

## **Germán Vergara**

Assistant Professor of History

School of History and Sociology - Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Georgia Institute of Technology

221 Bobby Dodd Way - Room G-20

Atlanta, GA 30332

Phone: 267-304-8641 • [vergara@gatech.edu](mailto:vergara@gatech.edu)

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in History, University of California, Berkeley, 2015

### **DISSERTATION**

“Fueling Change: The Valley of Mexico and the Quest for Energy, 1850-1930”

Committee: Margaret Chowning, Mark Healey, Carolyn Merchant, and Nancy Peluso

### **EMPLOYMENT**

2017 - Georgia Institute of Technology, Assistant Professor of History

2015-2017 - Brown University, Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental History

### **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

*Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021).

#### **Articles or Book Chapters**

Forum “Extinction and Its Interventions in the Americas,” co-editor with Emily Wakild and contributor, *Environmental History*. (Accepted)

“Bestiario latinoamericano: los animales en la historiografía de América Latina,” *História, Ciências, Saúde-Manguinhos*. (Accepted: to be published in December 2021)

“Animals in Latin American History,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, April 2018.

“How Coal Kept My Valley Green: Forest Conservation, State Intervention, and the Transition to Fossil Fuels in Mexico,” *Environmental History* (January 2018): 1–24.

“Energy, Environment, and Society in the Basin of Mexico until the Nineteenth Century,” in *Mexico in Focus: Political, Environmental and Social Issues*, New York, Nova Science Publishers, Inc., 2014.

## **MANUSCRIPTS AND PAPERS UNDER REVIEW & IN PROGRESS**

### **Articles**

“The Flow of History: Environment, Industry, and Urbanization on a Mexican River.”  
(Manuscript in preparation)

“Digging Up the Past: Environment and Mining in Mexico, 1800-2000.” (Manuscript in preparation)

### **Others**

Revision of own translation from German to Spanish of *Die Altkolonier Mennoniten in Mexiko*, by Walter Schmiedehaus, for new Spanish edition.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Kristin A. Wintersteen, *The Fishmeal Revolution: The Industrialization of the Humboldt Current Ecosystem* (Berkeley, University of California Press, 2021). Forthcoming with *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*.

J. Justin Castro, *Apostle of Progress: Modesto C. Rolland, Global Progressivism, and the Engineering of Revolutionary Mexico* (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 2019). Published by *Technology and Culture*, August 2021.

Matthew Vitz, *A City on a Lake: Urban Political Ecology and the Growth of Mexico City* (Durham, Duke University Press, 2017). Published by *Historia Mexicana*, February 2019.

Christopher F. Boyer (ed.), *A Land Between Waters: Environmental Histories of Modern Mexico* (Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 2012). Published by *H-Net*, September 2013.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **As Assistant Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology**

Graduate Independent Study - Global Environmental History (Fall 2021)

Seminar Global Issues - Global Environmental History (Fall 2021)

Comprehensive Exam, Latin American History, Ph.D. student Alejandra Ruiz (2021-2022)

Graduate Independent Study - Modern Latin America and Science (Spring 2021)

Global Societies: Modern Latin American History (Spring 2021)

Global Environmental History (Tech and Environment) (Spring 2021)

Global Societies: Modern Latin American History (Spring 2020)

Global Environmental History (Tech and Environment) (Spring 2020)

History of Science and Technology in the Modern World (Fall 2019)

Undergraduate Independent Study - History of Amazonian Fires (Fall 2019)

Global Environmental History (Tech and Environment) (Spring 2019)

Global Societies: Modern Latin American History (Spring 2019)

Colonial Latin American History (Fall 2018)

Master's Independent Study - Cities and the Environment (Fall 2018)

PhD Independent Study - Race, Ethnicity, and Technology in Latin American History (Fall 2018)

Graduate Seminar on Global Environmental History (Spring 2018)

Global Environmental History (Tech and Environment) (Fall 2017)

Undergraduate Independent Study - History of Public Health in 20<sup>th</sup> - Century Brazil (Fall 2017)

**As Postdoctoral Fellow, Brown University**

Food for Thought: Food and Agriculture in the History of the Americas (Spring 2017)

Urban History of Latin America (Fall 2016)

Extinction: A Global History (Spring 2016)

Fueling Change: A Global History of Energy (Fall 2015)

**As Instructor, University of California, Berkeley**

Environmental History of Latin America (Spring 2013)

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Modern Mexican History, Latin American History, Urban History, Global Industrialization, Global Capitalism, Energy History, Global Environmental History, Global Biodiversity and Sustainability

## **SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS**

2021 - Class of 1969 Teaching Fellow, Georgia Tech

2020 - Atlanta Global Studies Center Travel Grant

2020 – Small Research Grant, Ivan Allen College

2020 - Honors Program Professional Development Funds

2018 - Faculty Foundation Grant, The Georgia Tech Foundation

2017 - SLS Energy Systems for Sustainable Communities Fellow, Georgia Institute of Technology

2016 - USMEX Fellowship Program, UC San Diego (declined)

2015-2017 - Cogut Institute for the Humanities Fellow, Brown University

2014 - University of California Dissertation-Year Fellowship, UC Berkeley (university system-wide)

2013 - Graduate Division Summer Grant, Center for Latin American Studies, UC Berkeley

2012 - Charles A. Hale Fellowship for Mexican History, Latin American Studies Association

2012 - UC MEXUS Research Grant

2011 - UC MEXUS Summer Grant

2008 - Chancellor's Fellowship Award, UC Berkeley

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **Panels Organized**

2021 – “Green Developments: Conservation in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Mexico and Brazil,” X Simposio de la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia Ambiental, July 6-9.

2014 - "Understanding and Narrating Environmental Change Across Latin American Nations and Regions," American Society for Environmental History, March 10-14.

### **Papers Presented**

2022 – "Commodity Extraction and Indigenous Mobilization in Colonial to Twenty-First Century Latin America," (discussant), AHA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, January 6-9, 2022. (Accepted)

2022 - "Energy History-The Mexican Case," in Harnessing the Power of Energy History: A Roundtable Discussion, AHA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, January 6-9, 2022. (Accepted)

2021 – "Where the Air is Unclear: The "Invention" of Air Pollution in Mexico City During the Twentieth Century," Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), New Orleans, November 18-19, 2021. (Accepted)

2019 - "Extinction of Large Predators in Latin America during the Twentieth Century," World Congress of Environmental History, Florianópolis, Brazil, July 22-26.

2019 - "Becoming History: The Extirpation of Grizzly Bears (*Ursus arctos*) from the Greater West in the Twentieth Century," American Society for Environmental History, Columbus, Ohio, April 10-13.

2018 - "Species Extinction and Science in Mexico and Brazil in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," XV Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México, October 17-20.

2018 - "Urban Arks: Urbanization and Biodiversity in Mexico City's Southwestern Forest and Tijuca Forest, Rio de Janeiro, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," IX Simposio de la Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (SOLCHA), July 16-20.

2016 - "Deforestation, Mexico's Energy Transition, and the Roots of Global Warming," SOLCHA (Latin American Society for Environmental History), Puebla, Mexico, August 1-4.

2016 - "Forestry and Coal in Mexico," Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, UC San Diego, March 14-16.

2015 – "Conservationism and Fossil Fuels in Mexico, 1850-1930," Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Conference, Tucson, April 8-12.

2015 - "Fossil Fuels, Industrialization, and Environmental Change in Central Mexico, 1860-1920," American Historical Association, New York City, January 2-5.

2014 - "Energy Regimes and Urban Space in the Basin of Mexico During the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries," XIV International Meeting of Historians of Mexico, Chicago, September 18-21.

2014 - "Regional Energy Paths and Industrialization in Mexico during the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries from a Global Perspective," World History Conference, Costa Rica, July 16-19.

2014 - "Energy Transitions, Environmental Change, and Historical Narratives," American Society for Environmental History, San Francisco, March 10-14.

### **SCHOLARLY TALKS**

2022 - "The Flow of History: Environment, Industry, and Urbanization on a Mexican River," Dirty History Workshop, UGA, March.

2021 - Roundtable for *Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950*, Colegio de México, November.

2021 - "Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950," Georgia Tech, October.

2021 - "Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950," UC San Diego, May.

2021 - Guest Lecturer, "Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950," University of California, Berkeley, April.

2020 - "The Environmental History of Latin America: An Overview," National School of Anthropology and History, Mexico, October.

2019 - "Energy in History," Georgia Tech Sustainability Showcase, October.

2019 - "The Other Revolution: Mexico's Transition to Oil," Notre Dame University, October.

2016 - "Deep History, Energy Regimes, and Environmental Change in Mexico," Brown University, November.

2016 - "State Policies, Nature, and Energy Transitions in Modern Mexico," University of Bristol, UK, June.

2016 - "Peasant Communities, Energy Transition, and Environmental Change in Mexico," Brown University, April.

2016 - "Scientific Forestry and the Transition to Fossil Fuels in Mexico," Brown University, April.

2016 - "Striking Growth: Oil and Mexico in the Twentieth Century," Brown University, April.

2016 - "Limits to Growth and the Transition to Fossil Fuels in Mexico," Trinity College, Ireland, March.

2013 - “Energy, Environment, and Society in the Basin of Mexico,” University of California, Berkeley, March.

### **PODCASTS AND VIDEO**

2019 - Georgia Tech Sustainability Showcase (Video), October 28-30.

2020 - Edge Effects (Podcast), Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE), Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 20.

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

2021 – Present - HSOC Undergraduate Studies Committee Member.

2021 - Judge for Georgia Tech’s Undergraduate Research Spring Symposium, April.

2021 - Guest speaker for course Environmental Humanities in Latin America, School of Modern Languages, February.

2021 - Reviewer for the 2021 IAC CRIDC graduate student essay competition, January.

2020 - 2021 - Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member.

2020 - Reviewer for the 2020 IAC CRIDC graduate student essay competition, January.

2019 - Reviewer for the 2019 IAC CRIDC graduate student essay competition, January.

2018 - Guest Lecturer for STS Core Seminar (Science, Technology, and Society).

2018 - Reviewer for PURA (President’s Undergraduate Research Awards) Applications, May.

2018 - Present - HSOC Speakers’ Series Committee Member.

2018 - Present - HSOC Awards Committee Member.

2018 - Reviewer for the 2018 IAC CRIDC graduate student essay competition, January.

2017 - Guest Lecturer for STS Core Seminar (Science, Technology, and Society).

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2021 – Invited panelist for National Science Foundation (NSF), General Advisory Panel at NSF headquarters, Alexandria, VA, November.

2021 - Reviewer for book proposal, University of Nebraska Press, June.

2021 - Reviewer for journal article, *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos*, June.

2021 - Invited panelist for National Science Foundation (NSF), General Advisory Panel at NSF headquarters, Alexandria, VA, April.

2021 - Reviewer for historical monograph, *Technology and Culture*, March.

2021 - Reviewer for journal article, *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos*, March.

2020 - Reviewer for journal article, *Halac (Historia Ambiental Latinoamericana y Caribeña)*, October.

2020 - Invited panelist for National Science Foundation (NSF), General Advisory Panel at NSF headquarters, Alexandria, VA, November.

2020 - Reviewer for journal article, *Global Environment*, White Horse Press, June.

2020 - Invited panelist for National Science Foundation (NSF), General Advisory Panel at NSF headquarters, Alexandria, VA, April.

2019 - Reviewer for *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, May.

2019 - Reviewer for NSF Grant Proposal, April.

2019 - Reviewer for *Environmental History*, March.

2019 - Reviewer for *Historia Crítica*, February.

2018 - Reviewer for special issue of *Global Environment*, White Horse Press, October.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Society for Environmental History

American Historical Association

Sociedad Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Historia Ambiental

The Conference on Latin American History

World History Association

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish - Read, Write, Speak

Portuguese - Read, Write, Speak



German - Read, Write