

ALEXANDER L. FATTAL

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POSITIONS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, Department of Communication, Associate Professor, 2021–present

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, Department of Communication, Assistant Professor, 2019–2021

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Department of Film-Video and Media Studies, secondary appointment in Department of Anthropology, Assistant Professor, 2016–2019

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Mahindra Humanities Center, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, 2014–15

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA, 9/2006–5/2014

PhD: Social Anthropology, May 2014

Dissertation: *Guerrilla Marketing: Information War & the Demobilization of FARC Rebels*, winner of LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award from the Latin American Studies Association

Secondary fields: Critical Media Practice, Film and Visual Studies

Certificate: Latin American Studies

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA 9/2006—5/2008

Master of Arts: Social Anthropology, May 2008

UNIVERSIDAD de los ANDES, Bogotá, Colombia, 9/2001–5/2002

Graduate level coursework, 2001–2002

DUKE UNIVERSITY, Durham, NC, 9/1997–5/2001

Bachelor of Arts: Magna Cum Laude; Comparative Area Studies & Spanish; May 2001

Honors thesis: *The Role of Photography in the South African Liberation Struggle*

Semester abroad: Universidad de Chile, Fall 1999

FELLOWSHIPS, VISITING POSITIONS

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES, Scholars and Society Fellow, AjA Project, 2021–2022

UNIVERSIDAD ICESI, Anthropology Department, Fulbright IIE Visiting Researcher, Cali, Colombia, Spring 2018

WENNER-GREN FOUNDATION, Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship, summer 2017

PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD JAVERIANA, Faculty of Social Sciences, Postdoctoral Fellow,
Bogotá, Colombia, summers of 2016, 2017, 2018

UNIVERSIDAD de los ANDES, Art department, Visiting Professor, Bogotá, Colombia, Fall 2015

HONORS, GRANTS, AWARDS, and FELLOWSHIPS

John Collier Jr. Book Award from the Society for Visual Anthropology for *Shooting Cameras for Peace: Youth, Photography, and the Colombian Armed Conflict / Disparando Cámaras para la Paz: Juventud, Fotografía, y el Conflicto Armado Colombiano*

Independent Publisher Book Awards, Current Events I, Bronze, Book Award for *Shooting Cameras for Peace: Youth, Photography, and the Colombian Armed Conflict / Disparando Cámaras para la Paz: Juventud, Fotografía, y el Conflicto Armado Colombiano*, 2021

Mellon/ACLS Scholars and Society Fellowship, San Diego, CA, AY 2021–22.

Panorama du Cinéma Colombien (film festival), Paris, France, Student Jury Prize, for *Limbo*, 2020

University of California, San Diego, Teaching + Learning Commons, Changemaker Faculty Fellow, 2020–2022

International Communication Association, Division of Global Communication and Social Change, Book Award for *Guerrilla Marketing: Counterinsurgency and Capitalism in Colombia*, 2020

University of California, San Diego, Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research, research grant, 2020

Latin American Studies Association Film Festival, Best Documentary Short for *Limbo*, 2020

University of California, San Diego, Social Science Divisional Research Grant, 2020

University of California, San Diego, Faculty Senate Research Grant, 2020

University of California Office of the President, Critical Refugees Studies Collective, Faculty grant, “Refugees’ Visions of Community amidst Unfinished Journeys, Views from Altos de Cazucá (“The Heights of Cazucá,” Colombia) and City Heights, San Diego,” 2020

American Ethnological Society, Book Prize, Winner Sharon Stephens Prize (fieldwide, biennial prize for first book) for *Guerrilla Marketing: Counterinsurgency and Capitalism in Colombia*, 2019

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Book Prize, Honorable Mention for *Guerrilla Marketing: Counterinsurgency and Capitalism in Colombia*, 2019

Pennsylvania State University, Center for Global Studies, research grant, 2019

Pennsylvania State University, Center for Global Studies, support for translation of *Shooting Cameras for Peace* and book launch, 2018

Pennsylvania State University, Arthur W. Page Center, translation and index funds for *Guerrilla Marketing*, 2018

Pennsylvania State University, Dean’s award, Summer Faculty Research Funding, summer 2018

Pennsylvania State University, Center for Security Research and Education, research grant, 2018

Ministry of Culture, Republic of Colombia, Proimágenes, Fondo de Desarrollo Cinematográfico (Film Development Fund), Documentary Short Production, Republic of Colombia, 2018

Fulbright Scholar, Colombia, Cali, ICESI, Visiting Researcher Grant, Spring 2018

UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, and the Economic and Social Sciences Research Council, researcher on a large interdisciplinary grant won by Oxford University's Department of Politics and International Relations, 2017–2021

Pennsylvania State University, Dean's award, Summer Faculty Research Funding, summer 2017

Wenner-Gren Foundation, Fejos Postdoctoral Fellowship, summer 2017

Pennsylvania State University, Don Davis Summer Research Award, summer 2016

Pennsylvania State University, Center for Global Studies, Faculty Travel Grant, Cuba & Colombia, 2016

LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award from the Latin American Studies Association, 2015

Columbia University, Society of Fellows (alternate), 2015

Wenner-Gren Foundation, Engaged Anthropology grantee, 2014

Harvard University, Film Study Center, Fellow, 2013–15

United States Institute for Peace, Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar, 2013–14

Cora Du Bois Charitable Trust, Cora Du Bois Fellowship, Summer 2013

Harvard University, Harvard Horizons; one of eight graduate students selected to give an honorary lecture on their “groundbreaking” and “innovative” research findings, May 6, 2013
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhw1VsRQyEU>

Social Science Research Council, Drugs Security and Democracy Fellowship, Open Society Foundations, 2012–13

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Sheldon Traveling Scholarship, 2012–13

Social Science Research Council, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2011–12; research featured on the SSRC home page, October 2012

Wenner-Gren, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, 2011–12

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, 2006–10

Swedish Institute, Guest Scholars Program at the University of Stockholm, Latinamerika-Institutet, 2009

Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, graduate student associate, 2008–2014

Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, summer research award, 2007, 2008, 2011

U.S. Dept. of Education, Foreign Language Area Studies, Universidade da Amazônia, Belém, Brazil, 2008

Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Graduate Student Research Fellow, 2008, 2010

Duke University, Center for Documentary Studies, Lewis Hine Documentary Fellow, South Africa, 2003–5

Fulbright IIE, Colombia, Universidad de los Andes/Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 2001–2; awarded “Exemplary Public Diplomacy” distinction by U.S. Department of State, 2002

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS [Books]

Ethnographic Surrealism: Creative Photojournalism in Post-Peace Accord Colombia

Under contract with University of Chicago Press, in process

Shooting Cameras for Peace: Youth, Photography, and the Colombian Armed Conflict/ Disparando Cámaras para la Paz: Juventud, fotografía y el conflicto armada colombiano

Peabody Museum Press / Harvard University Press, December 2020, photographs by the youth of Altos de Cazucá, afterword by Doris Sommer, translation by María Clemencia Ramírez and Andy Klatt

Awarded: John Collier Jr. Award; Independent Publisher Book Award, Current Events I, Bronze.

Guerrilla Marketing: Counterinsurgency and Capitalism in Colombia

University of Chicago Press, December 2018, Chicago Studies in Practices of Meaning series

Reviewed by: *New Yorker*, *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*, *Cultural Anthropology* Visual and New Media Review (Book Forum, five reviews), *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, *American Ethnologist*, *Communication Review*, *Visual Anthropology Review*

Awarded: Book Award of the Global Communication and Social Change Division of the International Communication Association (2020), Sharon Stephens Biennial Book Prize of the American Ethnological Society (2019); Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Book Prize, honorable mention (2019)

Guerrilla Marketing: Contrainsurgencia y Capitalismo en Colombia (translation)

Editorial Universidad del Rosario, May 2019, translated by María Clemencia Ramírez and Andrew Klatt

Reviewed by: *Revista de Estudios Colombianos* (Colombia), *Campos* (Brazil), *Pacifista* (Colombia)

FILMS

***Limbo* (2019, 25mins)**

Director: Alexander L. Fattal, Producers: Alexander L. Fattal, Nicolás Van Hemelryk, Clare Weiskopf. *An oneiric journey through Javier Alexander's life as a former FARC guerrilla leads to a reckoning with the devil inside of him. Javier Alexander tells his story of war and its legacy inside of a truck transformed into a camera obscura, a space where dreams suffuse with reality and a life in limbo is illuminated.*

Festivals:

Sheffield Doc/Fest (Sheffield, UK), BOGOSshorts (Bogotá, Colombia), Cinéma du Réel [Paris, France (virtual Covid-19)], Festival International du Documentaire Émergent [Paris, France (virtual Covid-19)], Latin American Studies Association Film Festival [Guadalajara, Mexico (virtual Covid-19)], Festival Internacional de Cine Documental de Buenos Aires [Buenos Aires, Argentina (virtual Covid-19)], Muestra Internacional Documental de Bogotá [Bogotá, Colombia (virtual Covid-19)], Panorama Du Cinéma Colombien [Paris, France (virtual Covid-19)], Die Lateinamerikanische Tage Leipzig (programmed for 2021) [Leipzig, Germany], Centre Film Festival [Philipsburg, PA (virtual Covid-19)], Foro de Cine Etnográfico de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Antropología [Montevideo, Uruguay (virtual Covid-19)], Blow-Up, International Art House Filmfest [Chicago, IL (virtual Covid-19)], Comisión de la Verdad/Truth Commission [Bogotá, Colombia]

Streaming Video on Demand:

Tënk (France), Mowies (Latin America)

Awards:

Latin American Studies Association Film Festival, Best Short Film; BOGOSshorts, Honorable Mention, Documentary Short; Panorama du Cinéma Colombien, Student Jury Prize

University & Work-in-Progress Screenings:

MOMA/PS1; School for Visual Arts, NYC; University of California, Berkeley; University of Pennsylvania; Harvard University (postponed, Covid-19)

Reviewed by:

Latin American Research Review 2021; “Screening Room,” *Cultural Anthropology* website — upcoming (April)

Distribution by:

Cinema Guild (NYC), Marvin & Wayne (Barcelona)

***Trees Tropiques* (2009, 30mins)**

Set in the mouth of the Amazon basin, this family portrait gets tricky when the ethics of deforestation and the documentary encounter intersect.

Festivals:

Cannes Short Film Corner (Cannes, France) Ethnografilm (Paris, France), Ethnocinema (Moscow, Russia), Festival International du Film d’Environnement (Paris, France), White Nights/Retour Nature (Mülheim, Germany)

Reviewed by:

“Screening Room,” Cultural Anthropology website — August 20, 2014; “Sensory Ethnography Lab,” Julie Mallozzi Blog — February 6, 2009

PUBLICATIONS [Articles, Reviews]

In process with Annette Idler, “Understanding Change in Conflict through Photography”

Under review “Guests of the Guerrilla: Integrated Spectacle and Disintegrating Peace, An Ethnographic Analysis of the FARC’s Tenth (and Final?) Guerrilla Conference”

Under review “Imágenes Encontradas: Foto-historias de exguerrilleros de las FARC tomadas en el Camión Cámara”

In press “The Moral Vision and Moral Performance of Jesús Abad Colorado”

2021 Review of *Verde* by Federico Rios Escobar, *Afterimage* 48(4): 67–74.

2020 “*Pacifista*, between Vice and Virtue: Funding Digital Journalism for a ‘Generation of Peace’ in Colombia,” *Anthropology Now*, 12(3): 74–88.

2020 “Transitar hacia la paz. Entre la promesa y la ilusión (1953-2017)” with Jefferson Jaramillo and Érika Paola Parrado Pardo, *Signo y Pensamiento*, 39(77).

2020 with Julián Mejía Villa, “War Through the Looking Glass: Portraits of Former FARC Guerrillas in the ‘Truck Camera,’ *Anthropology Now*, 12(2): 70–79.

- 2020 Review of: *Gorgeous War: The Branding War between the Third Reich and the United States* by Tim Blackmore, *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly* 97(4): 1153–1154.
- 2020 Review of: *Iran Reframed: Anxieties of Power in the Islamic Republic* by Narges Bajoghli, *American Anthropologist* 122(4): 975–976.
- 2020 Review of: *Chocolate, Politics, and Peace-building: An Ethnography of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Colombia* by Gwen Burnyeat, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 26(3): 680–681.
- 2019 “Subir las noticias al bajar del monte: El experimento de las FARC en Cuba con la televisión en línea 2012–2016,” *Boletín de Antropología*, translated by María Clemencia Ramírez and Andrew Klatt, 34(57): 194–221.
- 2019 Review of: *The CIA in Hollywood: How the Agency Shapes Film and Television* (2nd edition) by Tricia Jenkins, *New Review of Film and Television Studies*, 123–127.
- 2019 “Target Intimacy: Notes on the Convergence of the Militarization and Marketization of Love,” *Current Anthropology*, 60: S49–S61.
- 2018 “Definition: Counterpublic” International Encyclopedia of Anthropology. Wiley Online Library, July 25.
- 2017 “Uploading the News after Coming Down from the Mountain: The FARC’s Uncanny Experiment with Online Television, in Cuba, 2012–2016,” *International Journal of Communication*, 11: 3832–3856.
- 2016 “Participatory Realism: Photographing the Precarity and Resilience of Childhood in South Africa,” *Transition*, 121: 40–48.
- 2016 Review of: *Savage Frontier: Making News and Security on the Argentine Border* in *Culture, Media and Society* by Ieva Jusionyte, *Culture, Media & Society*, 1–3.
- 2014 “Hostile Remixes on YouTube: A New Constraint of Pro-FARC Counterpublics in Colombia.” *American Ethnologist*, 41(2): 320–335. Reviewed by *Anthropology Now*.
- 2014 *Guerrilla Marketing: Information War and the Demobilization of FARC Rebels in Colombia*. PhD Dissertation for the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, May 13. Winner of the 2015 LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award from the Latin American Studies Association.
- 2014 *Dreams from the Concrete Mountain*. A 30-minute film in fulfillment of the capstone requirement for the secondary field in Critical Media Practice at Harvard University, May 13.
- 2013 Review of *The Migrant Image: The Art and Politics of Documentary during Global Crisis*. “Reinventing Documentary.” Public Books, an online supplement to Public Culture, August 20.
- 2013 “Los Traumas Pos-Conflicto”: Líneas de Fuga y Sueños para Interpretar. *Sextante*, 2.
- 2012 “Facebook: Corporate Hackers, A Billion Users, and the Geo-politics of the ‘Social Graph.’” *Anthropological Quarterly*, 85(3): 927–956.
- 2012 “Introduction: Social Buzz, Political Boom? Ethnographic Engagements with Digital Militancy.”

Anthropological Quarterly, 85(3): 885–892; guest editor of special collection, “Ethnographic Engagements with Digital Militancy,” pages 885–955, with Charles Hirschkind and Rebecca Stein.

2012 Review of *Under the Men’s Tree*. “The Quick: David MacDougall and Reflections on Relative Speed.” *Sensate* (an online, peer-reviewed, multimedia journal), electronic document, <http://sensatejournal.com/2012/04/review-alex-fattal-on-under-the-mens-tree/>.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COGR296, UCSD, Communication Research as an Interdisciplinary Activity, an introduction to faculty research and seminar on how to develop interdisciplinary research projects in the field of communication studies.

COMM10, UCSD, Introduction to Communication, an introductory survey on critical cultural approach to the study of communication and UCSD’s interdisciplinary perspective on the field.

COMM190, UCSD, Covid-19 Photo Diaries, a course about first-person documentary in which students produce self-reflective photo and video projects about their experiences through the pandemic. The class integrates a community engaged learning dimension by engaging in an exchange with students from the Aja project in east San Diego who are doing similar projects.

COMM190, UCSD, Photography: Between Social Media and Social Change, a theory/production junior seminar in which students learn about theoretical debates in photography that inform their final photo-essay projects. Class refashioned as a production course focusing on creating a photo-journal final project about students’ experience through the pandemic.

COMM113T, UCSD, Media Arts/Activism, 30-person course that analyzes the strategies and tactics of artists working to raise awareness about pressing social and environmental issues and the role of the arts in advocacy.

COMM132, UCSD, Media Spectacle and the Global War on Terror, seminar dedicated to analyzing the role the media plays in the ongoing war on terror.

COMM419, PSU, Comparative Media Systems, 45-student class that analyzes the media, information, and technological flows in contemporary Colombia, Cuba, and the United States. In addition to questions of mass mediation, the course also looks at creative traditions, especially cinema and documentary photography, to place questions of mediation in cultural, political, and historical context.

COMM410, PSU, *International Mass Communication*, 45-student class that builds critical thinking skills by placing analysis of mediation across borders in social, political, and historical context.

Camión Cámara: Intervención Fotográfica, una Práctica (Truck Camera: Photographic Intervention, a Practicum). Universidad de los Andes, Departamento de Antropología.

Narrativas de los Desmovilizados y Historias de las FARC (Narratives of the Demobilized and Histories of the FARC). Universidad de los Andes, Departamento de Antropología.

Amnistía, Indulto, Desmovilización: 1953–2013 (Amnesty, Pardon, Demobilization: 1953–2013). Universidad de los Andes, Departamento de Antropología.

M-19 y su Propaganda Armada: Análisis Histórico y Simbólico (M-19 and its Armed Propaganda: Historical and Symbolic Analysis). Universidad de los Andes, Departamento de Antropología.

Language and Culture: Linguistics and Pragmatics, Harvard University, Department of Anthropology, Teaching Fellow.

PRESENTATIONS

University of Southern California, Anthropology Department and Cinematic Arts, Class presentation of <i>Limbo</i> and <i>Guerrilla Marketing</i>	Oct. 2021
Ciclo de Cine, Que Haiga Paz, Comisión de la Verdad e IDARTES, Bogotá	Sept. 2021
Latin American Studies Association, “Envisioning the Pandemic Across Latin America: On Photojournalism, Mobility, and the COVID-LATAM collective”	May 2021
Latin American Studies Association, “The Making of International Threats Across the Americas,” panel discussant	May 2021
UCSD/AjA Project, “Courageous Visions,” co-curator’s presentation of online exhibit	Mar. 2021
University of Connecticut, Department of Anthropology colloquium, “Guests of the Guerrilla”	Mar. 2021
George Mason University, English Department, class presentation of <i>Limbo</i> and <i>Guerrilla Marketing</i>	Mar. 2021
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, American Culture, class presentation of <i>Limbo</i> and <i>Guerrilla Marketing</i>	Mar. 2021
Latin American Studies Association, “The Anguish of Losing an Enemy and the Relief in Finding Him Again” (video conference, Covid-19)	May 2020
Latin American Studies Association, “A Nation Alive: Twentieth Century Colombia Revisited” (video conference, Covid-19)	May 2020
Latin American Studies Association, “Histories of Communication and Latin American Modernities” (discussant) (cancelled, Covid-19)	May 2020
Towson University, Anthropology, undergraduate capstone class, book presentation video conference, Covid-19)	Apr. 2020
University of Toronto, Anthropology, graduate class, book presentation (video conference, Covid-19)	Mar. 2020
Festival International du Documentaire Émergente, Paris, <i>Limbo</i> screening (postponed, Covid-19)	Mar. 2020
Cinéma du Réel, Centre Pompidou, Paris, <i>Limbo</i> screenings (online, Covid-19)	Mar. 2020
University of California, Berkeley, Center for Latin American Studies, <i>Limbo</i> screening	Dec. 2019
University of California, San Diego, Center for Latin American Studies, MA Program	Nov. 2019