

## **Agnes Mondragón-Celis**

Department of Anthropology  
University of Rochester  
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### **Academic Appointments**

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Assistant Professor Department of Anthropology University of Rochester	Fall 2024-
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Department of Anthropology and the College Postdoctoral Affiliate, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality University of Chicago	2022-2024

### **Education**

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Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Chicago Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	May 2022
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Dissertation Title: “Mediations of War: Statehood, Criminality, and the Politics of Knowledge in Mexico”  
Dissertation Committee: Julie Chu (Chair), William Mazzarella, Constantine Nakassis, Stephan Palmié

M.A., Social Sciences (Concentration in Sociocultural Anthropology), University of Chicago	2015
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B.A., Political Science and International Relations, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Mexico	2011
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### **Research and Teaching Interests**

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The state; affective formations of political authority; knowledge production and circulation; drug warfare and organized crime; militarization; War on Drugs and US imperialism in Latin America; feminism in the Global South; gender-based violence; protest; populism; Mexico

### **Publications**

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#### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

(conditionally accepted) “The Problem of Criminal Charisma: State Authority and the Politics of Narcoculture in Mexico’s Drug War.” *American Anthropologist*

(under review) Mondragón, Agnes and Tania Islas Weinstein. “Performative Infrastructures: The Material Politics of Militarization in Contemporary Mexico.” *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*

(under review) “Undisciplined: Feminist Protest and the Disruption of Gendered Violence in Mexico.” *Feminist Anthropology*

(in preparation) “Space of Avoidance: The Parameters of Non-Knowledge in Drug War Mexico.” For *Cultural Anthropology*

(in preparation) “The Second Time as Farce: The Populist Mobilization of Old Revolutionary Dreams.” For the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*

(in preparation) “The Drug War and US Empire: Forensic Knowledge and Extraterritorial Criminal Jurisdiction in Kingpin Trials”

## Book

(in preparation) *Mediations of War: Statehood, Criminality, and the Politics of Knowledge in Mexico*

## Editorially Reviewed Publications

forthcoming Islas Weinstein, Tania and Agnes Mondragón. “‘The People in Uniform:’ Populist Polarization, Cultural Heritage, and Militarization in Mexico’s ‘Fourth Transformation.’” *Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter*, American Political Science Association and Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan

2023 Islas Weinstein, Tania and Agnes Mondragón. “[Infrastructure as Monument: The Dos Bocas Refinery in AMLO’s Mexico](#)” *Ideology Theory Practice* Blog (affiliated with the *Journal of Political Ideologies*)

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

## Public Scholarship

2021 Edward Escalon Jr., Agnes Mondragón and Matthew Gordner, [Interview with Prof. Yasmin Moll](#), *Entangled Worlds Project*

## Grants and Fellowships

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- 2022 Dissertation Support Fellowship, Center for International Social Science Research, University of Chicago
- 2022 Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago
- 2020 Prize Lectureship, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago
- 2019 Mark Hanna Watkins Post-Field Fellowship, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago
- 2019 Research Travel Grant, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago
- 2019 Mellon Dissertation Research Travel Fellowship, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago
- 2016-2019 Lichtstern Conference Travel Grant, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago
- 2017 Arts, Science and Culture Initiative Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2017 Leiffer Grant for Summer Research, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago
- 2016, 2017 Tinker Grant for Summer Research, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago
- 2016 Graduate Collaboration Grant, Arts, Science and Culture Initiative, University of Chicago
- 2012 Fulbright-García Robles Fellowship

## **Presentations**

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### **Invited Talks**

- 2024 "Drug Wars and US Empire in Latin America," Lake Forest College, January 30, Lake Forest, IL
- 2023 "Mediations of War: Affective Politics, State Authority, and the Semiotics of Activism in Mexico," Department of Communication, Tulane University, April 19, New Orleans, LA
- 2023 "The Problem of Criminal Charisma: Affective Politics and State Authority in Mexico's Drug War," Anthropology Department, Colorado College, February 16, Colorado Springs, CO

- 2022 “The Problem of Criminal Charisma: Affective Politics and State Authority in Mexico’s Drug War,” Anthropology Department, Pitzer College, November 7, Claremont, CA
- 2021 “Fabulaciones de la gobernanza criminal: las *narcoseries* y la producción de conocimiento público sobre la “guerra contra el narco.” Paper presented at the conference *Problemas actuales de México: Violencia, seguridad y justicia*, UNAM, UABC, COLMEX, Mexico, November 9
- 2020 Panelist, “Anthropologists Investigating Latin America: Strategies, Limitations, and Proposals” Working Group, organized by the Brazilian Autonomous Network of Anthropologists, November 7, 2020

### Conference Panels Organized

- 2024 Co-organizer, “Violencia, secrecía y autoridad política en México,” Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Bogotá, Colombia, June 12-15

### Conference Presentations

- 2024 “Periodismo y ficción en la niebla de la guerra,” Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, Bogotá, Colombia, June 12-15
- 2023 Agnes Mondragón and Tania Islas Weinstein. “Infrastructure as Monument: The Aestheticization of Politics in AMLO’s Mexico” Latin American Studies Association, May 25-28, Toronto, Canada
- 2021 “Protest as Flux: The Political Formation of Space in Mexico.” American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, November 17-21
- 2019 “Paths of Potentiality: Violence, Media, and Affective Indeterminacies in Mexico’s Drug War.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 20, Vancouver, BC
- 2019 “Reconstructing Criminalities in Mexico’s Drug War.” Paper presented at the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology’s Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, April 11-13,
- 2018 “Marginality and Excess at the Mexican Army’s Drug Museum.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14, San José, CA
- 2018 “Mediations of War: Circulation and Disruption of Official Narratives around the Hemispheric War on Drugs.” Paper presented at the Colloquium *Epistemologies of Militarization in the Global South After 2010*, April 12, Duke University, Durham, NC

- 2017 “Futurity as Gift.” Paper presented at the *Harvard Ways of Knowing* Conference, October 28, Harvard University, Boston, MA
- 2017 “Rehabilitating the Revolution: Mobilizing National Memory in Mexico’s War on Drugs”, presented at the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology’s Conference, April 6, Antigua, Guatemala
- 2017 “Mediatized Bandits and Secret Museums: Competing Exposures in Mexico’s War on Drugs.” with Steven Schwartz, paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Ethnological Society, April 1, Stanford, CA

### **Workshop Presentations**

- 2023 “Infrastructure as Monument: Militarization and the Aestheticization of Politics in Mexico,” Presented with Tania Islas Weinstein at the Semiotics Workshop, University of Chicago, May 19
- 2023 “Undisciplined: The Semiotics of Feminist Protest in Mexico,” Presented at the Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group, University of Chicago, May 16
- 2022 “Propaganda, Speculation, and the Contradiction of Mexico’s Drug War,” Presented at the Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, University of Chicago, March 31
- 2021 “Fiction as Cognitive Mapping: Epistemic Murk and Dystopia in Mexican *Narcoseries*.” Paper presented at Populism and Theopolitical Charisma Workshop, University of Toronto & University of Chicago, May 7
- 2021 “Fiction as Cognitive Mapping: Epistemic Murk and Dystopia in Mexican *Narcoseries*.” Paper presented at the Mass Culture Workshop, University of Chicago, April 23
- 2020 “The State as Generous Bandit: Populist Spectacle and Criminal Affect in Mexico’s ‘Drug War.’” Presented at the Workshop on Ethnographies of Violence, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Summer 2020

### **Teaching Experience**

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#### **Instructor, University of Chicago**

- 2024 Power, Identity and Resistance III (Social Science Core Course)
- 2023 Self, Culture, and Society I (Social Science Core Course)
- 2023 Power, Identity and Resistance III (Social Science Core Course)

- 2022 Self, Culture, and Society I (Social Science Core Course)
- 2020 The State as Imagination, Fetish, Spectacle (Undergraduate seminar)

### **Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago**

- 2021 Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations II
- 2018 Power, Identity and Resistance II
- 2018 Introduction to Latin American Civilizations II
- 2017 Power, Identity and Resistance I

### **Pedagogical Training**

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

### **Research Experience**

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- 2022- Ongoing Ethnographic Research—drug warfare, knowledge production and circulation, gender-based violence, feminist mobilization, populism, militarization, Mexico City
- 2017-2020 Ethnographic Fieldwork for Doctoral Dissertation, Mexico City
- 2013 Ethnographic Fieldwork for M.A. Thesis, Mexico City
- 2010-2012 Fieldwork for Ethnographic Census on Mexico's Muslim Population (led by Camila Pastor, CIDE), Multi-sited (Mexico City, Torreón, Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tequesquitengo), Mexico

### **Academic Service**

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- 2023 Current advisor for a BA thesis project, Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Chicago
- 2021-2022 Peer Mentor, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago
- 2020 Mentor, Student Leadership Alliance, University of Chicago
- 2016-2017 Co-coordinator, Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, University of Chicago

## Related Professional Experience

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### Academic Translations

- 2023 Pablo Mardones, “The Imposition of the Holy Cross over the Chakana.” *Current Anthropology* 64(2), <https://doi.org/10.1086/724886>  
Translated from Spanish into English
- 2019 White, G. Edward. “Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louis D. Brandeis y la transformación de la jurisprudencia estadounidense durante la Era Progresista” and Samuel Moyn, “Sobre la historia de los derechos humanos” in José Ramón Cossío, Pablo Mijangos and Erika Pani, eds. 2019. *Derecho y cambio social en la historia*, Mexico City: El Colegio de México  
Translated from English into Spanish
- 2018 Freire, German Nicolás et al. *Afro-descendants in Latin America: toward a framework of inclusion*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group, 2018  
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/316161533724728187/Afro-descendants-in-Latin-America-toward-a-framework-of-inclusion>  
Translated from English into Spanish
- 2017 Vézina, Catherine. 2017. *Diplomacia migratoria: una historia transnacional del Programa Bracero, 1947-1952*. Mexico City: SRE/AHD-CIDE  
Translated from French into Spanish
- 2016 Vézina, Catherine. 2016. “Canadá y sus inmigrantes: políticas migratorias y construcción nacional a partir de los debates parlamentarios, 1869-2015” in *Migración y ciudadanía: construyendo naciones en América del Norte*. Mexico City: El Colegio de México  
Translated from French into Spanish
- 2014-2018 *ISTOR*, Journal of International History  
Translated 30+ articles from English into Spanish

### Languages

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Spanish—native speaker

French— intermediate/advanced proficiency

### Professional Memberships

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*Seminario Permanente de Etnografía de la Violencia* [Permanent Seminar on the Ethnography of Violence], Centro de Investigaciones del Desierto de Altar, A.C., Sonora, Mexico

[Entangled Worlds Project](#), University of Toronto

American Anthropological Association  
Society for Cultural Anthropology  
Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology  
Society for Political and Legal Anthropology

Latin American Studies Association

## References

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