

Mateo Salas, M.A.

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Cultural Anthropologist | Educator

EDUCATION

PhD, Cultural Anthropology

University of Calgary

Sept 2022 - 2026

M.A. Anthropology

Florida Atlantic University

Thesis: *"Latin American Gentrifications: Tourism, Rural Development and Community in Ayampe, Ecuador"*

May 2021

B.A. Anthropology

Certificate in Latin American & Caribbean studies

Florida Atlantic University

May 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Calgary

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Sept 2022 - Present

- Facilitate an Introductory Anthropology course with a four-field approach, requiring analytical abstract thinking and critical writing skills.
- Graded and provided valuable feedback on student assignments, in particular essays.

Florida Atlantic University

Adjunct Instructor, ANT 4409: The Anthropology of Peace and Violence

August 2021 - May 2022

- Developed syllabus and engaging class content for ANT 4409: The Anthropology of Peace and Violence.
- Engage students in questioning how cultural constructions of peace and violence are learned.
- Led lectures discussing the violence caused by structural inequalities that negatively impact access to healthcare, education, and housing for vulnerable populations.
- Work collaboratively with group of 25 students to develop research projects focused on social justice & human rights issues.

Florida Atlantic University

Graduate Teaching Assistant - 1,300 hours of teaching assistant experience

August 2018 – May 2021

- Taught Philosophy discussion courses, requiring analytical abstract thinking and critical writing skills.
- Taught an Introductory Anthropology discussion course with a four-field approach, requiring analytical abstract thinking and critical writing skills.
- Facilitated discussion for an Anthropology of Peace and Violence course.
- Graded and provided valuable feedback on student assignments, in particular essays.
- Taught college level writing skills to undergraduate students.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Original Research:** My field research and thesis present tourism as the vector for gentrification of rural villages in the Global South. The primary focus is rural villages along the Ecuadorian coast. Four months of ethnographic research adds to a growing literature concerning the gentrification of rural areas in the Global South. It also demonstrates how local people are dynamic actors in resisting and managing the growth of tourism in their villages. This research sets an example for other rural areas undergoing similar processes of gentrification through tourism.

Florida Atlantic University - Ecuador

June 2019 – December 2020

Ethnographic Field Researcher - 600+ hours in the field

- Conducted four months of ethnographic fieldwork in Ecuador and adapted to a new way of life.
- Applied various qualitative and quantitative research methods to collect data. This included collecting and analyzing census data, conducting semi-structured interviews, transcribing interviews, participant observation, and thematic data analysis.
- Wrote and presented a masters thesis to reflect my fieldwork to my colleagues and thesis committee.

Florida Atlantic University Ethnographic Field School

June 2016 – July 2016

- Conducted ethnographic research in Coastal Ecuador for a period of 6 weeks
- Developed skills in mapping, interviewing techniques, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and analytical writing
- Taught introductory English classes at a local high school
- Presented research on the perception of sex and masculinity under the guidance of Dr. Michael Harris

History Miami Museum

Research Intern

September
2017 - December
2018

- Assisted museum folklife specialist, folklife director, archives, and educational staff for upcoming exhibit on Miami street culture
- Conducted extensive archival research to contribute the development of Miami street culture exhibit
- Conducted fieldwork in the Miami area, assisted in interviewing collaborators, and put together exhibition labels
- Photographed relevant material for exhibition, transcribed interviews for exhibit pamphlets, and stored information in museum archives

CONFERENCES

- **Tri-University Graduate Conference** (2022). Presentation titled: *Latin American Gentrifications: Tourism, Rural Development, and Community*. First Place in Ted-like talk category.
- **Rethinking Latin American Studies from the South (RLASS), *New directions for change and development in Latin America and the Caribbean*** (2023): Presentation titled: *Latin American Gentrifications: Ecotourism, Community, and Rural Development in Coastal Ecuador*.
- **Midwest Association for the Latin American Studies (MALAS), *América Invertida*** (2023). Presentation Titled: *Rethinking Extractivism: Commodifying Biodiversity and Dispossession of Ancestral Lands through Ecotourism Development in Coastal Ecuador*.

- **Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies, *Hemispheric Horizons: Publics, Power, and Place in the Americas*** (March 2024). Abstract accepted. Presentation Titled: *Rethinking Extractivism: Commodifying Biodiversity and Dispossessing Ancestral Lands through Ecotourism Development in Coastal Ecuador*
- **Southwest Council of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS)**, (March 2024). Abstract accepted. Presentation titled: *Accumulation by Dispossession: The Violent Geography of Ecotourism Development in Coastal Ecuador*.
- **Latin American Studies Association (LASA), *Reacción y resistencia: Imaginar futuros posibles en las Américas*** (June 2024). Abstract accepted. Presentation titled: *Greenwashing Extraction: Commodifying Biodiversity and Dispossessing Ancestral Lands through Ecotourism Development in Coastal Ecuador*.

GUEST LECTURES

- ***Tourism, Globalization, and Imperialism*** (November 2023). ANTH 393, University of Calgary.
- ***The Price of Paradise: Ecotourism's Extractive Realities*** (November 2023). ANTH 393, University of Calgary.

AWARDS & ASSOCIATIONS

University of Calgary - PhD - 2022

- Transformative Talent Scholarship, \$15,000 CAD
- University of Calgary Graduate Scholarship, \$11,000 CAD
- International Graduate Tuition Award, \$1000 CAD

Florida Atlantic University - MA - 2018-2021

- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, \$4000/semester USD
- Ann Adams Thesis Fellowship, \$1500 USD
- Burt and Rhoda Lipkin Research Award, \$1000 USD
- Morrow Research Assistantship in Anthropology, \$1000 USD
- John Q. Adams Memorial Award for Maya Studies & Overseas Research, \$1000 USD
- Tri-University Graduate Conference, 1st place, \$250 USD
- Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society: Vice President 2018-2019
- Anthropology Graduate Student Union at Florida Atlantic University: Vice President 2018-2019

SPECIALIZED TRAINING & RELEVANT COURSES

- **Writing Across the Curriculum Workshop:** Writing workshop facilitated by Dr. Jeffrey R. Galin to train graduate teaching assistants in teaching college-level writing to undergraduate students.
- **Museum Education:** Worked as a museum educator creating and teaching engaging educational content for children ages 3 - 12.