Germán Vergara

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EDUCATION

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

M.A. in History, University of California, Berkeley, 2010

B.A. in Social Anthropology, National School of Anthropology and History (Mexico), 2007

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

2023-Present - Georgia Tech, Associate Professor of History

2017-2023 - Georgia Tech, Assistant Professor of History

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

Visiting Appointments

2022-2023 - Harvard University, Cisneros Visiting Scholar, DRCLAS (David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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

Winner of the Elinor Melville Prize for Latin American Environmental History, awarded by The Conference on Latin American History (CLAH), 2023.

Honorable mention, Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Best Book in the Humanities, 2022.

Articles or Book Chapters

"Where the Wild Things Aren't: Species Loss and Capitalisms in Latin America Since 1800," *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*, December 2022.

Forum "Extinction and Its Interventions in the Americas," co-editor with Emily Wakild and contributor, *Environmental History* (April 2022), vol. 27, num. 2: 294-353.

"Bestiario latinoamericano: los animales en la historiografía de América Latina," *História, Ciências, Saúde-Manguinhos*, vol. 28 (Dec. 2021): 187-208.

"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

Books
Becoming History: Species Extinctions in Latin America, 1800-2010 (manuscript in preparation)

Articles
"Wolves in Global History," Invited contribution to the *Oxford Handbook of the Global History of Animals*. Editors: Faisal Husain, Nancy Jacobs, Emily Wakild. (Accepted; expected publication in 2026-2027)

"The Flow of History: Environment, Industry, and Urbanization on a Mexican River" (in preparation for submission).

"Excavating the Anthropocene: Mining, Energy, and Environment in Nineteenth-and-Twentieth-Century Mexico." Invited contribution to the *Handbook on the Anthropocene in Latin America*, Centro Maria Sibylla Merian de Estudios Latinoamericanos Avanzados (CALAS). Editors: Olaf Kaltmeier, Eleonora Rohland, Gerardo Gutiérrez Cham, and Susana Herrera Lima. (Submitted in November 2022-expected publication Spring 2026)

"Where the Air is Unclear: Technofixes and the Normalization of Air Pollution in Mexico City After 1950" (accepted for publication).

BOOK REVIEWS

Erika Pani, *Torn Asunder: Republican Crises and Civil Wars in the United States and Mexico, 1848–1867* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2025). Forthcoming in ReVista, Harvard, 2026.

Carmen Martínez Novo, *Undoing Multiculturalism: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Ecuador* (Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021). Published by *H-Environment*, September 2022.

Diana Montaño, *Electrifying Mexico: Technology and the Transformation of a Modern City* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2021). Forthcoming with *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*.

Kristin A. Wintersteen, *The Fishmeal Revolution: The Industrialization of the Humboldt Current Ecosystem* (Berkeley, University of California Press, 2021). Published by *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*, July 2022.

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

Georgia Tech

Global History of Science and Technology-*National University of Singapore* (Summer 2026)

Global History of Science and Technology-*Georgia Tech-Europe* (Summer 2025)

Development, Science, and Technology (graduate seminar, Spring 2025)

The Global Scientific Revolution (Spring 2025)

Global History of Science and Technology (Fall 2024)

Global History of Science and Technology-*Georgia Tech-Europe* (Summer 2024)

Global Environmental History (2024)

Modern Latin American History (Spring 2024)

Main advisor, Ph.D. student Alejandra Ruíz, HSOC, Georgia Tech (2022-)

Graduate Seminar on Sociohistorical Analysis (Spring 2022)

Graduate Independent Study - Global Environmental History (Fall 2021)

Seminar Global Issues - Global Environmental History (Fall 2021)

Chair of Comprehensive Exams, 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 20th - 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

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

SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2024 - Elinor Melville Prize in Latin American Environmental History for *Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950*, Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)

2022 - 2022 IAC Faculty Excellence in Research Award, Georgia Tech

2022 - Latin American Studies Association (LASA) honorable mention for best book in the humanities award for *Fueling Mexico: Energy and Environment, 1850-1950* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2021)

2022 - 2022-23 Cisneros Visiting Scholar of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS), Harvard University

2021 - Class of 1969 Teaching Fellow, Georgia Tech

2020 - Atlanta Global Studies Center Travel Grant

2020 - Small Research Grant, Ivan Allen College, Georgia Tech

2020 - Honors Program Professional Development Funds, Georgia Tech

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 20th-Century Mexico and Brazil," X Simposio de la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia Ambiental, Quito, Ecuador, 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

2025 - "Early Migrants: Border Crossing, Wolf Fences, and the Creation of a 'Mexican' Wolf," American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Pittsburgh, April 9-12

2024 - "Born to be Captive: A History of the Mexican Wolf Captive Breeding Program," American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Denver, April 3-7.

2024 – "Many Anthropocenes or Just One? Caribbean Extinctions Over Time," American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Denver, April 3-7.

2023 - "Coal in Mexico: Past and Present," American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Boston, March 22-26.

2022 - "Energizing History: Historias de energía mexicana y la historiografía contemporánea," roundtable, XVI Reunión Internacional de Historiadores de México, Austin, October 30th-November 2nd.

2022 - “Dogged History: A Transnational History of the Mexican Wolf's Near Extinction,” American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Eugene, March 22-27.

2022 - “Powering Mexican History: A Roundtable,” SECOLAS (Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies), Charlotte, March 10-12.
2022 - “Commodity Extraction and Indigenous Mobilization in Colonial to Twenty-First Century Latin America,” (discussant), AHA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, January 6-9, 2022.

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. (Cancelled due to Covid)

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.

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

2025 - “Becoming History: Species Extinctions and Defaunation in the Americas from the Late Pleistocene to the Present,” MIT, rescheduled for September 2026

2025 - “Becoming History: Species Extinctions and Defaunation in the Americas from the Late Pleistocene to the Present,” Texas Christian University, October 2025

2025 - “Academic Freedom in Mexico: A Few Observations" HSOC Academic Freedom and Human Rights Symposium, October 2025

2025 - “Becoming History: Species Extinctions and Defaunation in the Americas from the Late Pleistocene to the Present,” North Carolina State University, September

2025 - “Animal History: A New Lens for Old Topics?”, Emory University Symposium “Histories of Commodities and the Environment, April 2025

2024 - “Becoming History: Species Extinctions in the Americas, 1800-2010,” HSOC Georgia Tech, March

2023 - “Species Extinctions in the Americas, 1800-2010,” University of Kansas, November.

2023 - “Becoming History: Defaunation, Species Extinctions, and Capitalism(s) in Latin America Since 1800,” Harvard University, April.

2022 - “Los animales en la historia de América Latina,” Universidad de Puerto Rico, October.

2022 - “Bestiario latinoamericano: los animales en la historiografía,” Universidad Autónoma de México (UAM) and Universidad de Guadalajara, October. *Keynote speaker*.

2022 - “Los animales en la historia,” Universidad Nacional de México (UNAM), August.

2022 - “Energy Transitions in 19-Century Latin America,” Universidad Nacional de Colombia-Bogotá, June.

2022 - “Latin American Pasts and Futures,” Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Latin America, April.

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

2021 - Guest speaker, "Coal and Forest Conservation in Mexico," UGA, November.

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

2023 - The Latin American Environmental Humanities Lab, LAEH Lab, Georgia Tech. Creators: Miguel Rosas (Modern Languages) and Germán Vergara (HSOC).

2022 - Environmental Humanities Podcast, UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico), April 5.

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

2024 - present - Faculty Advisory Committee HSOC

2024 - present - Graduate Committee HSOC

2024 - Co-Chair of Search Committee for Cluster Hire in History/Sociology of Science, Technology, or Medicine

2024 - present - HSOC Graduate Studies Committee Member

2022 - 2025 - Chair of HSOC Speaker Series Committee.

2021 - 2022 - 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 - 2021- HSOC Speaker 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

2025-present - Committee member American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Presents initiative

2024-2025 - Chair of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Presents initiative

2024 - Conference on Latin American History (CLAH) Book Prize in Mexican History Committee Member

2023 - American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) 2024 Conference Program Committee Member

2023 - Reviewer of book manuscript for University of Texas Press

2023 - Reviewer of book manuscript for University of North Carolina Press

2023 - Reviewer for journal article, *Environmental History*

2022 - Reviewer of journal article, *Technology and Culture*

2022 - Invited panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Latin American Studies, October

2022 - Reviewer of historical monograph, *H-Environment*

2022 - Reviewer of historical monograph, *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*, June

2022 - Reviewer of journal article for *Investigaciones Históricas. Época Moderna y Contemporánea*

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

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

2021 - Reviewer of 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 of historical monograph, *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*, December

2021 - Reviewer of historical monograph, *Technology and Culture*, March

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

2020 - Reviewer of 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 of 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 of journal article *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, May

2019 - Reviewer for NSF Grant Proposal, April

2019 - Reviewer of journal article *for Environmental History*, March

2019 - Reviewer of journal article for *Historia Crítica*, February

2018 - Reviewer of journal article 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 – Native Speaker

English - Read, Write, Speak Fluently

Portuguese - Read, Write, Conversational

German - Read, Basic-Level Writing, Basic-Level Conversation

French - Read, Basic-Level Writing, Basic-Level Conversation