Andrea Ballestero S.
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Anthropology, MS-20
Rice University
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Research Interests:
legal and political anthropology, science and technology studies, political economy, feminist theory, anthropology of quantification, water, the subterranean, value, and nature.

Academic Appointments:
2012-Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Rice University.
  Faculty Affiliate: Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS), Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (CENHS), Nanotechnology Enabled Water Treatment Research Center (NEWT), and Politics, Law and Social Thought Program (PLST).
2011- Founder and Director, The Ethnography Studio. https://ethnographystudio.org/
2010-12 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.

Education:
2010  Ph.D. Anthropology, University of California-Irvine.
2004  M.Sc. Natural Resource Policy. SNRE, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Publications:

Book

Edited Volumes

Journal Articles
In revision Touching with Light: Subterranean Worlds, Sensorial Articulations and the Stickiness of History. Science, Technology and Human Values. (Revise and Resubmit)


Journal Special Issues


Peer Reviewed Book Chapters


Book Chapters


2006 Bajo Jaguaribe: The Creation of Political Space through Water Policies. In: Re-estruturação produtiva e urbanização no Baixo Jaguaribe. Ed. Denise Elias, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, Ceará State University Press. [In Spanish]

Other Articles, Reviews, and Commentaries (non peer-reviewed)


Forthcoming “Success through Failure: translation, temporal tricks and numeric concept work.” Book Forum Essay on The Seductions of Quantification by Sally Engle Merry, American Anthropologist.

2018 “SpongiForm” for Theorizing the Contemporary Website, Cultural Anthropology, https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1447-spongiform.


2015 Ballestero, A., B. Campbell and E. Storer What can Twitter do to/for the Field?, invited entry at Platypus: Blog of the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology and Computing: https://www.academia.edu/23002626/What_Can_Twitter_Do_to_for_the_Field

2013 Techno-scientific numbers as fields of mobilization. Invited entry in Mobilizing Ideas, a blog published by the Center for the Study of Social Movements at University of Notre Dame. ([http://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2013/04/15/techno-scientific-numbers-as-fields-of-mobilization/] )

2003 Policies and Institutions for Protected Area Management. AMBIENTICO No. 121, San José, Costa Rica, National University of Costa Rica. [In Spanish]


1999 Training for the type of development one should aspire to. In: South-South Perspectives Working Paper 28, UNESCO-Third World Academy of Sciences-Universidade de Lisboa. [In Spanish]


Invited Book Reviews


Research Grants

2015 Humanities Research Center Seed Award, Objectification. With Neyran Turan, Architecture-(declined).

2013 Shell Center for Sustainability, Rice University. Ethnographic investigation of the underground, with C. Masiello (Earth Science and Chemistry), K.B. Medlock (Economics) and E. Siemann (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Rice University.

2008 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (BCS-0751987) for “Human Rights, Commodities and Expertise: re-composing water in Brazil and Costa Rica” co-funded by the Cultural Anthropology and Law and Social Sciences Programs.


2007-8 CGPACS Small Research Grant, for preliminary fieldwork research in Costa Rica and Mexico, University of California-Irvine.
Awards and Fellowships

2018 Nominated by students for the Presidential Mentoring Award, Rice University.
2018 Underground Spatialities Design Studio, Spatial Humanities Initiative, Humanities Research Center, Rice University.
2018 Brasil@Rice Travel Grant, Rice University.
2017-8 Award for Institutional Collaboration with University of Costa Rica, with Nia Georges.
2016-7 Award for Institutional Collaboration with University of Costa Rica, with Nia Georges.
2016 Treybig Teaching & Innovation Colloquy, Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University.
2016 Feminist Research Group Workshop Award, CSWGS, Rice University.
2016 Social Analytics Cluster Manuscript Workshop Award, CENHS, Rice University.
2015 Research Professorship, Social Science Research Institute, competitively awarded by School of Social Sciences, Rice University.
2014 Brasil@Rice Travel Grant, Rice University.
2011-12 World Society and Regulation Fellowship, National Humanities Center, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany & Indiana University, Bloomington.
2011-12 Fellow, Institute for Humanities Research, Arizona State University.
2009 Human Rights Center Fellow, University of California-Berkeley.
2008-9 Fellow of the Center in Law, Society and Culture, University of California-Irvine.
2007-8 Miguel Velez Merit Fellowship, University of California, Irvine.
2007 School of Social Sciences Order of Merit Award for Outstanding Graduate Service, University of California-Irvine.
2004-5 Warmington Fellowship, Merit award offered to one student per year, University of California-Irvine.
2004 Service and Social Justice Award, The Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, University of Michigan.
2002-4 Fulbright-LASPAU Fellowship United States Department of State, for Masters Degree at the University of Michigan.
2000-2 University for International Cooperation Fellowship to conduct graduate studies in Environmental Law, Costa Rica.

1999 INTERCAMPUS-AECI. Research Fellowship on European Environmental Policy, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

1994 Academic Excellence Award, Universidad Autónoma de Centroamérica, Costa Rica.

**Collaborative projects**


2011-12 Echo: System Project with Grisha Coleman, Assistant Professor of Arts, Media and Engineering at Arizona State University.

2011-12 Ethnographic experimentation, with Dr. Dawn Nafus, Intel.

2009-12 Transparency Research Collaboratory, with Dr. Gemma John (Manchester University-UK), Dr. Amy Levine (Changwon National University-Korea), and Dr. Leticia Barrera (CONICET-Argentina)

**Professional Reports**


Ballestero, A. (2006) Lessons Learned from Costa Rica’s efforts to strengthen its own capacities to manage protected areas. Report part of UNEP/GEF Project No. GF/2713-03-4679, Ecosystems, Protected Areas and People Project.


**Invited Presentations**


2018 “Surrendering to the pull, sensing subterranean space,” Institute for Science, Innovation and Society and School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, Oxford University, December 12th.

2018 “Spongy Aquifers and the Cultivation of Volumetric Awareness in 21st Century Costa Rica” Institute at Brown for Environment and Society and Anthropology Department, Brown University, Nov 26th.

2018 Roving Panelist, The Anthropocene Campus, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. September 3-6.


2017 “Algorithmic materials, or, instructions and the substances they depend upon,” Algorithm Network Workshop, February Linköping University, Uppsala University, Sweden.

2017 “Analytic Moves-A workshop,” ETHOS Lab, IT University Copenhagen, Denmark.

2017 “#ESIFRice an Ethnographic Experiment,” IT University Copenhagen, Denmark.

2017 “Social Sustainability: Nano-Scale,” invited presentation at NEWT Core Graduate Course, Rice University, February 6th.

2016 “Pact as Experiment: the cumulative energy of aggregation,” at Alien Energy Workshop, IT University Copenhagen, Oct 20th.


2016 “Doing Openness @ Ethnography Studio,” Ethnography and Pedagogy Workshop, Center for Ethnography, UC Irvine. April 21st.

2015 “Capacity as Aggregation,” at Capacity Building Wenner Gren Workshop, Copenhagen IT University, Denmark. May 25th.


2014 “Regulation, the Human Right to Water and the Ethics of Numbers,” Keynote Presentation at Biannual Legal Anthropology Conference UBA-UnSAM-RELAJU, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 23rd.

2014 “The Ethics of a Formula,” Anthropology Department, University of Texas, Austin, April 8th.


2013 “Pacts,” Scientia Institute Mini-Lectures, Rice University, October 8th.


2012 “Prices as Political Devices,” Center for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation and Accounting Department, London School of Economics. October 16th.


2010  “The Policy, the Regulator, the Price and its Number: Quantifying the Human Right to Water in Costa Rica,” Anthropology Department, University of Florida. February 24th.

2010  “The Policy, the Regulator, the Price and its Number: Quantifying the Human Right to Water in Costa Rica,” School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.


2005  “Adaptação institucional do manejo participativo das Aguas,” at the Universidade Estadual do Ceará, Brazil. August 18th.

Conference Presentations

2018  “Water, wonder and ice cubes,” at American Anthropological Association Meetings, Nov 14-18, San Jose, CA.

2018  “Surrendering to the pull, inhabiting subterranean water worlds,” Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, August 29-September 1st, Sydney, Australia.

2018  Author Meets Reader Panelist for “Reinventing Hoodia” by Laura Foster and “Patent Politics” by Shobita Parthasarathy, Law and Society Association Meetings, Toronto June 5-10.


2016  “International Relations meets Anthropology,” International Studies Association Meetings, Atlanta, Georgia, March 16th-19th.


2015  “The deep future of legal instrumentalism: underground water and the drift of time” at Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. November 11-14th.

2015  “Hypercontextualized Obligations and the Political Economy of the Possible in Northeast Brazil” at Law and Society Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA. May 27th.

2014  Author meets reader panelist for Eve Darian Smith’s “Law and Societies in Global Contexts” at Law and Society Association Meeting, Minneapolis, May 29th-June 1st.

2014  “Libertarian Ice Cubes: the Carving of Liberal Legal Objects,” at Law and Society Association Meeting, Minneapolis, May 29th-June 1st.


2013  Panelist, Cultures of Energy Spring Symposium, Rice University.

2012  “Prices as Political Devices” at Joint 4S and EASST Annual Meetings, Copenhagen, Denmark. October 17-19.


2008  “How do you know what you know? Laughter, auditing and “democratic” water projects in Costa Rica” presented at HYDROUS event at joint 4S/EASST meetings, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, August 21st.
2008  “Conocimiento Experto, Agua y Antropología en Costa Rica” Invited presentation at the Critical Studies of Science Colloquium, Physics Department, University of Costa Rica. March 26th.

2008  “Found Objects, Water, and De-stabilizing Ethnography” presented at “Experimental Systems as Ethnographic Modality” conference organized by the Center for Ethnography and Department of Anthropology, University of California-Irvine, March14-15th.

2007  “The policy, the regulator, the price and its number: quantifying the human right to water in Costa Rica,” presented at the American Anthropological Association meeting at Washington D.C., November 28-December 1st.


2007  "Re-composing water: Commodities, human rights, and expertise in Latin America,” at “What is so hard about soft law? De-texturizing law’s structures of feelings” Conference, at the Anthropology Department & Center for Ethnography, University of California, Irvine. May 4-5.


2005  “Adaptação institucional do manejo participativo das Aguas.” Invited colloquium at the Universidade Estadual do Ceará, Universidade Estadual do Ceará, Brazil. August 18th.


Teaching

At Rice University:

Values and Valuables (ANTH 623)*
Underground Spatialities (ANTH 426/626)*
Anthropology Journal Club (ANTH 397)
The Anthropology of Water (ANTH 451/651) *
Law and Resistance in the Everyday (ANTH/SOC 296, ANTH 596) *
Law, Power and Culture (ANTH 326/526) *
Anthropological Theory: A Survey (ANTH 302)
Exploring the Underground Lab (ANTH 441) *
Anthropologies of Nature (ANTH 348/548) *
Ethnography Studio (ANTH 420/620) *
Regulatory Translations Lab (ANTH 440) *

At Arizona State University:
Ethnography, Theory, Imagination (ASB 591) *
Peoples of Latin America (ASB 322) *

* Indicates newly developed courses.

At UC Irvine:
Instructor- Ecological Anthropology: Nature, Knowledge, and Consumption (ANT 125B)
Teaching Assistant- Origins of Global Interdependence (ANTH41), Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2A), Sustainable Development II (ENVIRON 100).

Ethnography Studio Events organized:
2011-present. Founder and Director, “The Ethnography Studio” https://ethnographystudio.org/
Workshops Organized:

- Being the Rogue Ethnographic Goat, a workshop with Dr. Page West (Columbia University), October 19th, 2018.
- Ethnographic Salon: OPTICS, with Dr. Kristina Lyons (UCSC), Dr. Dana Powell, (Appalachian State University), and Dr. Joe Masco, (University of Chicago). March 2, 2018.
- Ethnographic Salon: FACT, with Dr. Danilyn Rutherford (UCSC/Wenner Gren Foundation), April 15th, 2017.
- Sensorial Excess, with Dr. Patricia Alvarez Astacio (Brandeis) and Dr. Dawn Nafus (Intel Labs), March 10th, 2017.
- Ethnographies that Move: a workshop with Dr. Kim Fortun (RPI), October, 2015.
- INVERSIONS workshop: with Dr. Valerie Olson (UC Irvine), 2014.
• Taking Ethnography out of the Lab: A conversation with Dr. Gail Davies, (University of Exeter), April, 2013.
• X is Power: experiments in knowledge mobility. A workshop with Dr. Dawn Nafus (Intel Labs), April 2012.
• Talking about insects, talking about ethnography: A workshop with Dr. Hugh Raffles (New School), February 2012.

Other conferences and workshops

(2019) Technoscientific Constitutionalisms Workshop, National Science Foundation
(2019) Water Bodies II, Arizona State University, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), NY.
2018 Faculty Borderlands Initiative: Water Bodies. Social Science Research Council (SSRC), NY.
2015 Co-organizer of Jornadas de Investigación Antropológica, Laboratorio de Etnología (UCR) y Ethnography Studio (Rice University), 28-30 April.
2014 Organizer Ecological Infrastructures Workshop, CENHS, Rice University.
2013 Co-organizer of Regulatory Translations: uncertainty, expertise and affect in the global scene, Boğaziçi University, May 14th-16th, Istanbul, Turkey.
2011 Co-organizer of the “Practices, Instruments and Techniques” Parallel Workshop during AAA meetings in Montreal, Canada.
2007-9 Student Representative to the Board of the Association of Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA), American Anthropological Association.
2008 Co-organizer of five APLA student research workshops and a Professional Mentorship session at the 107th American Anthropological Association Meetings in San Francisco, CA, November 19-23.
2006 Co-organizer of the Student Workshop of the Interest Group on Anthropology of Public Policy and the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology at the 2006 American Anthropological Association Meeting, San Jose, California, November 15-19.
2005 Founder and Coordinator of the Development Studies Group at University of Irvine.
2004-6 Board member, Environment Section, Latin American Studies Association.
2004 Member of organizing committee, Environmental Justice and Global Climate Change Conference Ann Arbor, MI. Sponsored by the School of Natural Resources, the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Student Group, and the Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan. March 25-28.
2003  Costa Rican Delegate to the V World Parks Congress-IUCN, Durban, South Africa. This congress takes place every 10 years and participants are subject to invitation by IUCN.
2002  Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of “I Encuentro Latinoamericano de Gestión de Areas Protegidas, Reservas de Biósfera y Corredores Biológicos” Sponsored by WWF, TNC, UNDP-GEF, CYTED, UCI, Ministry of Environment of Costa Rica, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.
2001  International Conference on Biodiversity and Society, Columbia University, NY.
1996  “Sound Development in the tropics” University of Yunnan-Third World Academy of Sciences-UNESCO, Yunnan, China.

**Other Professional Experience**

1997-2006 Founder and Director of the Latin American School for Protected Areas at the University for International Cooperation, Costa Rica.

**Service**

**To the Department:**

2019  Annual Chair’s Lecture Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2018  Annual Chair’s Lecture Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2017  Departmental Diversification Committee.
2017-18 Weekly Colloquium Series Committee Co-Chair, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2016-17 Weekly Colloquium Series Committee Co-Chair, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2016-17 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2014-15 Undergraduate Curriculum Re-design Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2015-16 Weekly Colloquium Series Committee Co-Chair, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2015-16 Website Redesign Committee, Anthropology, Rice University.
2014-15 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2014-15 Undergraduate ROAR Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2014- Martell College Associate, Rice.
2012-14 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2013-14 Medical Anthropology Search Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2012-13 Medical Anthropology Search Committee, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2012-13 Weekly Colloquium Series Chair, Anthropology Department, Rice.
2010-11 SHESC Library and Computing Committee, ASU.

To the School and University:
2018 Post-Doctoral Search Committee, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS).
2018-19 Fellowships and Awards University Committee
2017-18 Faculty Advisor to Social Science Undergraduate Journal Club: Rice Examiner.
2017-18 Fellowships and Awards University Committee
2016-17 Faculty Sponsor for the Society for Anthropological Debates Graduate Student Club.
2015-17 Faculty Sponsor for Ethnography Studio Graduate Student Club.
2015-16 Fellowships and Awards University Committee.
2017 Undergraduate and Graduate Paper Prize Committees, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS).
2016-18 Steering Committee, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS).
2016-17 Gateway Evaluation Committee, School of Social Sciences.
2015- Costa Rica Interest Group and Rice-University of Costa Rica Strategic International Collaboration.
2014-15 Fellowships and Awards University Committee.
2012-14 Dean’s Advisory Committee, School of Social Sciences.
2013 School of Social Science Gardner Award for Best Dissertation Committee.
2012 Social Science Centennial Undergraduate Research Competition Judge.
2011-12 CLAS Academic Standards Committee, ASU.

To the Profession:
2016-19 Board of Trustees Class 2017 (elected), Law and Society Association.
2016-18 Ethnography, Law and Society Collaborative Research Network Co-Chair (elected), Law and Society Association.
2010- Organized thirteen panels for a variety of professional conferences.
2016 National Science Foundation Advisory Panel.
2016 Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Book Prize Committee Chair.
2015 Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Book Prize Committee Chair.
2015 Law and Society Association Best Article Prize Committee Member.
2013-15 APLA Web content editor.
2007-09 Graduate Student Representative, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology.
Editorial Boards:
2015- Cuadernos de Antropología, University of Costa Rica.
2013- Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University.
2009-10 Editorial Fellow, American Anthropologist

Ad hoc reviewer for:

Student Mentoring:

Graduate Student Advising:
1. Charlie Lotterman Anthropology, Rice. [chair]
2. Eliot Storer, Anthropology, Rice. [dissertation committee]
3. Magnus Sigurdson, Anthropology, Rice. [dissertation committee]
4. Jessica Bray Anthropology, Rice. [dissertation committee]
5. Katie Ulrich, Anthropology, Rice. [chair]
6. Mel Ford, Anthropology, Rice. [chair]
7. John Blatzheim, Anthropology, Rice. [first year advisor]
8. Tim Quinn, Anthropology, Rice. [first year advisor]
9. Yesmar Oyarzun, Anthropology, Rice. [first year advisor]
10. Santiago Sosa (PhD 2018), Political Science, Rice. [dissertation committee]
11. Tae-Eun Kim (PhD 2016), Anthropology, ASU. [dissertation committee]
12. Jiyoung Kong (PhD 2012), Intercultural Communication, ASU. [dissertation committee]
13. Marcel LaFlamme, (PhD 2018) Anthropology, Rice. [candidacy committee]
14. Daniela Benner, Linguistics, Rice. [candidacy committee]
15. Evgeniya Poluektova, Linguistics, Rice. [candidacy committee]
16. Denisse Rocca Servat (PhD 2012), Justice and Social Inquiry, ASU. [candidacy committee]

Undergraduate Research and Fellowship Advising:
2. Mandy Quan, Anthropology, Rice. Rice University Scholars Program Advisor.
5. Ashley Philips, Anthropology, Rice ‘15, Capstone Advisor.

Research Internship Advising:
1. Heloisa Brenha Ribeiro, (Spring 19), USP, Brazil.
2. Gabriela Arguedas, Doctorado en Estudios de la Sociedad y la Cultura, Universidad de Costa Rica.
3. Rodrigo Bulamah, Doutorado Antropologia, UNICAMP, Brazil.

Languages
- English: fluent.
- Spanish: fluent.
- Portuguese: fluent reading and speaking, good command of written.

Professional Organizations and Societies
- American Anthropological Association-AAA
- Law and Society Association-LSA.
- Society for the Social Study of Science-4S.
- Latin American Studies Association-LASA