” Talk Series. U.C. Berkeley; April.

2015 “Hackeando la Antropología y la Antropología del Hacking: Ciencia de Computación desde los Borderlands.” Public Presentation. Punto México Conectado Oaxaca; March.

2013 “Del MIT a la Antropología: Diferentes direcciones para la ciencias de la computación.” Public Presentation. UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México); June.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

2014-2018 U.C. Berkeley Center for Latino Policy Research - Graduate Student Research Associate.
Founded and led “Latin@s and Tech” initiative. Raised over $10,000 from private organizations and university programs. Organized conference aimed at bridging dialogue between scholars from local universities, community members, and representatives of the tech industry to help critically shape relevant policies to increase the number of Latin@s in the tech industry.
http://latinosandtech.weebly.com/

2010-2012 U.C. Berkeley Folklore Archive - Head Archivist / Graduate Student Researcher.
Managed day-to-day functionality of university archive containing over 500,000 pieces of folklore from around the world. Led and mentored group of 6-10 undergraduate research apprentices in cataloguing and filing submissions and worked with them to develop individual research projects combining their academic and personal interests with university resources.

2009-2010 Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social - Assistant Researcher.
Collaborated on compilation and annotation of oral narratives from Veracruz. Designed and programmed website for corpus of folktales.

2006 M.I.T. Media Lab - Undergraduate Researcher.
Collaborated on design of computer user interface that helped users create narrative plots using

infrastructure modeled on semantic networks and a media corpus.

2006 M.I.T. Scheller Teacher Education Program, Department of Urban Studies and Planning - Undergraduate Researcher.
Developed augmented reality game for handheld computers using client-server architecture that simulated an epidemiological outbreak.

MENTORING

2021-2022 Association of Latinx and Latina/o Anthropologists Graduate Mentoring Program - Faculty Mentor

2014 U.C. Berkeley Summer Bridge Program - Discussion Leader and Workshop Leader.
During summer 2014, led classes and mentoring sessions as part of a holistic six-week academic residential program designed for high-achieving incoming underrepresented and low-income undergraduates. Continue to work with students, connecting them to university and community resources, as they navigate the research university.

2012-2018 U.C. Berkeley Get Into Graduate School Program - Graduate Mentor.
Work with underrepresented, first-generation undergraduate students to cultivate research interests, strengthen graduate school applications, and connect their personal and academic aspirations to professional opportunities.

2008-Present M.I.T. Recruiting - Ambassador.
Recruit underrepresented students from high schools, including my own, in the Los Angeles area to apply to M.I.T. in particular and pursue higher education in general.

SERVICE

Editorial Boards:

2021-Present *Studies in Computing and Culture* book series at Johns Hopkins University Press

2019-Present MIT Editorial Board for Case Studies in Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing

Article and Manuscript Review:

American Anthropologist (2), *Cultural Anthropology* (1), *Current Anthropology* (1), *Critique of Anthropology* (1), *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (1), *Anthropology of Work Review* (1), *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, and Technoscience* (1), *Science as Culture* (1), *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* (1), *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* (1), *Revista Colombiana de Antropología* (1), De Gruyter Mouton's *Contributions to the Sociology of Language* series (1), *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography* (2); *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (incorporating Man)* (1); *Social Studies of Science* (1); *Transforming Anthropology* (2); University of California Press (1); Stanford University Press (1); University of Illinois Press (1)

Grant, Fellowship, and Award Review:

2025 Association of Latinx and Latina/o Anthropologists Book Award Committee

2023-25 MISTI Global Seed Fund Scientific Review Committee

2023 Association of Latinx and Latina/o Anthropologists Graduate Student Paper Award Committee

2022 Social Science Research Council Just Tech Fellowship Evaluator

University:

MIT:

2026-27 SHASS Faculty Fellows Program Selection Committee

2026 Anthropology Concentration Advisor

2024-25 Anthropology Undergraduate Officer

2024-25 HASTS Admissions Committee

2024-25 Anthropology Curriculum Committee

2023 HASTS Program Seminar, Anthropology Unit Representative

2022-23 HASTS Admissions Committee

2021 Anthropology Concentration Advisor

2021 Anthropology Curriculum Committee

2020 Dean's Action Group - SERC (Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing)

2020	HASTS Program Seminar, Anthropology Unit Representative
2020	De Florez Humor Fund Committee

UC Berkeley:

2018, 2017	Member, David L. Kirp Kids First Prize Selection Committee, U.C. Berkeley
2016	Guest Reviewer and Web Consultant, Brújula Graduate Student Journal, U.C. Davis
2014	Member, Department of Anthropology Search Committee for faculty position focusing on Anthropology of Race and Racialization, U.C. Berkeley
2014, 2013	Reviewer, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF), U.C. Berkeley
2013	Respondent, "Refugees, Hunger, Indigeneity, and Spirituality" Panel. Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF), U.C. Berkeley
2012	Respondent,"Public Health, Education, and Learning" Panel. Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF), U.C. Berkeley

Professional Memberships:

American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- *Association of Latinx and Latina/o Anthropologists (ALLA)*
- *Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA)*
- *Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing (CASTAC)*
- *Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)*
- *Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA)*
- *Society for Anthropology of Work (SAW)*

Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA)
Latinx Studies Association (LSA)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
California Science and Technology Studies Network
National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS)
Red Latinoamericana de Antropología Digital (RELAD)

LANGUAGES

English (*Fluent*)
Spanish (*Fluent)*
Spanglish (*Native)*