

DR. CLAUDIA FONSECA ALFARO

Independent researcher | c.fonseca.alfaro@gmail.com | www.claudiafonsecaalfaro.com

PROFILE

Postcolonial and feminist scholar born in 1985. I am interested in exploring the entanglements of urbanization processes, the global economy, and everyday life in the inconspicuous places of the global South.

Research interests

global commodity chains, uneven development, political ecology, extractivism, anthropology of infrastructure, global intimate, colonial remains, epistemic injustice, theories of space, sociological aspects of technology

Language Skills

Spanish (Native) | English (Fluent) | Swedish (Intermediate)

EDUCATION

PhD in Urban Studies | March 2018

Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, Sweden

MSc in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science | June 2010

Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), Lund University, Sweden

BS Biotechnology Engineering | December 2007

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Mexico

WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher | Linnaeus University, Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies | September to October 2024

Project Researcher | Malmö University, Institute for Urban Research | January 2022 to February 2024

Postdoctoral Fellow | Malmö University, Institute for Urban Research | January 2020 to December 2021

Research Assistant | Malmö University, Institute for Urban Research | March to December 2019

PhD Student Lecturer | Malmö University, Department of Urban Studies | February 2013 to February 2018

Social and Environmental Sustainability Analyst | Levi Strauss & Co. | March 2011 to February 2012

VISITING RESEARCHER

2023 | February to September | Urban Institute | University of Sheffield

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2022 | 12 months | Parental leave

PUBLICATIONS

Original articles

Fonseca Alfaro C, Celik Ö, Kadioglu D and Melgaço L (2022) Editorial: Dislocating Urban Studies. *Urban Matters* May. Available at: https://urbanmattersjournal.com/issue/dislocating_urban_studies/. Role: Co-author, conception and design of the article.

Fonseca Alfaro C, Melgaço L and Baeten G (2022) Understanding smart cities through a critical lens. *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Futures*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-51812-7_344-1. Role: Co-author, drafting and revising major parts of the work.

Fonseca Alfaro C (2021) Feminist Lefebvre? Understanding Capitalist Urbanization through the Global Intimate. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies* 20(4). Available at: <https://acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/1891>.

Fonseca Alfaro C (2020) The production of maquiladora space in Motul, Mexico: from henequen municipality to industrial city. *Articulo - Journal of Urban Research* 21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/articulo.4577>.

Books and book chapters

Fonseca Alfaro C (2023) *Producing Mayaland: Colonial Legacies, Urbanization, and the Unfolding of Global Capitalism*, Hoboken: Wiley.

Fonseca Alfaro C (2022) Planetary urbanization and maquiladoras in Motul, Yucatán. Unveiling abstract space in the Ex-City. In: Reis N and Lukas M (eds), *Beyond the Megacity: New Dimensions of Peripheral Urbanization in Latin America*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Fonseca Alfaro C (2018) *The Land of the Magical Maya: Colonial Legacies, Urbanization, and the Unfolding of Global Capitalism*. Malmö University.

Other (peer-reviewed)

Fonseca Alfaro C (2021). Finding the secondary or overlooked city? Some methodological reflections from a postcolonial urban scholar. In: Neves Alves S and Rusczyk H (eds), *Theorizing from the overlooked city: Generating a research agenda & network on small/secondary cities*, digital magazine. https://93e76a9d-000c-45df-b30c-cce5dbe0e070.filesusr.com/ugd/7cb1c8_ae7c1cea778d4f5eac9354008e37e6be.pdf

Popular science

Fonseca Alfaro C (2024) *Smart Cities in the Global South: Two Case Studies from Mexico*. Monterrey: Tori Press. Available at: https://smartcitiesintheglobalsouth.files.wordpress.com/2024/01/zine_smart-cities-in-the-global-south.pdf

Fonseca Alfaro C (2019) Las Maquiladoras En Yucatán: Una Mirada Al Pasado. La Voz de Motul. Yucatán.

Book reviews

Celik Ö, **Fonseca Alfaro C**, Kadioglu D, et al. (2021) Helga Leitner, Jamie Peck and Eric Sheppard (eds.) 2020: *Urban Studies Inside/Out: Theory, Method, Practice*. London: Sage. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. DOI: 10.1080/00346768200000024. Role: Co-author, conception and design of the review.

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Awards and Distinctions

2018 Best Doctoral Thesis | Malmö University | 50,000 SEK (4,965 €)

2008 CONACYT Fellow | Mexican Science and Technology Council

Research Funding (as main applicant)

2019 | Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (FORMAS) | *Smart Cities in the Global South: Contributing to Cosmopolitan Urban Studies* | 2.1 million SEK (208,557 €)

2015 | Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography | Fieldwork PhD Project | 40,000 SEK (3,973 €)

Research Funding (as co-applicant)

2020 | Malmö University's Special Call for Research Related to COVID-19 | *Public Health, Epidemics and Urban Planning: Reinstating the Connection* | 700,000 SEK (69,519 €)

2020 | Institute for Urban Research | *Dislocating Urban Studies: Rethinking Theory, Shifting Practice* | 100,000 SEK (9,931 €)

Reviewer

2024 | Revista Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos

2024 | Social Inclusion

2023 | Progress in Human Geography

2022 | Revista Invi | Instituto de la Vivienda, Universidad de Chile

2022 | Book Chapter | Territorios y Desarrollo en Latinoamérica: Debates Actuales y Perspectivas Futuras desde una Óptica de la Región | Universidad de Costa Rica

2021 | Culture Unbound. Journal of Current Cultural Research

2020 | Space and Culture

2020 | Urban Planning

2019 | Emotion, Space and Society (EMOSPA)

2019 | Book Chapter | Beyond Housing Displacement: Conceptual and Methodological Issues | Routledge

Scientific Committee

2021 | Theme: Urban-Rural Development | The Baltic University Programme Symposium

2020 | Theme 4: Urban-Rural Development | The Baltic University Programme Symposium

Scientific Research Networks

2021 to present | Urban Agency III: Towards a Sustainable Integration of Disciplines in Urban Studies | University of Antwerp

Participation in Conferences

2024 Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) Conference. Lund. Session: *Smart and climate just housing*

2024 12th Conference of the Nordic Latin American Research Network. Copenhagen. Session: *Space, governance, and colonial remains in Latin America*

2023 RGS-IBG. London. Session: *Informational peripheries: Rethinking the urban in a digital age*

2023 AAG. Denver. Session: *Towards a genealogy of global infrastructure: Histories, temporalities, ruptures*

2022 Nordic Geographers Meeting. Joensuu. Session organizer: *Messy smart cities: Comparative perspectives and methodological challenges*

2021 RC21 Conference. Online. Session organizer: *Racial capitalism, everyday life and the city*

2021 RC21 Conference. Online. Session: *The Paradox of Mega Urban Projects: Imaginaries, Practices and Experiences*

2019 Beyond Smart Cities Today Symposium. Centre for BOLD Cities. Rotterdam. Session: *Rethinking smart city scholarship*

2019 RGS-IBG. London. Session: *Natural Slaves: Labour, Race, and Infrastructure*

2019 Nordic Geographers Meeting. Trondheim. Session: *Struggling with the planetary turn*

2018 Global Challenges: Borders, Populism, and the Postcolonial Condition. Växjö. Linnaeus University Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies. Session: *Colonial Legacies*

2018 AAG. New Orleans. Session: *Urbanism and Marginality in the Global South II*

2017 Nordic Geographers Meeting. Stockholm. Session: *Women in geography: is there a disciplinary glass ceiling?*

2017 9th Conference of the Nordic Latin American Research Network. Gothenburg. Session: *Development models*

2016 RGS-IBG. London. Session: *Emergent urban spaces: A planetary perspective*

2016 AAG. San Francisco. Session: *Peri-urban spaces in the neoliberal Americas 1*

Visiting Researcher

2023 (February – September) | Urban Institute | University of Sheffield

TEACHING

Lund University | Department of Human Geography | Master's in Human Ecology

Course: Theory of Science II

Lund University | Faculty of Social Sciences | Graduate School

Course: Critical Feminist Perspectives in Social Theory

Malmö University | Department of Urban Studies | Free-standing PhD Course

Course: Dislocating Urban Studies: Rethinking Theory, Shifting Practice

Malmö University | Department of Urban Studies | Migration, Urbanisation and Societal Change (MUSA) Doctoral Program

Course: MUSA Introduction Course

Malmö University | Department of Urban Studies | Master's in Urban Studies

Courses: The Urban Question, Catching Urbanity (Methods course), Making Urban Studies (Creative Methods course), Research Internship (2 mentees), Thesis Supervision (5 successful MA thesis advisees)

Malmö University | School of Arts and Communication | Master's in Communication for Development

Courses: Communication and Development Cooperation; Culture and Media Analysis; Media, Globalization and Development; Degree Project (Thesis Supervision)

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

2021 | Collaborative Learning in Digital Learning Environments (HP621A), 5 ECTS credits, Malmö University

2021 | Educating for Critical Thinking (HP622E), 5 ECTS credits, Malmö University

2016 | Supporting the Learning of Others (MAH0207), 5 ECTS credits, Malmö University

PUBLIC OUTREACH

2020 | Lecture high school students, *Globalization and urbanization*, Öckerö seglande gymnasieskola

2018 | Interview, *Myten om mayafolket används för att locka investeringar till Mexikos exportindustri*, Communication Department, Malmö University

INVITED TALKS

2020 | PhD Workshop, *Stress and Time Management*, Malmö University
2018 | Career Planning Workshop, *Life after a PhD*, Malmö University
2018 | Woman in Academia: Perspectives from Swedish Early-Career Women Academics, Karlstad University
2018 | LUCSUS Seminar on Urban Environmental Justice, Lund University
2017 | Development Research Day, Lund University

LEADERSHIP ROLES AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Organization: Seminar Series, Workshops and Conferences

2022 | **Beyond Smart Cities Today: Power, Justice and Resistance.** Conference organizer (with Carina Listerborn, Maja de Neergaard, Adriana de la Peña, Fredrik Torisson). Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University
2021 | **Dislocating Urban Studies: Rethinking Theory, Shifting Practice.** Workshop organizer (with Özlem Çelik, Defne Kadioglu, and Lorena Melgaço). Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University in collaboration with University of Helsinki
2019-2020 | **Brown Bag Seminars.** Seminar series organizer. Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University
2018 | **Gendered and Racialized Bodies: Doing Decolonial Geography in/from the Margins.** Workshop organizer (with Srilata Sircar). Malmö University in collaboration with Lund University
2013-2014 | **Seminars in Urban Studies.** Seminar series organizer (with Malin Mc Glinn). Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University

Membership in Research Boards or Collegia

2019 - present | **Board Member.** IUR Executive Board, Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University
2016-2017 | **Chairperson, Doctoral Collegium.** Faculty of Culture and Society, Malmö University
2015 | **Board Member.** Communications Officer. Doctoral Student Union, Malmö University