

Esteban Salmón
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025 – 2027 Postdoctoral Research Associate
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
Brown University
2014 – 2015 Fox International Fellow
MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies
Yale University

EDUCATION

2025 Ph.D. in Anthropology
Stanford University
2020 MA in Anthropology
Stanford University
2016 B.A. in Politics and Public Administration (with Honors)
El Colegio de México

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political and legal anthropology; ethnography; criminal justice; state violence; policing; bureaucracy; urban margins; transnational migration; US-Mexico border; Latin America.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2018 [*Navegar fronteras. Diferencia cultural, trabajo y ostentación entre migrantes indocumentados en Nueva York.*](#) [Navigating Borders: Cultural Difference, Labor, and Ostentation among Undocumented Migrants in New York] Zamora: El Colegio de Michoacán

Peer-Reviewed Article

2017 [“La empatía como metodología. Una receta contra el exotismo”](#) [“Empathy as a methodology. A recipe against exoticism.”] *Relaciones. Estudios de historia y sociedad*. 157

Book chapters

In Press “El incumplimiento selectivo de la ley. Política y procuración de justicia en México” [“Selective legal non-compliance. Politics and criminal prosecution in Mexico.”] *Intermediación política en México*. Mexico City: El Colegio de México

Works in Progress

Manuscript “Guilty as Charged: Incrimination, Prosecution and Liberal Lawfare in Mexico City”, for *American Ethnologist*

Manuscript with Beatriz Magaloni, “Torture and Democracy in Mexico”, for *Criminology*
Manuscript “Fiscalías y Derecho de Estado. La regulación de la violencia estatal en México” [Criminal Prosecution and Rule by Law. The Regulation of State Violence in Mexico] in Natalia Mendoza Rockwell and Antonio Álvarez (ed.) *Anatomía de la violencia en México* [Political Anatomy of Violence in Mexico].

AWARDS, HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

2025 University of California San Diego, U.S.-Mexican Studies Visiting Fellows Program (declined)
2025 Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship (declined)
2024 Law and Society Association, Early Career Scholar Workshop
2022-23 John Templeton Foundation, Sapiens Public Scholar
2022 National Science Foundation, Law and Science Dissertation Grant
2021-22 Social Sciences Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship
2018-21 Fulbright Scholarship, US-Mexico Commission for Educational Exchange
2017 El Colegio de Michoacán, National Award for the Best Thesis in Social Sciences
2017 National Institute of Anthropology and History, Finalist for National Award for the Best Thesis in Social Anthropology

Stanford University

2025 Department of Anthropology, Anthropology Prize for Academic Performance
2025 Center for Latin American Studies, Conference Travel Grant
2024-25 Center for Latin American Studies, Tinker Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2024 Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Graduate Student Fellowship
2023 King Center on Global Development, Graduate Student Fellowship
2023 Center for Latin American Studies, Research Grant
2023 King Center on Global Development, Graduate Student Research Funding
2023 Center for Latin American Studies, Conference Travel Grant
2022 Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Research Data Grant Award
2022 School of Humanities and Sciences, Graduate Research Opportunity Grant
2022 Center for Latin American Studies, Research Grant
2019 Center for Latin American Studies, Tinker Field Research Grant

El Colegio de México

2014 Exchange Student Scholarship, Freie Universität Berlin
2011 -2013 BBVA, Award for Best Student of the Class
2010 – 2014 Center for International Studies, Scholarship for Best Students of the Class

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Podcasting

2023 [“La función del true crime.”](#) [“The function of true crime”] *Control de cambios*
2023 [“The Power of Criminal Prosecutors.”](#) *Sapiens Magazine*

Writing

- 2024** [“¿Y las Fiscalías?”](#) [What about prosecutors’ offices?], *Nexos*
- 2023** [“La nueva ola del true crime mexicano.”](#) [“The new wave of Mexican true crime”] *Nexos*
- 2023** [“Inside Mexico City’s Surveillance State.”](#) *Sapiens Magazine*
Translated to [Spanish](#), [French](#), and [Portuguese](#).
Reprinted in *Déjà Lu. Journal of the World Council of Anthropological Associations*
- 2023** [“Especialistas de la violencia.”](#) [“Violence specialists”] *Nexos*
- 2021** “La lucha contra los intermediarios: ¿de la dádiva al derecho?” [“The fight against intermediaries: ¿from gifts to rights?”] in Blanca Heredia and Hernán Gómez (ed.), *La 4T, claves para descifrar el rompecabezas*, Mexico City: Random House
- 2020** [“Notas para una constitución moral.”](#) [“Notes for a moral constitution”] *Nexos*.
- 2016** [“Las víctimas de la ira electoral.”](#) [“The victims of electoral anger”] *Letras libres*.
- 2015** [“Devoción guadalupana y activismo indocumentado en Nueva York.”](#) [“Guadalupan devotion and undocumented activism in New York”] *Letras Libres*.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks and presentations

- 2024** Speaker: “Ética etnográfica” and “Cuadernos y notas de campo.” *Taller de sensibilización etnográfica*, FLACSO-México, Methods Lab, Jan 29-30.
- 2023** Panelist, “Rule-following Legal Cynicism. Criminal Prosecution in Democratic Mexico City.” *Prosecution in the Americas: Emerging studies, policies, and opportunities*, Rutgers University, School of Criminal Justice, Nov 2-3.
- 2022** Speaker, “Los efectos de la ausencia. Apuntes para el estudio de la impunidad,” *Seminario de Etnografía de la Violencia*, Fordham University, Sociology and Anthropology Department, Apr 21.

Panels Chaired or Organized

- 2025** Session co-organized with Marcus McGee, “Talk about Crime in Latin America,” International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), San Francisco, May 23-26.
- 2024** Session co-organizer with Agnes Mondragón, “Violencia, secrecía y autoridad política en México,” [“Violence, secrecy and political authority in Mexico”] *International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA)*, Bogotá, June 12-15.
- 2024** Session organizer, “The Politics of Criminal Law in Latin America,” *Law and Society Association Annual Meeting*, Denver, June 6-9.
- 2021** Session co-organizer with Adela Zhang, “Bureaucracy Unbound,” *International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA)*, Online, May 26-29.
- 2020** Session co-organizer with Josemaría Becerril Aceves, “Intermediación política y burocracia en la Ciudad de México,” [“Political intermediation and bureaucracy in Mexico City”] *Congreso Nacional de Ciencias Sociales (COMECSO)*, Online, Nov 9-13.

Presentations

- 2023** Panelist, “Taming ethical indeterminacy. Ethical justifications for illiberal crime control in Mexico”, *Spring Conference American Ethnological Association*, Princeton, Mar 23-25.
- 2021** Respondent for Arturo Díaz Cruz. “Economía de los bienes ilícitos”, *La plasticidad de la violencia*, Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Aug 30.
- 2020** Respondent for Falko Ernst. “Criminal mores, negotiated sovereignties, and perpetual armed conflict in Michoacán, Mexico,” *Violence and New Mores*, Columbia University, Center for Mexican Studies, Nov 2.
- 2017** Panelist, “Aspiration, Suffering and Failure Among Mexican Undocumented Migrants,” *Enacting Aspiration. Graduate Student Conference*. Johns Hopkins University, Apr 29-30
- 2016** Panelist, “The Deterritorialization of US-Mexico Border and Its Humanitarian Consequences.” *Migration and Human Safety: An International Conference*. Yale University, Mar 31.

Campus presentations

- 2025** Discussant, “Militarization”, Gender and Violence: A Workshop on Research and Practice, King Center on Global Development, Stanford University, May 9.
- 2025** Respondent for Thomas Blom Hansen, “Notorious Possession” and Teresa Caldeira, “Home, Family Formations, and Ways of Living Together in São Paulo’s Peripheries”, *Home Economics Workshop*, March 7.
- 2024** Instructor, “Revolts in the Global 1960s: The Tlatelolco Massacre”, *Critical Issues in Global Affairs*. Instructor: Katherine Kuhns, Oct 22.
- 2024** Panelist, “Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods,” *Center for Latin American Studies*, Stanford. Instructor: Héctor Hoyos, Sep 18.
- 2023** Speaker, “The Everyday Life of Lawfare. Criminal Prosecution in Mexico City”, *Poverty, Violence and Governance Lab at The Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law*, Stanford. Instructor: Beatriz Magaloni-Kerpel, Nov 15
- 2023** Speaker, “Anthropological Ethics and the Institutional Review Board” *Anthropological Methods Course*, Stanford. Instructor: Serkan Yolaçan, Feb 28.
- 2019** Speaker, “Book presentation: *Navegar fronteras*” *Latin America Working Group*, Stanford. Feb 7.

TEACHING

Instructor

- 2025** Introduction to Anthropology, Stanford University, Department of Anthropology

Teaching Assistant

- 2022-23** Dissertation Writing Workshop (Prof. Angela García), Stanford University, Department of Anthropology
- 2020** Urban Culture in Global Perspective (Prof. Thomas Blom Hansen), Stanford University, Department of Urban Studies
- 2020** Introduction to Anthropology (Prof. James Ferguson), Stanford University, Department of Anthropology

Writing Instructor

- 2023** Spanish Creative Writing, Stanford Jail and Prison Education Project, Maple Street Jail, San José, CA
- 2011-14** Literacy for Adults, Asociación para el Desarrollo Comunitario, Tochimilco, Puebla

SERVICE

- 2024-2025** **Mentor, M.A. Program**, Stanford Center for Latin American Studies
- 2025** **Event Organizer**, Gender and Violence: A Workshop on Research and Practice, King Center on Global Development, Stanford University
- 2023** **Event Organizer**, The Prison Consensus in a Global Perspective. A Conversation on the Adaptability of the Carceral State, Stanford University
- 2020-2024** **Member, Ethics Committee**, Stanford Department of Anthropology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 – 2018** **Consultant** in a project about Access to justice in Mexico City, Pauta Política and Mexico City's Government
- 2015** **Research Assistant** in a project about policing in Mexico City, El Colegio de México Centro de Estudios Sociológicos

ANTHROPOLOGICAL FIELD RESEARCH

- 2019-2022** Field research in Mexico City State Attorney's Office for PhD dissertation project (18 months)
- 2016-2022** Field research in Mexico City urban margins for PhD dissertation project and consultancy project on access to justice with Mexico City government (24 months)
- 2014 – 15** Field research in New York and New Jersey for book on transnational migration (10 months)
- 2011 – 14** Field research in Tochimilco, Mexico, for book on transnational migration (10 months)

WORKSHOPS AND WORKING GROUPS

- 2018 – 2025** Altar: Centro de Investigación, Seminario de etnografía de la violencia
- 2023 – 2025** Stanford University, Poverty, Violence and Governance Lab
- 2023 – 2024** UNAM, (Des)orden Urbano y sectores populares
- 2023** Wenner-Gren, Latin American Summer School on Social Issues
- 2020 – 2021** Columbia University, Violence and New Mores
- 2018 – 2020** Stanford University, Latin America Working Group

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
Law and Society Association
Latin American Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native

English: Fluent

French: Advanced reading, speaking, and listening; basic writing (C1)

Portuguese: Intermediate reading and listening; basic speaking and writing (B1)

German: Basic reading, speaking, listening, and writing (A2)