

MÓNICA SALAS LANDA

Curriculum Vitae
Sept. 2024

Department of Anthropology and Sociology
304 Oechsle Center for Global Education
Lafayette College
Easton, PA 18045
Cell: 609-955-0714
salasl@lafayette.edu

Education

2015 Ph.D., Cornell University, Department of Anthropology
2012 M.A., Cornell University, Department of Anthropology
2008 M.A., New York University, Department of Museum Studies
2005 B.A., Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Mexico, Department of Anthropology
(Honors)

Professional Appointments

2024 Associate Professor of Anthropology, Lafayette College
2016–2023 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Lafayette College
2015–2016 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University

Research and Teaching Interests

Political Anthropology	Historical Anthropology	Nation and State-formation
Indigeneity	Archives	Science and Technology Studies
Visual Anthropology	Latin America	Memory and Heritage Studies

Publications

Books

2024 *Visible Ruins: The Politics of Perception and the Legacies of Mexico's Revolution*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Referred Journal Articles

2023 “Shedding Light on Labor: Photography, Archaeology, and the Making of Monumentality in Tajín, Mexico.” *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*.

2018 “(In)Visible Ruins: The Politics of Monumental Reconstruction in Postrevolutionary 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: 718–35.
- 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): 767–69.
- 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-Net Reviews* (December).

Manuscripts in Submission

- Revised and Resubmitted “Double Exposure: Isabel T. Kelly’s Collection of Photographs of Totonac People.” In *Putting Theory and Things Together*, edited by J. Bell. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.
- Revised and Resubmitted “The Tajin Totonac in and outside the Frame: Violence and Alterity in the Photographic Archive of Isabel T. Kelly.” In *Latin American Visual Histories*, edited by Ernesto Capello and Jessica Stites-Mor.
- Submitted “A Postcard View of Progress: Pemex’s Visual Propaganda and the Aesthetics of Mexico’s Technological Nationalism.” In *The Aesthetics of Technology in Latin America*, edited by Yovanna Pineda, Diana Montaña, and Mikael Wolfe.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- “Rough Topographies: Grounding the History of Oil Extraction in Mexico’s Gulf Coast.”
- Material Witnesses*. Book project

Other Publications

- 2024 “Extraction on Display: Delving into Research, Curation, and Collaboration at a Small Liberal Arts College” *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship*. Special Issue: Libraries and/as Extraction.
- 2023 (coauthored) “Encountering Lauren Berlant: Cruel and Other Optimisms.” *The Geographical Journal* 189: 143–160.
- 2018 “Commentary: Toxic Bodies, Part I.” Engagement (blog of The Anthropology and Environment Society). February 22

Awards and Honors

- 2023 The Jones Lecture Award, Lafayette College.
- 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)

- 2024 Academic Research Committee, Richard King Mellon Research Fellowship, Lafayette College
- 2023 Lafayette Arts’ Art and Technology Grant, The Sherman Fairchild Foundation
- 2020 Academic Research Committee, Faculty Research Grant, Lafayette College
- 2019 Center for US-Mexican Studies, UC San Diego, Fellowship (declined)
- 2019 Academic Research Committee, Catherine R. Scott Research Fellowship, Lafayette College
- 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), 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-García Robles Fellowship

Invited Talks

2025 Presentación del Libro: “Visible Ruins: The Politics of Perception and the Legacies of Mexico’s Revolution.” Instituto de Investigaciones Histórico-sociales. Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Ver., Mexico

2024 “Visible Ruins: The Politics of Perception and the Legacies of Mexico’s Revolution.” Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program/Anthropology Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

2024 “Visible Ruins: The Politics of Perception and the Legacies of Mexico’s Revolution.” Presentación Editorial, Colegio de Mexico, CdMex, Mexico.

2024 “Visible Ruins: The Politics of Perception and the Legacies of Mexico’s Revolution.” Center for Latin American Studies, Friday Lecture Series, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

2024 “Visible Ruins: The Politics of Perception and the Legacies of Mexico’s Revolution.” Seminar Colloquium Series of the Anthropology Department of the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

2024 Discussant for “Multi-Sited Resistance in the Americas: Grassroots Activism, Cultural Production, and the Radical Imagination.” Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Bogotá, Colombia.

2022 “The ‘Tajin Totonac’ In and Outside the Frame: Violence and Alterity in the Photographic Archive of Isabel T. Kelly.” Program in Latin American Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

2021 Discussant for “Grounded Frictions: Land (Re)mediation and (Re)production.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, MD.

2021 Discussant for “Entanglements and Agencies: Local and Micro-sites of Infrastructures in the Global South 1840-1950.” Virtua Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology.

2021 “Double Exposure: Agency and Alterity in Isabel T. Kelly’s Photographic Archive circa 1947–1948.” Virtual Colloquium of the Society of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology.

- 2020 “México Progresa: El aparato propapandístico de Pemex y la fabricación de un nacionalismo tecnológico.” Web conference, Archivo General del Estado, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.
- 2019 “What Remains: Life among Mexico’s Revolutionary Ruins.” 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 Mexico (UNAM), Mexico.
- 2018 “In/visible Ruins: The Making of Monumentality in Post-revolutionary Mexico.” Department of Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 “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 “Crude Residues: The Workings of Failing Oil Infrastructure in Post-Revolutionary Mexico.” The Anthropology of Contemporary Latin America Series, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Conference Participation (selected)

Panels Co-organized

- 2024 Oil Infrastructure and Urbanity in the Global South. Biannual Petrocultures Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- 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

- 2024 “Topografías Ásperas.” Presented at the the Asociación de Historiadores Latinoamericanistas Europeos Annual Congress, Naples, Italy.
- 2024 “Counter-Topography in Action: Unveiling the Violence Oil Extraction in Mexico’s Gulf Coast.” Presented at the Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2023 “Entre Piedras y Sombras: El trabajo subexpuesto en la reconstrucción de Tajín.” Presented at the VII Coloquio Paul Kirchhoff, Insitituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2022 “Rough Topographies: Grounding the History of Oil Extraction in Mexico’s Gulf Coast.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of Society for Social Studies of Science, Cholula, Puebla, Mexico.
- 2022 “Exposing Alterity, Replicating Authenticity: Isabel T. Kelly and the Making of Cultural Patrimony in the Lowlands of Northern Veracruz.” Presented at the XVI Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México, Austin, TX.
- 2022 “A Postcard View of Progress: Advertising Oil Extraction and Modernity in Latin America in the 1950s.” Presented at the Biannual Petrocultures Conference, Stavanger, Norway.
- 2022 “Crude Optimism.” Presented at the Annual Virtual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers.
- 2021 “‘Mexico Progresas’: Pemex’s Propaganda Apparatus and the Fabrication of a Technological Nationalism, 1950-1970.” Presented at the Annual Virtual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology.
- 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.
- 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 (selected)

- 2024 “The Politics of Perception.” The Jones Faculty Lecture, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.
- 2023 “Exploring the Dynamics of Settler Colonialism in Palestine: An Analysis of Anthropological Research.” Thinking through Palestine. Lafayette College, Easton, PA.
- 2023 “State-building under Colonial Occupation: Notes on Hafsa Kanjwal’s *Colonizing Kashmir*,” Lafayette College, Easton, PA.
- 2021 “The Border ‘Crisis’ in Historical Perspective.” International Solidarity and the Crisis of Refugees, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.
- 2018 “Living in an Age of Empire.” Negotiating Empire: Transnational Perspectives on Colonialism and Neoliberalism, 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: The Workings of Failing Oil Infrastructure in Poza Rica, Veracruz, Mexico.” Sustaining the Humanities: Epistemology,

Methodologies and Infrastructure, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Teaching Experience, Lafayette College

Courses Taught

Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2016; Fall 2017; Fall 2018; Fall 2020, Virtual; Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Fall 2023)

Latin American Ethnography (Fall 2016; Spring 2019; Spring 2021, Virtual; Fall 2021; Fall 2022)

The Anthropology of Violence (Fall 2018)

Culture and the Environment (Spring 2017; Spring 2018; Spring 2021, Virtual; Fall 2021; Spring 2023; Summer 2023)

Social Memory (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

Museum Studies (Fall 2023)

Independent Research (Fall 2018; 2022)

Thesis (Fall 2020; Fall 2021; Fall 2022)

Service to the Profession

Manuscript Work

American Ethnologist, Cultural Anthropology, Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, American Anthropologist, Hispanic American Historical Review, Radical History Review; Small Axe, Tapuya, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, Annals of the American Association of Geographers, The Extractive Industries and Societies, University of Toronto Press; Stanford University Press.

Leadership of Professional Organizations

American Association of Geographers Review of Books, Editorial Board (2020-2024)

Society of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Board (2017-2020), Prize Councilor.

Arturo Warman Doctoral Dissertation Prize, Committee Member (2021)

Latin American Studies Association, Mexico Section, Best Article in the Humanities Award, Committee Member (2019-2020)

Departmental and College Service

Institutional Review Board Member (2023–2026)

Engineering Studies Advisory Committee (2020-2023; 2023-2025)

Film and Media Studies Advisory Committee (2023-2025)

Search Committee, Africana Studies Program

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Advisory Committee (2020–2023)

Diversity Committee (2018–2022)

Search Committee, International Affairs Program (2021)

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

Native Spanish

English

French: Basic reading knowledge, basic conversational skills.

Professional Affiliations

American Anthropological Association

Latin American Studies Association

American Historical Association

Society for the History of Technology

Society for Social Studies of Science

American Association of Geographers