

**MELANIE FORD LEMUS**

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Rice University  
 Department of Anthropology  
 MS-32  
 Houston, TX 92507

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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urbanism and city space; ecology and environment; science and technology studies; architecture and design; geography and geology; publics; expertise and knowledge practices; urban Latin America; Central America; Guatemala

**EDUCATION**

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Exp 2024      PhD, Cultural Anthropology, Rice University  
                     Certificate in Critical and Cultural Theory, 2019

2019            MA, Cultural Anthropology, Rice University

2016            BS, Anthropology w/ minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Univ. of California at Riverside  
                     Graduated Magna Cum Laude

**RESEARCH GRANTS**

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2019            Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation

2019            Spatial Humanities Field Work Grant, Humanities Resource Center, Rice University

2019            Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Social Sciences Research Institute, Rice University

2018            Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Rice University

2017            Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, Department of Anthropology, Rice University

2017            Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CSWGS) Research Fund, Rice University

**AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS**

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2018–2019    Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Graduate Fellowship, “Waste: Histories and Futures,” Rice University

2017–2019    Center for the Energy and the Environmental Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities (CENHS) Fellowship, Rice University

2016            Academic Excellence Award, Dept. of Anthropology, University of California at Riverside

2015            Yolanda T. Moses Endowed Scholarship Fund, Dept. of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside

2015            LAKES Research Experience for Undergraduates, National Science Foundation

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**SECTIONS IN EDITED VOLUMES**

Exp 2023      Ballestero, Andrea and Melanie Ford Lemus. “Ethnography: a first overarching look” in *The Handbook of Teaching Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research: A Step-by-Step Guide*, eds. Bernard, H. Russel, Alissa Ruth, and Amber Wutich. London; New York: Routledge.

- 2021 Ford Lemus, Melanie and Katie Ulrich. "Questions, Experiments, and Movements of Ethnographies in the Making" in *Experimenting with Ethnography: A Companion to Analysis*, eds. Andrea Ballesterio and Brit Ross Winthereik. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

### REVIEWS AND AUTHOR INTERVIEWS

- 2021 Georgiev, Konstantin and Melanie Ford Lemus. *Feral Atlas: The-More-Than-Human-Anthropocene* by Anna L. Tsing, Alder Keleman Saxena, and Feifei Zhou. Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press, 2021. Engagement: A Blog Published by the Anthropology and Environment Society.
- 2020 Ford, Melanie. *An Ecology of Knowledges: Fear, Love, and Technoscience in Guatemala Forest Conservation* by Micha Rahder. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019. Allegra Laboratory.
- 2020 Ford, Melanie. *Infrastructure, Environment, and Life in the Anthropocene* ed. by Gregg Hetherington. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019. *Anthropos* 115(1).

### BLOG POSTS

- 2021 Ford Lemus, Melanie. "The Spectrum of Research and Practice in Guatemalan Science Studies." (Disponible en español [aquí](#)). Edited series for Platypus, the CASTAC Blog, January.
- 2019 Ford Lemus, Melanie. "Voided Spaces: Architectural indices of ravines in Guatemala City." (Disponible en español [aquí](#)) in *Platypus*, the CASTAC Blog, February.
- 2016 Ford, Melanie. "Cultivating an Outer Space Ecology: Introducing the On-Orbit Gardener." in *EnviroSociety*, November.

### EXHIBITION AND CREATIVE WRITING

- 2021 Ford Lemus, Melanie. "La Puerta del Jardín" and "Glosario" in *La Puerta del Jardín*. Pagoda Imaginaria. Guatemala City, May.

### MAGAZINES

- 2022 Ford Lemus, Melanie. "Lines Left Behind: A network of hidden and forgotten pipelines could slow Louisiana's costal restoration" in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, March.
- 2020 Ford, Melanie. "Microcosmic Wetlands: In a corner of Houston's Memorial Park, Nelson Byrd Woltz restores vernacular landscapes and civic histories" in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, November.
- 2018 Ford, Melanie. "The Lungs of Guatemala City: Architects' Efforts to Conserve an Urban Ecology" in *offCITE Magazine*, online, October.

### CREATIVE PROJECTS & PARTICIPATION

- 2021 *La Puerta del Jardín*. Exhibit co-organizer w/ Pagoda Imaginaria, Residencia Artística. Artists Exhibited: Esvin Alarcón Lam, Carmen Lucía Alvarado, Edgar Calel, Alfredo Ceibal, Jorge de León, Margarita Figueroa, Jenniffer Paiz, Sergio Ramírez, Sandra Sebastián and Luis Soto. Hotel Guatemaya, Guatemala City, May 07-June 15. Accompanied by a catalogue.

## TEACHING

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- Exp. 2022 “Latino Metropolis: Architecture and Urbanism in the Américas” for the César E. Chávez Dept. of Chicana/o and Central American Studies (Cross listed with Depts. of History and Urban Planning), UCLA (Summer, online)
- 2021 “City/Culture” for the Dept. of Anthropology, Rice University (Summer, online)

## INVITED TALKS/LECTURE

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- 2021 “Ethnography in Anthropology” at Peekskill Highschool, Peekskill, NY. November.
- 2019 “Culture and the Environment” for Introduction to Anthropology at Rice University (Spring)

## PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC WORK AND SERVICE

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### Service to Profession

- 2021–2024 Secretary, Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)  
+ Board member and notetaker for all organization meetings
- 2021–2023 Editorial Intern, American Ethnological Society  
+ Copyediting and website content creator
- 2020 Contributing Editor, *Platypus*, the CASTAC Blog  
+ Programmed and solicited posts in addition to copyediting responsibilities
- 2016–2019 Digital Content Editor, *Cultural Anthropology*  
+ Copyedited short articles for the journal’s creative and digital publishing platform
- 2016–2019 Ethnography Studio, Co–Coordinator under Dr. Andrea Ballesterio  
+ Coordinated workshops, roundtables, and conferences between scholars of all stages

### Service to University

- 2017–2018 Co–Coordinator, Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series Committee, Rice University
- 2016–2019 Co–Coordinator, Mutant Anthropologies, Rice University
- 2016–2018 Center Assistant, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Rice University
- 2016–2017 Department Recruitment Committee, Rice University
- 2015–2016 Campus Chapter President, Fossil Free UC, University of California at Riverside

### Service to Public

- 2022 Volunteer in Grant Writing NISGUA, (Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala)

## CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP ACTIVITY

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### Conferences/Symposia Organization

- 2019 Co–Organizer: Making & Doing Committee for the Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA. September.
- 2017 Co–Organizer: Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Student Symposium. Rice University, TX, USA. April.

### Invited Workshops

- 2021 Invited Speaker. “Anthropology and the Public: Pressing Questions, Responsibilities and Opportunities.” Workshop hosted by Cool Anthropology. March, Virtual.

2020 Invited Speaker. "COVID-19 Redesign and Brainstorming Session" Webinar hosted by the Wenner-Gren Foundation. July, Virtual.

#### Panels and Roundtables Organized

2021 "Unexpected Technologies" Panel at the Annual Anthropological Association Meeting. Baltimore, MD, USA. November. Co-Organizer with Katie Ulrich.

2018 "Queer/ed Spaces; Anthropological Openings" Panel at the Annual Anthropological Association Meeting. San Jose, CA. November. Co-Organizer with Kristin Gupta

#### Paper Presentations

2021 "What is a Ravine? Social Taxonomies of the Undefined in Guatemala City." Annual Anthropological Association Meeting. Baltimore, MD, USA. November. Invited Panelist.

2021 "Reflections on the architecture of landform; ravines in Guatemala City." EnviroLab, University of Pennsylvania. Virtual, March.

2020 "Architecting Privatized Publics: The Ecological Reclamation of Ravines in Guatemala City." Conference of Latin American Geography. Antigua, Guatemala. January.

2019 "Through the Figure of the Void: Ravines and Architectural Futures in Guatemala City." Annual Anthropological Association Meeting. Vancouver, Canada. November.

2019 "The Promise of "Good Design": Architectural Imaginations of Ravines in Postwar Guatemala City." 4S. New Orleans, LA. September.

2019 "Built Place in Floating Space: Voids and Architectural Futures in Guatemala City." Ecopolitics of Cement and Concrete. Rice University. March. Invited Panelist.

2018 "Queer Building(s): Challenging discourses of modern architecture from below." Annual Anthropological Association Meeting. San Jose, CA. November.

2017 "Methodologies in/of Landscapes: Remediation in Radioactive Aftermaths." Environmental Asia PhD Course. University of Oslo, Norway. November

2017 "Agrarian Energies: Movements and Reflections on Energy in Post 3.11 Japan." Environmental Asia. Oslo, Norway. November.

2016 "Beyond Polluted Waters: Business and Tourism Impacts of Lakes Menomin and Tainter." National Conference for Undergraduate Research. Asheville, North Carolina.

2015 "Approaching Health Disparities through an Environmental Lens: Fort Chipewyan and the Keystone XL Pipeline." James C. Young Colloquium. University of California, Riverside.

#### **ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS**

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American Anthropological Association  
 American Association of Geographers  
 Guatemala Scholars Network  
 Latin American Studies Association  
 Society for Social Studies of Science

#### **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES**

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Spanish      Fluent, listening, writing, and speaking  
 English      Fluent