

Megan Ybarra

University of Washington
Box 353550
Seattle, WA 98195; USA
mybarra@uw.edu
www.meganybarra.net

EDUCATION

- 2010 PhD University of California, Berkeley
Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management
Division of Society & Environment
- 2002 BA New York University
Latin American Studies

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- University of Washington**
- 2018 – present Associate Professor, Department of Geography
2014 – 2018 Assistant Professor, Department of Geography
- Affiliations
Center for Environmental Politics; Core faculty (2014 – present)
Center for Human Rights; Faculty associate (2015 – present)
Comparative History of Ideas Program (CHID); Affiliate faculty (2015 – present)
Environmental Cultures & Values Program; Affiliate faculty (2018 – present)
Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies Department (GWSS); Adjunct faculty (2015 – present)
Latin American & Caribbean Studies Program; Core faculty (2014 – present)
Women Investigating Race, Ethnicity and Difference (WIRED); Member (2016 – present)
- 2010 – 2014 **Willamette University**
Assistant Professor, Department of Politics
- Affiliations
American Ethnic Studies Program; Affiliate faculty (2011 – 2014)
Latin American Studies Program; Affiliate faculty (2010 – 2014)

RESEARCH

Areas of Interest

Political ecology and environmental justice
Immigrant activism and detention abolition
Transnational Latinx migrations

Books & Edited Volumes

Ybarra, M. (2017) *Green Wars: Conservation and Decolonization in the Maya Forest*. Oakland: University of California Press. (216 pages) ISBN: 9780520968035
<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520295186/green-wars>

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Ybarra, M. (in press) “We are not ignorant:” Transnational migrants’ experiences of racialized securitization. *Environment and Planning D: Society & Space*.

Lunstrum, E. and **M. Ybarra.** (2018) “Deploying difference: Security threat narratives and state displacement from protected areas.” *Conservation & Society* 16(2): 114-124.

Republished in: T. Kepe and S. Mollett (eds). 2018. *Land Rights, Biodiversity Conservation and Justice: Rethinking parks and people*. (pp. 51-70) New York: Routledge.

Ybarra, M. and Peña, I.L. (2017) “We don’t need money, we need to be together: Forced transnationality in deportation’s afterlives.” *Geopolitics* 22: 34-50.

A.B. Kelly and **M. Ybarra.** (2016) “Introduction to themed issue: Green security in protected areas.” *Geoforum* 69: 171-175.

Ybarra, M. (2016) “Blind Passes’ and the production of green security through violence on the Guatemalan border.” *Geoforum* 69: 194-206.

Ybarra, M. (2014) "Don't just pay it back, pay it forward: from accountability to reciprocity in research relationships." *Journal of Research Practice* 10(2): Article N5.

Ybarra, M. (2013) “You Cannot Measure a *Tzuultaq’a*: Cultural politics at the limits of liberal legibility.” *Antipode: a Radical Journal of Geography* 45(3): 584-601.

Ybarra, M. (2012) “Taming the Jungle, Saving the Maya Forest: Sedimented counterinsurgency practices in Guatemalan conservation.” *Journal of Peasant Studies* 39(2): 479-502.

Ybarra, M. (2011) “Privatizing the *Tzuultaq’a*? Private property and spiritual reproduction in post-war Guatemala.” *Journal of Peasant Studies* 38(4): 793-810.

Reprinted in: Peluso, Nancy L. and Christian Lund (eds). 2012. *New Frontiers of Land Control*. (pp. 127-144) New York: Routledge.

Ybarra, M. (2011) “Slashed and Burned: the debate over privatization of Q’eqchi’ lands in northern Guatemala.” *Society & Natural Resources* 24(10): 1027-1041.

Ybarra, M. (2009) “Violent Visions of an Ownership Society: the land administration project in Petén, Guatemala.” *Land Use Policy* 26(1): 44-54.

Academic Works & Technical Reports Published in Guatemala

Ybarra, M. (2018) Petén, Guatemala, desde la colonización interna hacia migración transnacional: ¿Nuevos paradigmas para el siglo XXI? *Revista Centroamericana de Investigación y Postgrado: Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades* 5(1): 55-66

† **Ybarra, M.,** Obando Samos, O., Grandia, L. and Schwartz, N.B. (2012) *Tierra, Migración y Vida en Petén, 1999-2009*. Guatemala City: Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas – Instituto de Estudios Agrarios y Rurales (CONGCOOP-IDEAR) with Magna Terra Editores. (106 pages)
ISBN: 9789929561687

Popular Works (*Blog posts, Graphic Non-Fiction, Video Documentary*)

Ybarra, M. and L. McKinley. (2017) "Hunger Strikes: A Call to End Immigrant Detention." Tacoma, WA: Northwest Detention Center Resistance (NWDCR). Debuted July 23, 2017 at Northwest Film Forum. Available for viewing at: www.hungerstrikershandbook.org

Cházaro, A. Madrigal, T., Mitchel, M., Mora, J., Mora Villalpando, M., Pantoja, W, Ríos Alegría, C., Strand, N. and **M. Ybarra**. (2017) *The Hunger Strikers Handbook*. Tacoma, WA: Northwest Detention Center Resistance (NWDCR). Available for download in English and Spanish at: www.hungerstrikershandbook.org

McSweeney, K., Bacon, C., Bryan, J., Casolo, J., Mollett, S., Offen, K.H., Pine, A. and **M. Ybarra** (2015) "7 Reasons to Scrap the \$1 Billion Aid Package to Central America." Center for International Policy, Americas Program, Available at <http://www.cipamericas.org/archives/15371>

Ybarra, M. (2013) "Narco-violence and cartel territoriality in Guatemala." Guest post for Central American Politics blog, Available at <http://centralamericanpolitics.blogspot.com/2013/08/narco-violence-and-cartel.html>

Ybarra, M. (2007) "Letters to the Editor: Languages, not Dialects." *The New York Times*, December 30, 2007 edition, page 53. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/30/travel/30letters-1-NOTDIALECTS_LETTERS.html

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 University of Washington (UW) Simpson Center Public Scholarship Grant: "Community Engaged Collaboration" (\$5,000): Course development with incarcerated scholars; with Gillian Harkins (PI), Dan Berger and Megan Ming Francis.
- 2018 Undergraduate Majors' Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, UW Department of Geography.
- 2017 UW Royalty Research Fund Scholar: "A 21st Century Border? Migration and Security in Southern Mexico" (\$40,000): Funding awarded 2017 for field research in 2018/2019.
- 2016 Antipode Foundation Scholar-Activist Project Award, with Northwest Detention Center Resistance: "The Hunger Strikers' Handbook" (£10,000)
- 2016 UW Simpson Center Society of Scholars Fellowship (one quarter teaching release)
- 2014 Mellon Foundation & WU President's Innovation Fund
Community-Based Learning with Latinx Leaders in the Willamette Valley (\$3,300)
- 2012 American Association of University Women (AAUW) American Fellowship
Summer/Short-term Research Publication Grant (\$6,000)
- 2011 WU Center for Sustainable Communities Curriculum Development Grant
Guest speaker series on the Politics of Equity in the Willamette Valley (\$3,600)

- 2008 National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant in Geography and Regional Science (\$12,000; lead investigator)
- 2006 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (3 years tuition & stipend)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2018 “Site Fight! Toward the abolition of immigrant detention on Tacoma’s Tar Pits (and everywhere else)”

University of British Columbia Geography Department. Vancouver, BC, Canada. November 6.
Willamette University Green Fund. Salem, OR. November 13.
- 2018 “Green Wars: Narco Narratives and Indigenous Self-Determination in Guatemala’s Maya Forest.”

University of North Carolina Geography Department. Chapel Hill, NC. September 21.
University of California-Davis Geography Graduate Group. Davis, CA. June 7.
Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies; New Haven, CT. April 2.
University of Minnesota; Minneapolis, MN. February 16.
- 2016 “We didn’t invade the park, the park invaded us! Green security and Maya land activism in Guatemala’s protected areas” York University; Toronto, Canada. October 12.
- 2016 “¿Quién es un invasor? Estudio de la ecología política del Parque Nacional Laguna Lachuá.”
Universidad de San Carlos, Subárea de Ciencias Sociales y Desarrollo Rural; Guatemala City, Guatemala. September 8.
- 2015 “Ignite Change.” Keynote speech, 4th Annual Beyond HB 1079 Conference for undocumented students in Washington state; Everett, WA. October 10.
- 2012 “Capitalismo, NAFTA y Migración.” Hora Campesina on Radio Movimiento, 95.9 FM, and Viernes Comunitario. Community presentations for Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Woodburn, OR. July 13.

Conference Panels Organized & Discussed (last five years)

- 2019 Organizer and co-chair for two paper sessions, with Juan Herrera and Laura Pulido. Latinx Geographies I & II. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Washington, DC.
- 2018 Organizer and co-chair for two paper sessions, with Nik Heynen. Abolition Ecologies I & II. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), New Orleans, LA.

- 2014 Organizer and co-chair for paper session, with Sharlene Mollett. Geographies of Loss. Latin American Studies Association (LASA) International Congress; Chicago, IL; May 22.
- 2013 Organizer and co-chair for paper session, with Jennifer Casolo. Who is a Criminal? Rethinking Rights Claims and Justice in Mesoamerica. Latin American Studies Association (LASA) International Congress; Washington, DC; May 31.

Conference Presentations

- 2018 “Author Meets Critics: Green Wars.” Author. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), New Orleans, LA. April 13.
- 2018 “Site Fight! Towards the end of immigrant detention on Tacoma’s Tar Pits (and everywhere else).” Co-authored with Murphy Stack. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), New Orleans, LA. April 13.
- 2018 “Latinx Geographies III: Envisioning Latinx Geographies.” Panelist. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), New Orleans, LA. April 12.
- 2018 “Feminist Methodologies in Researching Migration Management.” Panelist. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), New Orleans, LA. April 11.
- 2017 Discussant. “Sexuality and Space Keynote, Treva Ellison: Rethinking Homonormativity - Spatializing Theories of Gender and Sexuality.” Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Boston, MA
- 2017 “When Knowing Your Rights is Not Enough: A Hunger Strikers Handbook.” National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, Irvine, CA; March 23.
- 2016 “Mexico’s Southern Border Plan: Racialized rightlessness in the 21st century migrant management regime.” Dis/placing the Borders of North America. McMaster University; Hamilton, ON, Canada; October 13.
- 2016 Co-author, with Libby Lunstrum. “Difference is Dangerous: Conservation displacement as a security strategy.” Political Ecologies of Conflict, Capitalism and Contestation. Wageningen, The Netherlands, 7-9 July.
- 2016 “Locking In: On the intimate geopolitics of activism.” Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), San Francisco, CA; March 29.
- 2015 Co-author, with Isaura L. Peña. “We don’t need money, we need to be together: Families across the US-Mexican border.” Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Chicago, IL; March 23.
- 2015 Panelist. Central American ‘Crisis’ Revisited. Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Chicago, IL; March 22.

- 2014 The Ladino Question in Land Politics: Racialized dispossession and trusteeship in post-war Guatemala. Latin American Studies Association (LASA) International Congress; Chicago, IL; May 22.
- 2014 The Geopolitics of Parks. Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Tampa, FL, April 8-12.
- 2013 Foro: “La violencia: narcoviencia y etnografías de cada día violento”. Guatemala Scholars Network (GSN) 2ª Conferencia Internacional; Antigua, Guatemala. July 11.
- 2013 From *Subversivo* to *Narcocampesino*: The Politics of Crime and Conservation in Guatemala. Latin American Studies Association (LASA) International Congress; Washington, DC. May 31.
- 2013 Crossing Borders, Losing Land: Conservation as Dispossession in Post-War Guatemala. Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Los Angeles, CA; April 9.
- 2012 Regularización de Tierras y Campesinos sin Tierra en Petén, Guatemala. 2º Simposium Internacional de Investigación Interdisciplinaria; sponsored by Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco, División Académica Multidisciplinaria de los Ríos, México; and the Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala. Santa Elena, Petén, Guatemala. August 16.
- 2012 Plenary presentation. Tierra, Migración y Vida 1999-2009, Resultados Destacados. 2º Simposium Internacional de Investigación Interdisciplinaria; sponsored by Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco, División Académica Multidisciplinaria de los Ríos, México; and the Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala. Santa Elena, Petén, Guatemala. August 16.

TEACHING

Assistant Professor, Geography, University of Washington

Graduate Courses

Geog576 Critical Race & Postcolonial Geographies (2016, 2018)

Geog542 Unrecognized Refugees (2015)

Undergraduate Courses

Geog272 Geographies of Environmental Justice (2016, 2017, 2018)

Geog472 Race, Nature & Power (2016, 2018)

Geog335 Geography of the Developing World (2015)

Geog295 Borderlands: Gender, Race & Place (2015)

Geog451 Cultural Geographies of Latin America (2015)

Assistant Professor, Politics, Willamette University

Undergraduate Courses

Poli121 Transnational Labor Politics | 40+ hours with community partners (2014)

IDS101 Borderlands/Fronteras College Colloquium (2013)

Poli218 Politics in the Developing World (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010)

Poli386 Political Ecology (2013, 2011)

Poli362 Latin American Politics (2013, 2011)
 Poli376 Latin American Revolutions (2013)
 Poli105 Social & Environmental Justice | 40+ hours with community partners (2012)
 Poli480 Senior Thesis in Politics (2013, 2012, 2011)

SERVICE

Professional & Community Service

Chair, Latinx Geographies Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers (2018 – present)
 Board of Trustees member, Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund (2017 – present)
 Sponsor, Nuestro Grupo Cultural (“Hispanic Cultural Group”), Clallam Bay Correction Center, for cultural events, lectures, readings and documentaries (2017 – present)
 International Advisory Board member, Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography (2014 – present)
 Expert witness to US Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) on country conditions in Guatemala for asylum (2018; 2016; 2015; 2013; 2011); country conditions in Mexico for asylum (2013)
17 instances of review for 10 total cases
 Advisory Committee member, Political Ecologies of Conflict, Capitalism and Contestation (PE-3C) conference (2015 – 2016)
 Council of Advisors member, CAPACES Leadership Institute (2012 – 2014)
 Community Council member, Willamette Academy (2011 – 2014)
 International advisor to World Bank Guatemala, evaluation of Land Administration Project I (2011 – 2012)

Referee

+ indicates more than one peer review for a journal in a calendar year
 Annals of the Association of American Geographers (2017+); Antipode (2013+); Conservation & Society (2015); cultural geographies (2011); Environment and Planning D: Society & Space (2018); Ethnography (2013); Geoforum (2016); Journal of Latin American & Caribbean Anthropology (2017); Journal of Peasant Studies (2016+, 2012, 2011); Journal of Research Practice (2014+); PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review (2013); Society & Natural Resources (2011)

University Service

UW Geography Colloquium Committee chair (2015 – 2016, 2017 – 2018)
 UW Geography Program Committee member (2016 – present)
 UW Geography Executive Committee member (2015 – 2016)
 UW Success, Education and Empowerment for all DREAMers (SEED) Scholarship Committee member (2016)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association (ASA)
 American Association of Geographers (AAG)
 Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA)
 Guatemala Scholars Network (GSN)
 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)