

# Mónica Salas Landa

Curriculum Vitae  
August 2020

Department of Anthropology and Sociology  
Lafayette College  
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## Education

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- 2015 PhD, Cornell University, Department of Anthropology  
Concentration: Latin American Studies
- 2012 MA, Cornell University, Department of Anthropology
- 2008 MA, New York University, Department of Museum Studies
- 2005 BA, Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico, Department of Anthropology  
(Honors)

## Professional Appointments

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- 2016–present Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Lafayette College
- 2015–2016 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University

## Publications

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### Books

Manuscript in Preparation *The (In)Visible State: Politics, Perception, and the Legacies of Mexico's Dead Revolution*

### Book Chapters

Accepted, pending revisions “Double Exposure: Agency and Alterity in Isabel T. Kelly’s Photographic Archive circa 1947–1948.” In *Putting Theory and Things Together*, edited by J. Bell and J. Shannon. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.

### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2018 “(In)Visible Ruins: The Politics of Monumental Reconstruction in Post-revolutionary Mexico.” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 98, no. 1: 43–76.
- 2016 “Crude Residues: The Workings of Failing Oil Infrastructure in Poza Rica, Veracruz, Mexico.” *Environment and Planning A* 48, no. 4: 718–735.

2015 “Enacting Agrarian Law: The Effects of Legal Failure in Post-revolutionary Mexico.” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 47, no. 4: 685–715.

### **Book Reviews**

2019 Review of *Framing a Lost City: Science, Photography, and the Making of Machu Picchu*, by Amy Cox Hall. *Hispanic American Historical Review* 99, no. 4 (November): 767–769.

2018 Review of *Rubble: The Aftermath of Destruction*, by Gastón Gordillo. *Hispanic American Historical Review* 98, no. 3 (August): 549–550.

2017 “Salas Landa on Bueno,” review of *The Pursuit of Ruins: Archaeology, History and the Making of Modern Mexico*, by Christina Bueno. H-LatAm, H-Net Reviews (December).

### **Web-based Publications**

2018 “Commentary: Toxic Bodies, Part I.” *Engagement* (blog of The Anthropology and Environment Society). February 22.

### **Awards and Honors**

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2019 Honorable Mention, Humanities Essay Award, Latin American Studies Association, Mexico Section

2017 Professional Geographer Award, American Association of Geographers, Energy and Environment Specialty Group

2016 Honorable Mention, Social Sciences Essay Award, Latin American Studies Association, Mexico Section

2015 Roseberry-Nash Prize, Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

2013 Finalist for the Rappaport Prize, Anthropology and Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association

2008 Museum Studies Distinguished Dissertation Award, New York University

### **Grants and Fellowships (selected)**

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2019 Center for US-Mexican Studies, UC San Diego, Fellowship (declined)

2019 Academic Research Committee, Catherine R. Scott Research Fellowship

2018 Academic Research Committee, Faculty Research Grant, Lafayette College

2017 Academic Research Committee, Faculty Research Grant, Lafayette College

2017 Academic Research Committee, Faculty Publication Grant

2015	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University
2013–14	Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University
2013	Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Cornell University
2012–13	Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
2012–13	National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
2011	Latin American Studies Program, Tinker Summer Grant
2010	Smithsonian Department of Anthropology and the National Science Foundation, SIMA Fellowship
2009–10	Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University
2006–08	Fulbright-Garcia Robles Fellowship

### **Invited Talks**

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2020	“‘México Progresista’: El aparato propapandístico de Pemex y la fabricación de un nacionalismo tecnológico.” Web conference, Archivo General del Estado, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.
2019	“Crude Optimism: Affective Legacies of Extractivism in Poza Rica.” Comparative Americas Conference, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.
2019	“‘El Tajín Totonaco’ fuera y dentro de cuadro: representación y alteridad en el archivo fotográfico de Isabel T. Kelly.” Centro de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias en Ciencias y Humanidades, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico.
2018	“In/visible Ruins: The Making of Monumentality in Post-revolutionary Mexico.” Department of Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.
2017	“An Archive of Refuse: Rag-Picking as Method.” Andrew W. Mellon Seminar on Violence and Non-Violence, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
2017	“Ruinas, Escombros y Fragmentos: La fabricación de la monumentalidad en el México Postrevolucionario.” Antropología, Poder y Ruralidades, Seminario Permanente, Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico.
2017	Plenary Talk, Energy and Environment Specialty Group, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA.

- 2016 “Living among Ruins: In/Visible Residues of Violence and Revolution in Veracruz, Mexico.” Annual Conference of the Center of Latin American Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville.
- 2016 “Crude Residues: The Workings of Failing Oil Infrastructure in Post-Revolutionary Mexico.” The Anthropology of Contemporary Latin America Series, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.

### **Conference Participation (selected)**

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#### **Panels Co-Organized**

- 2020\* Progress and Memory in the Americas. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Saint Louis, MO. (Cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 2018 Ruled by Records: Technologies of Inscription in Latin America’s Development Age. Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 The (Re)Sources of State Formation: Restoring Nature and State Authority in Latin America. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Environmental History, Riverside, CA.
- 2017 Porous Infrastructures: Entanglements of Materiality and Sociality in Latin America. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.
- 2016 The Building State: Construction, Ruins, and State Power in Latin America. Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, New York, NY.

#### **Papers Presented**

- 2020\* “Violent Entanglements and Toxic Boundaries in Poza Rica.” Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Guadalajara, Mexico. (Cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 2019 “Isabel Kelly and the Making of Tajín Totonac.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2018 “Picturing *Indigenismo*: Isabel T. Kelly’s photograph collection of Totonac Indians circa 1947–1948.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 “The Resources of State Formation.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Environmental History, Riverside, CA.

- 2017 “Crude Residues: The Workings of Failing Oil Infrastructures in Mexico.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.
- 2017 “El Campo Furbero and the Expansion the Southern Oil Frontier in Papantla, Veracruz, Mexico.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Environmental Historians, Chicago, IL.
- 2016 “Iterable Ghosts: Photography, Race, and Repetition in Post-Revolutionary Mexico.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2015 “The Making and Unmaking of Monumentality in Tajín Totonac.” Presented at the Spring Conference of the American Ethnological Society, San Diego, CA.

### **Departmental Talks**

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- 2018 “Living in an Age of Empire.” Negotiating Empire: Transnational Perspectives on Colonialism and Neoliberalism, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.
- 2018 “Oil Extraction and Infrastructural Violence.” Marquis Scholars and Fellows Talk, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.
- 2015 “Modernist Ruins, Fragmented Debris.” Andrew W. Mellon Foundational Seminar on Violence and Non-Violence, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2015 “Crude Toxicity.” Sustaining the Humanities: Epistemology, Methodologies and Infrastructure, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

### **Teaching Areas**

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Modern and Contemporary Latin America  
 Violence  
 State Formation  
 Race and Indigeneity  
 Agrarian and Environmental Studies  
 Technology and Infrastructures  
 Politics and Aesthetics

### **Teaching Experience**

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## **Lafayette College**

Latin American Ethnography (Fall 2016, Spring 2019)  
The Anthropology of Violence (Fall 2018)  
Environment and Culture/Digital Humanities (Spring 2017, Spring 2018)  
Social Memory (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)  
Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2020)  
Independent Study: Ethnographic Methods (Fall 2017)  
Thesis (Fall 2018, Fall 2020)

## **Cornell University**

Teaching Assistant for The Comparison of Cultures with Professor David Holmberg (Fall 2010, Fall 2011)  
Teaching Assistant for Ancient Peoples and Places with Professor John Henderson (Spring 2011)

## **Services to the Profession**

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### **Manuscript Review Work**

Cultural Anthropology, Hispanic American Historical Review, Annals of the American Association of Geographers, Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, The Extractive Industries and Societies, Small Axe, University of Toronto Press

### **Leadership of Professional Organizations**

Society of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Board (2017-2020), Prize Councilor.  
Latin American Studies Association, Mexico Section, Committee Member (2019-2020)

## **Departmental and College Service**

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Diversity Committee (2018–present)  
Curriculum Committee, Department of Anthropology and Sociology (2020)  
Search Committee, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (2019)  
Student Conduct Committee (2017)  
Search Committee, Department of Anthropology and Sociology (2017)

## **Languages**

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Native Spanish  
English  
French: Basic reading knowledge, basic conversational skills.

## **Professional Affiliations**

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American Anthropological Association  
Latin American Studies Association  
American Society of Environmental History  
American Historical Association

Conference on Latin American History