

Steven Schwartz

Colorado College, Department of Anthropology
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Academic Appointments

2022- Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Colorado College

Education

2022 Ph.D., Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Chicago

Dissertation: *Wind Futures: Indigeneity, Aerial Politics, and the Making of Renewable Energy in Colombia*

Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (2022)

2013 M.A., Social Sciences, University of Chicago

Thesis: *Indigeneity at the Edge: Indigenous Sovereignty, Oil, and the Politics of Smuggling in Venezuela*

Winner of the 2014 Earl S. and Esther Johnson Prize

2011 B.A., *Summa cum Laude*, Anthropology, Universidad Central de Venezuela

Research and Teaching Interests

Extractive capitalism; renewable energy; energy transitions; climate change; corporations and corporate social responsibility; economic anthropology; indigeneity; Indigenous environmental politics; ethnographic writing; Colombia and Venezuela; Latin America and the Caribbean.

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles

2021 “Wind Extraction? Gifts, Reciprocity, and Renewability in Colombia’s Energy Frontier,” *Economic Anthropology* 8 (1): 116-132,
<https://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.12192>

2021 “The Politics of Bachaqueo: Gasoline Black Markets and Indigeneity in Venezuela,” *American Ethnologist* 48 (4): 504-519,
<https://doi.org/10.1111/amet.13036>

In preparation “Dangerous Winds: Criminal Underworlds, Guard Labor, and Indigenous Security in Colombia” (article to be submitted to the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*)

In preparation “Co-opted Transitions: Coal, Wind, and the Corporate Ideologies of Decarbonization in Colombia,” co-authored with Emma Banks (article to be submitted to the *Journal of Political Ecology*)

Books

In preparation *Wind Futures: Indigeneity, Aerial Worlds, and the Making of Renewable Energy in Colombia*

2015 *Una enfermedad monstruo: Indígenas derribando el cerco de la discriminación en salud* (Buenos Aires: Lugar Editorial), co-edited with Germán Freire and Aimé Tillet.

Editor-reviewed Articles

2018 “La estética de la informalidad. Imágenes e imaginaciones de la minería artesanal de oro en el Amazonas brasileño,” *Istor – Revista de Historia Internacional*, XIX (75): 119-130.

2017 “Of Populists and Mutants,” *Anthropology News*, 58 (3): 18-21, co-authored with Agnes Mondragón, <https://doi.org/10.1111/AN.433>

2014 “El discurso criollo de los objetos. Capitalismo, consumo y modernidad en la Venezuela Petrolera (1925-1942),” *Enlace Científico*, 15 (10): 85-103.

2013 “Los límites de la soberanía: Reflexiones sobre indigeneidad y territorialidad en tiempos de globalización,” *Revista Nuestro Sur: Historia, Memoria y Patrimonio*, 3 (4): 99-110.

Public Writing

2020 “Making Wind Energy with Venezuelan Horsepower,” *Contextos: The Blog of the Center for Latin American Studies*, University of Chicago.

Grants, Fellowships & Awards

External

2018-2019 Social Science Research Council, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, New York, NY

2018-2019 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, New York, NY

2018-2019 Fulbright – Institute of International Education (*declined*)

University of Chicago

- 2021 Mellon Foundation-University of Chicago, Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2020 Ignacio Martín-Baró Prize Lectureship on Latin American Studies and Human Rights, University of Chicago
- 2018 L. and S. Rudolph Field Research Award, Center for International Social Science Research, University of Chicago
- 2017 PhD Research Grant, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, University of Chicago
- 2016 & 2017 Tinker Research Grant, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago
- 2017 Graduate Council Travel Fund Award, University of Chicago
- 2016 Leiffer Fund Research Grant, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago
- 2016-2019 Lichtstern Student Conference Travel Grant, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chicago
- 2015-2021 Graduate Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, FLAS (*declined*)
- 2014 Earl S. and Esther Johnson Prize for MA Thesis, University of Chicago

Presentations

Invited Talks

- 2022 “Indigenous Energy: Wayúu Kinship and the Making of Wind Power in Colombia.” Colorado College, Department of Anthropology, February 14.

Conference Presentations

- 2022 “Decolonizing Wind Power: Ancestors, Bodily Remains, and the Aerial Politics of Wayúu Cemeteries in Colombia.” Paper presented on the panel “Toxic States of the Demos; Political Acts of Remediation,” LASA Hybrid Congress: Polarización socioambiental y rivalidad entre grandes potencias, San Francisco, CA, May 8.

- 2019 “Wind Theft? Rumors of Corporate Corruption in Colombia’s Green Energy Economy.” Paper presented on the panel “Corruption Talk: New Ethnographies of Finance and Corporate Power,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, BC, November 21
- 2019 “Aeolian Reconstructions: Wind Energy and Post-Extractive Futures in the Colombian Guajira.” Paper presented at the Biannual Meeting of the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, April 11
- 2017 “Extracting Indigeneity in Colombia’s Energy Frontier.” Paper presented on the Panel “New Landscapes of Extractivism in the Andean Region,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC., November 30
- 2017 “Borders of Deception: Extractive Spectacles and Mediations of Indigeneity in Colombia’s Frontier.” Paper presented at the Biannual Meeting of the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Antigua, Guatemala, April 7
- 2016 “Smuggling ‘Free Fuel’: Oil Extraction, Illicit Flows and the Politics of Petro Development in Venezuela.” Paper presented on the panel “Corporate Mines and Unauthorized Miners: Violence and the Valences of Possession,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 2016
- 2011 “Indigenizando lo global: fútbol, consumo y reciprocidad entre los Piaroa del Orinoco medio, Venezuela.” Paper presented at the 10th Annual Meeting of Social Anthropology, Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 30
- 2011 “Mimesis, corporalidad y cambio cultural entre los Piaroa del Orinoco medio, Venezuela.” Paper presented at the 10th Annual Meeting of Social Anthropology, Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 1

Workshop Presentations

- 2021 “Interrogating Energy Transitions: Wind Farms and Coal Mines in La Guajira, Colombia” Paper presented at the Post-Extractivism Working Group, University of New Brunswick & University of Toronto, August 6 (co-authored with Emma Banks)
- 2021 “Genealogical Energy: Kinship and the ‘Clean’ Sociality of Wind Power in Colombia.” Paper presented at the Environmental Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, March 12
- 2020 “Turbulence: Securing Wind Energy in Colombia.” Paper presented at the Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, University of Chicago, November 5

- 2020 “Interruption: Disrupting the Jepirachi Wind Farm.” Paper presented at the Ethnographic Experiments Seminar, University of Chicago, June 7
- 2020 “Wind Rush: Ethnographic Notes on Wind in the Colombian Guajira.” Presentation at the Social Science Research Council Virtual Workshop, August 20
- 2013 “Indigeneity at the Edge: Informal Sovereignties, Money, and the Politics of Smuggling in Venezuela.” Paper presented at the Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, University of Chicago, November 14
- 2011 “Los límites de la soberanía: reflexiones sobre indigeneidad en tiempos de globalización.” Paper presented at the Workshop Cultural Sovereignty and Indigenous Peoples in Venezuela, Ministry of Culture - Cultural Diversity Center, Caracas, Venezuela, April 15

Panels and Conferences Organized/Chaired

- 2022 Panel Chair, “Toxic States of the Demos; Political Acts of Remediation,” LASA Hybrid Congress: Polarización socioambiental y rivalidad entre grandes potencias, San Francisco, CA, May 8.

Teaching Experience

*Courses taught (*scheduled/underway)*

Colorado College

- 2022 Cultural Anthropology
- 2022* Living in the Material World: Economic Anthropology
- 2023* Indigeneity in Latin America
- 2023* Energy Worlds: From Fossil Fuels to Renewables
- 2023* Doing Ethnography (co-taught with Sarah Hautzinger)

University of Chicago

- 2021 Extractivism in Latin America (Martín-Baró Prize Lecturership)
- 2018 Introduction to Latin American Civilizations III (as Teaching Assistant)
- 2018 Power, Identity, Resistance II (as Teaching Assistant)
- 2017 Power, Identity, Resistance I (as Teaching Assistant)
- 2017 Anthropology of Development (as Teaching Assistant)

Pedagogical Training

- 2021 Fundamentals of Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities Workshop, Chicago Center for Teaching, University of Chicago

Professional Service

- 2022 Participant in the “Equity and Power Seminar: Opening New Doors in the Humanities Disciplines.” Colorado College. August 2-17.
- 2022 Speaker on the panel “Interview Stories from Recent Hires,” UChicagoGRAD’s Annual Academic Job Market Summer Camp, University of Chicago, July 20.
- 2022 External evaluator for the PhD dissertation proposal “Hacia un modelo de diálogo intercultural y decolonial entre el desarrollo sostenible y la concepción wayuu de la justicia a propósito de los proyectos de generación de energía eólica Alpha y Beta (2016-2023) en La Guajira colombiana,” by Karen Karina Redondo, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Colombia.
- 2021-2022 Peer Reviewer for *American Anthropologist*
- 2019- External research consultant for the Indigenous NGO Anna Watta Kai, La Guajira, Colombia
- 2017-2018 Co-coordinator of the Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, University of Chicago
- 2014-2015 Outreach and Campus Program Coordinator, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago
- 2009-2011 Volunteer in the design and curational work for the “Murükuni” Museum of the Mapoyo People, Venezuela

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association
 Latin American Studies Association
 Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology
 American Ethnological Society
 Anthropology & Environment Society
 Society for Cultural Anthropology
 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

Research and Related Professional Experience

- 2016- 2019 PhD Ethnographic Research in Colombia (La Guajira, Bogotá and Medellín) – 16 months
- 2015-2021 Research Consultant, World Bank; projects on Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Peru) and the Pacific (Kiribati, Tonga, and the Marshall Islands)

- 2012-2013 Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Dain Borges, Department of History, University of Chicago
- 2010-2012 Research Specialist, Cultural Diversity Center, Ministry of Culture, Caracas – Venezuela
- 2011-2012 Research Specialist, Grupo de Estudios Antropológicos (NGO), Caracas – Venezuela
- 2007-2010 Student Research Assistant, Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, IVIC), Anthropology Center, Dr. Franz Scaramelli, Caracas – Venezuela

Policy Reports

- In press *Afro-descendant Inclusion in Education: An Anti-racist Agenda for Latin America*, also published in Spanish and Portuguese, co-authored with Germán Freire and Flavia Carbonari
- 2021 *Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development* (Washington DC, World Bank), also published in Spanish and Portuguese, co-authored with María Elena García Mora and Germán Freire, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36628>
- 2020 *Social Inclusion in Uruguay* (Washington DC, World Bank), also published in Spanish, co-authored with Germán Freire, María Elena García Mora, and Gabriel Lara Ibarra, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34229>
- 2018 *Afro-descendants in Latin America: Toward a Framework of Inclusion* (Washington DC, World Bank), also published in Spanish and Portuguese, co-authored with Germán Freire, Carolina Díaz-Bonilla, and Jorge Soler, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30201>
- 2015 *Indigenous Latin America in the 21st Century: The First Decade* (Washington DC, World Bank), also published in Spanish and Portuguese, co-authored with Germán Freire, Melissa Zumaeta, Rita Damasceno Costa, and Jonna Lundvall, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23751>

Languages

- Spanish—native speaker
English—advanced proficiency

References

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