

FEDERICO PÉREZ FERNÁNDEZ

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Harvard University
Social Anthropology (2014)
- M.A. University of Chicago
Social Sciences (2006)
- B.A. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia (2000)
Philosophy

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021- Associate Professor of Urban Anthropology
Portland State University, University Honors College
- 2015-2021 Assistant Professor of Urban Anthropology
Portland State University, University Honors College
- 2014-2015 Postdoctoral College Fellow
Harvard University, Department of Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- 2025 *Urbanism as Warfare: Planning, Insecurity, and the Remaking of Downtown Bogotá*. Cornell University Press.

Articles and book chapters

- 2026 ["Of Cables and Threads: Reweaving the Urban Fabric at the City's Edge."](#)
American Ethnologist 53: 283-295.
- 2025 ["Retrofit: Aerial Cable Cars and the Reengineering of Urban Worlds."](#)
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 43(1): 8-28.
- 2023 "The Archaeology of Decay: Ruinous Knowledge and the Violence of Urban Planning." *American Anthropologist* 125(3): 505-518.
- 2020 "'The Miracle of Density': The Socio-material Epistemics of Urban Densification." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 44(4): 617-635.

- 2020 "Materializing (In)securities: Urban Terrain, Paperwork, and Housing in Downtown Bogotá." *Anthropological Quarterly* 93(1): 1491-1522.
- 2020 "An Anatomy of Failure: Planning After the Fact in Contemporary Bogotá." In *Life Among Urban Planners: Practices, Professionalism, and Expertise in the Making of the City*. J. Mack and M. Herzfeld, eds. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2016 ["Excavating Legal Landscapes: Juridical Archaeology and the Politics of Bureaucratic Materiality in Bogotá, Colombia."](#) *Cultural Anthropology* 31(2): 215-243.
 *Reprinted as "Excavando paisajes legales: la arqueología jurídica y la política de la materialidad burocrática." Translated by Claudia Abello and Federico Pérez. In *Etnografías burocráticas: una nueva mirada a la construcción del estado en Colombia*. I. Jaramillo Sierra and L. Buchely Ibarra, eds. Bogotá: Ediciones Uniandes.
- 2015 "La Renovación Urbana en Contexto" [Urban Renewal in Context]. In *De la Renovación a la Revitalización: Desafíos para Bogotá [From Renewal to Revitalization: Challenges for Bogotá]*. Bogotá: Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá y Secretaría Distrital de Planeación.
- 2010 ["Laboratorios de Reconstrucción Urbana: Hacia una Antropología de la Política Urbana en Colombia"](#) [Laboratories of Urban Reconstruction: Toward an Anthropology of Urban Policy in Colombia]. *Antípoda No.10 (Antropología de la Política Pública)*, Enero – Junio 2010: 51-84.

Essays and reviews

- 2025 *A Tyranny Against Itself: Intimate Partner Violence in the Margins of Bogotá* by John I.B. Bhadra-Heintz. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. *American Anthropologist* 127(4): 915-916.
- 2020 ["Bogotá's Urban Development Conflicts: Insecurity & Memory in the City,"](#) *Items, Layered Metropolis series, Social Science Research Council*.
- 2020 [For the War Yet to Come: Planning Beirut's Frontiers](#) by Hiba Bou Akar. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. *Society and Space*.
- 2016 *Endangered City: the politics of security and risk in Bogotá* by Austin Zeiderman. Durham: Duke University Press. *Anthropological Quarterly* 89(4): 1227-1237.
- 2015 ["Post-Conflict Urbanism and The Logics of Warfare in Colombia."](#) Fieldsights, Hot Spots, *Cultural Anthropology*, April 30, 2015.
- 2013 ["Peopling Space: Contemporary Redevelopment in Bogotá."](#) *openDemocracy* (Cities in Conflict), 4 March 2013.
- 2012 ["Bogotá: Up Against the City."](#) *The Caravan: A Journal of Politics and Culture*. October 2012.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2022	Portland State University – Faculty Development Grant
2020	American Council of Learned Societies – Fellowship
2016	Portland State University – Faculty Development Grant
2013	Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University – Dissertation Completion Grant
2012	Social Science Research Council and Open Society Foundations – Drugs, Security, and Democracy Fellowship
2011	Inter-American Foundation – Grassroots Development Fellowship
2011	The Wenner-Gren Foundation – Dissertation Grant
2011	David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies – Research Grant
2010	Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Summer – Research Grant
2010	David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies – Research Grant
2009	Weatherhead Center for International Affairs – Graduate Student Fellowship
2009	Harvard University Graduate Society – Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

AWARDS

2026	Portland State University – Honors College Researcher of the Year Award
2026	Portland State University – Honors College Teaching Award
2015	Certificate of Excellence in Teaching – Derek Bok Center, Harvard University
2015	Star Family Certificate of Excellence in Advising, Harvard University
2011	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching – Derek Bok Center, Harvard University
2006	University of Chicago, Earl S. and Esther Johnson Prize for M.A. thesis

INVITED LECTURES

2019	“Terrains of Urban Knowledge,” Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, April 25.
2019	“Materializing (In)securities: Urban Terrain, Paperwork, and Housing in Bogotá.” Colegio de México, Mexico City, April 25.
2018	“Materializing (In)securities: Urban Terrain, Paperwork, and Housing in Bogotá.” Department of Anthropology, Reed College, Portland, OR, September 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025	“Infrastructuring Urban Ecologies: Gondola Lifts and Social Collectives at the City’s Edge.” American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November.
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- 2021 “Retrofit: Flyover Cities and Cable Car Visions.” American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., November.
- 2019 “Urban Conspiracies and Techno-Legal Temporalities: The “Archaeology of Decay” in Downtown Bogotá.” American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, B.C., November.
- 2018 “Flyover Cities: Aerial Cable Cars and the Politics of Infrastructural and Technological Aesthetics in Urban Latin America.” American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November.
- 2017 ““The Miracle of Density’: The Politics of Urban Design and Densification in Bogotá.” American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., November.
- 2016 “The Infrastructure of Infrastructure: Cable-Car Networks and the Dream of Infrastructure,” Latin American Studies Association, New York City, May.
- 2015 “Excavating Legal Landscapes: Juridical Archaeology and the Politics of Bureaucratic Materiality in Bogotá, Colombia,” American Anthropological Association, Denver, November.
- 2015 “Urbanism as Warfare: The Architecture of Urban Sovereignty in Bogotá, Colombia,” Johns Hopkins University, Latin American Studies Conference, Baltimore, April.
- 2015 “Urbanism and Failure,” Association of American Geographers, Chicago, April.
- 2014 “Urbanism as Warfare: Planning, Property, and Displacement in Bogotá,” Anthropology Day, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, September.
- 2013 “The Art of Approximation: Planning Failures in Bogotá.” American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November.
- 2013 “The Unmaking and Remaking of Downtown Bogotá.” Latin American Studies Association, Washington D.C., May.
- 2012 “Redevelopment Struggles in Contemporary Bogotá.” American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November.
- 2012 “Urban Space in Contemporary Bogotá: policy artifacts and assemblages.” ISA Forum of Sociology, Buenos Aires, August.
- 2012 “An Ethnography of Failure: making planning work Bogotá.” Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, May.
- 2011 “The praxis of socio-spatial justice: Contemporary policymaking and planning in Bogotá (Colombia).” Research Committee 21, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July.
- 2010 “Reassembling Urban Visions and Landscapes: Contemporary Planning in Bogotá, Colombia.” American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November.
- 2009 “Laboratories of Urban Reconstruction: Citizen Culture and Social Urbanism in Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia.” City Futures in a Globalizing World, Madrid, Spain, July.

CONFERENCE AND PANEL ORGANIZATION

- 2016 Co-organizer of the panel, “Military Urbanisms: Planning, Expertise, and Everyday Spaces,” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November.
- 2013 Co-organizer of the panel, “Urbanism and Failure,” American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November.
- 2013 Co-organizer of the panel, “Cities in Transition: The Politics of Urban Transformation in Latin America,” Latin American Studies Association, Washington D.C., May.
- 2012 Co-organizer of the International Conference, “Renewing Urban Renewal: Policies, Conflicts, and Innovations,” Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá.
- 2009 Co-organizer of the Mellon Graduate Student Conference, “Objects of Knowledge, Objects of Exchange: Contours of Interdisciplinarity,” Humanities Center – Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, May.

TEACHING

Courses

- 2015- Portland State University
Undergraduate seminars:
Cities of the Global South
Latin American Cities
Planners, Bureaucrats, and Experts
Infrastructural Ecologies
Unruly Topographies

Honors core courses:
The Global City I-III (First-year sequence)
Urban Social Sciences: Urban Ethnography Lab
Honors Thesis Continuation Course
- 2014-2015 Harvard University
Undergraduate/graduate seminars:
Cities of the Global South
Latin American Cities
Planners, Bureaucrats, and Experts

Thesis and Dissertation Advising

- 2025 Sebastián Ramírez Crespo, Ph.D. dissertation, Colegio de México.
“Ethnography of Urban Planning in Mexico City.”
- 2020 Josie Allison, B.A. Honors Thesis, Portland State University.
“Greening Inequality: How Urban Sustainable Development Fails Under Neoliberalism.”
- 2019 Diadira J. Pedro-Xuncax, B.A. Honors Thesis, Portland State University.

“Portland Oregon’s “Right to Return” Policy & its Relation to Urban Renewal: A Community Psychology Approach.”

2017 Katrina Edelen, B.A. Honors Thesis, Portland State University.

“The Emergence of Portland's ‘Unique’ Homelessness: Does the City's Pattern of Compassion Suggest a New Perspective on Poverty?”

2015 Anneli Tostar, B.A. Thesis, Harvard University, Department of Anthropology.

“Bodies in the Street: Social Mobility and Spatial Segregation in São Paulo, Brazil.”

2011 Rosana Galavis, B.A. Thesis, Harvard University, Department of Anthropology.

“Unraveling Lei 10.639: What Incorporating Afro-Brazilian History and Culture into The National Curriculum Reveals about The State, Society and Schooling in Brazil.”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2015- Journal manuscript reviewer:

Anthropological Quarterly; Built Environment; Bulletin of Latin American Research; Comparative Studies in Society and History; Cultural Anthropology; Geoforum; International Journal of Urban and Regional Research; Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology; Journal of Legal Anthropology; Planning Perspectives; Political and Legal Anthropology Review; Environment and Planning D: Society and Space; Urban Geography; Urban Studies.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE SERVICE

2024- Equity in Honors Committee, Portland State University, Honors College.

2023- Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement Committee, Portland State University.

2020-2021 University Research Committee, Portland State University.

2019-2020 Research Advisory Council, Portland State University.

2019- Study Abroad Committee, Portland State University, Honors College.

2018-2019 Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Urban Geography, Portland State University, Honors College.

2017-2019 Curriculum Committee, Portland State University, Honors College.

2017-2019 Faculty Advisor, Honors Community Fellows, Portland State University, Honors College.

2015-2018 Governance Committee, Portland State University, Honors College.