

# HÉCTOR BELTRÁN

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## APPOINTMENTS

- 2020- 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 AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Anthropology of Media, Technologies, and Infrastructures; Critical Code and Computing Studies; Latinx Studies; Political Economy of Knowledge Work; Circulation and Mobility of Cultural Forms; Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies; Experts and Expertise; Language and Knowledge Production; Ethnographic Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles:

- 2020 "Code Work: Thinking with the System in México." *American Anthropologist* 122(3): pp. 487-500.  
DOI: [10.1111/aman.13379](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/10.28968/cftt.v1i001.32904)
- In Preparation "Making Latinx Makers." Article about IT prototyping and transnational constructions of Latinidad.

### Book Manuscript:

- In Preparation *Stories in the Time of Hacking: Code Work Across the Techno-Borderlands*

### 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.

### Other Publications:

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

## 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:

- 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

- 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:

- Fall 2021, Fall 2020 Anthropology 21A.504: Cultures of Computing (Cross-listed with Science, Technology, and Society and Women's and Gender Studies)
- Fall 2021 Anthropology 21A.131: Latinx in the Age of Empire (Cross-listed with History, Co-taught with Tanalís Padilla)
- Spring 2021 Anthropology 21A.511: Hacking from the South ([hackingfromthesouth.mit.edu](https://hackingfromthesouth.mit.edu))

#### UC Berkeley:

- 2017 Anthropology R5B: Anthropology of Silicon Valley(s). Sole Instructor. U.C. Berkeley. (Open source syllabus: [goo.gl/ZxFV52](https://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:

- 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:

- 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

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 Supervised

Luis Nivardo Trejo Olvera. 2023 (anticipated), Critical Gender Studies, Universidad Iberoamericana Mexico City. Dissertation Committee member for thesis: "Tecnologías de la mediación: el papel de las plataformas digitales en construcción de comunidades queer en México."

### Graduate Researchers Supervised

#### MIT:

Crippling 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:

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

- (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 and panels organized:

- (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:**

- 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-Present 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-Present 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-Present 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

### Article 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), *Science as Culture* (1)

### University:

#### MIT:

2021 Anthropology Concentration Advisor  
2020 Dean's Action Group - SERC (Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing)  
2020 HASTS Program Seminar, Anthropology Unit Representative  
2020-Present De Florez Humor Fund Committee  
2019-Present MIT Editorial Board for Case Studies in Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing

#### 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 Latina/Latino Anthropologists (ALLA)*  
*Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (POLAR)*  
*Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing (CASTAC)*  
*Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)*  
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)

## LANGUAGES

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