NATALIA MAHECHA-ARANGO

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2026-present	**Turovsky/Casey Family Fund Postdoctoral Fellow in Latin American Spatial History** Binghamton University

EDUCATION

August 2026	**PhD in History** New York University Dissertation Title: "Anonymous Death: Unidentified Dead Bodies, Enforced Disappearance, and Rights in the Afterlife (Colombia, 1970-2016)"
May 2021	**MPhil in History** New York University
March 2012	**B.A. in History, *cum laude*** Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
March 2011	**B.A. in Political Science, *cum laude*** Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

- "Looking for the Disappeared: Mass Graves as Subterranean Legacies of Violence in Colombia." Invited article for the special volume "The Subterranean", eds. Matthew Shutzer and Robyn d'Avignon, *Osiris*, vol. 43 (under review).

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- "Un conflicto entre viñetas: historietas de la violencia política en Perú (1989-2010)." In *Imaginando América Latina: Historia y cultura visual, siglos XIX al XXI,* edited by Sven Schuster and Daniel Hernández. Bogotá: Universidad del Rosario, 2017. Available online.
- "El reclutamiento ilícito en Colombia: una caracterización de la población desvinculada y desmovilizada que fue reclutada en la niñez." In *Anuario de Reintegración 2016,* edited by the Agencia Colombiana para la Reintegración (now called Agencia para la Normalización y la Reincorporación). Bogotá: ACR, 2016. Available online.
- "De lo distractivo a lo instructivo: algunas aproximaciones al uso de la historieta histórica en la enseñanza de la historia." *Praxis Pedagógica* 13 (Bogotá, june-december): 166-193, 2012. Available online.
- "Descosiendo la historia: una mirada al mundo de lo femenino a través de las máquinas de coser Singer." In *¿Nuevas fuentes históricas o nuevos historiadores? Análisis de huellas del pasado por jóvenes universitarios,* edited by Muriel Laurent. Documento CESO N° 171. Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes, 2012.
- *Linchamientos crimen y protesta: Justicia popular en Colombia (1990-2010).* Documento CESO N° 187. Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes, 2011.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

2020, 2023	**Teaching Assistant, New York University** Cultures & Context: Brazil (Prof. Barbara Weinstein) Cultures & Context: Latin America and the Caribbean (Profs. Ada Ferrer and Sinclair Thomson)
2019, 2021	**Course Assistant, New York University** History in the Headlines (Prof. Rebecca Goetz) Espionage and the Making of the Modern World (Prof. Timothy Naftali)
2016	**Guest Lecturer, Universidad del Rosario, Colombia** Lecturer on sources for historical memory research in the Diploma Course *Peace Construction: Subjects and Social Transformation*
2014-2016	**Instructor, Universidad del Rosario, Colombia** Stop Now! Colombia: Memories of War and Dignity World History History of Colombia
2013	**Instructor, Universidad Sergio Arboleda, Colombia** Political History of Colombia Political History of Colombia I
2009-2010	**Course Assistant, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia** Institutions and Development (Prof. Jaime Torres Melo) American Ethnohistory (Prof. Santiago Muñoz Arbeález) Contemporary Middle East (Prof. Luis Eduardo Bosemberg) Research Design Seminar (Prof. Juan Carlos Rodríguez Raga) Contemporary History of Colombia (Prof. Adriana Maya) History of the Third World (Prof. Shawn van Ausdal) Introduction to Political Theory (Prof. Iván Orozco Abad)

HONORS THESIS SUPERVISION

- (As co-director). Diana Santos Cubides, "Past Events in Graphic Narrative: Historical Production and Dissemination in the Graphic Novel *El Antagonista*," Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, 2015 – 2017.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Fall 2024	**New York University-Fundación Rey Juan Carlos I** Global Research Initiative Fellowship
Spring 2023	**Department of History, New York University** Professional Development Grant
Spring 2022	**Department of History, New York University** Professional Development Grant

2021	**Social Science Research Council** International Dissertation Research Fellowship
Spring 2021	**Graduate School of Arts & Science, New York University** Predoctoral Summer Fellowship
Spring 2020	**Graduate School of Arts & Science, New York University** Predoctoral Summer Fellowship
2018-2024	**Graduate School of Arts & Science, New York University** MacCracken Fellowship
2012	**Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (Colciencias), Colombia** Young Researchers and Innovators Grant
2012	**Otto de Greiff National Competition, Colombia** National Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis in Social Sciences Thesis: "De épicas nacionales, indígenas temerarios y heroínas fatales: Historietas históricas en Colombia (1969-1972)."
2011	**Kettering Foundation for the Study of Democracy, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia** Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis Thesis: "Linchamientos, crimen y resistencia: Justicia popular en Colombia (1990-2010)"
2007-2011	**Universidad de los Andes, Colombia** "Quiero Estudiar" Scholarship
2006	**Ministry of Education, Colombia** First Place (top one percent) in the State Test for Admission to Higher Education (ICFES)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- "Technical Tools for Contributing to Searches for Disappeared People in Colombia," Diploma Course, Universidad Externado de Colombia and EQUITAS, 2020.

INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES

- "Conversatorio en torno a los desaparecidos en Colombia," Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, November 18, 2024.
- "Desaparición forzada en Colombia y España: movilización, memoria y justicia desde la sociedad civil," NYU Madrid-Fundación Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, November 04, 2024.

- "Prácticas de cuidado en torno a la desaparición forzada y ejecuciones extrajudiciales en Colombia," Colombian Studies Initiative-New York University, New York, November 08, 2023.
- "Muertes anónimas: Violencia y cementerios en Colombia," Historias para lo que viene, Virtual Talk, September 24, 2020.
- "De épicas nacionales, indígenas temerarios y heroínas fatales: Historietas históricas en Colombia (1969-1972)," Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Bogotá, May 30, 2012.
- Delegate to the Organization of American States (OAS) Hemispheric Model, Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago de Chile, July 14-17, 2008.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Vivir con los que no tienen nombre: Muertos no identificados y prácticas de cuidado radical en contextos de desaparición (Colombia 1970-2000)," Latin American Studies Association Congress, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, June 12-15, 2024.
- "Living with the Unknown, Unmourned Dead: Communitarian Strategies for Reintegrating the Anonymous Death in Everyday Life (Colombia, 1970-2000)," Memory Studies Association 7th Annual Conference, Newcastle University, Newcastle, July 3-7, 2023.
- "An Archive of Unknown Human Remains: The Disposal of N.N. Bodies in Cemeteries in Colombia, 1990-2020," OSCE International Conference on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances in Dictatorship and Authoritarian Past and Contemporary Settings: A Social, Legal, and Historical Appraisal of Transitional and Transformation Policies and Mechanisms, University of Tirana, Tirana, December 13-15, 2021.
- "Having no Right to Reparations: The War on Drugs and Unidentified Dead Bodies in La Guajira (1987-1994)," Latin American Studies Association, Virtual Congress, May 26-29, 2021.
- "La creación de un archivo de restos mortales: Cambios en la normatividad sobre los N.N. en Colombia (2009-2015)", XIX Congreso Colombiano de Historia, Armenia, October 1-4, 2019.
- "*La Mujer*: Un proyecto de regeneración social en el Olimpo Radical," II Congreso Internacional de Estudiantes de Historia, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, June 14-18, 2010.
- "La cuestión racial en la construcción de la nación e identidad brasileña (1896-1933): las ideas de da Cunha, Nabuco y Freyre," XIX Coloquio Internacional de Estudiantes de Historia, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, October 26-30, 2009.
- "¿Pero y qué hacemos con las basuras?… pues mandémoslas al Sur. El Botadero de Doña Juana y la formación del Estado Local y Distrital," IV Coloquio de Estudiantes de Ciencia Política Bogotá, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, May 6, 2008.
- "Del Arielismo al Calibanismo: dos formas de pensar la historia de nuestra América," VIII Congreso Historioramas, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, April 3, 2008.

RESEARCH GROUPS

- Member of the research group "Cultural Practices, Imaginaries, and Representations" (Prácticas culturales, imaginarios y representaciones). Universidad Javeriana, Universidad Nacional and Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Sept. 2012- 2018.
- Member of the research group "Between Practices and Representations" (Entre prácticas y representaciones). Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Oct 2015-2021.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

May 2016-Aug. 2018	Context Analyst Unidad de Restitución de Tierras (Government agency in charge of land restitution for victims of forced displacement and land dispossession)
Apr. 2015-May 2016	Analyst Agencia Colombiana para la Reintegración, now called Agencia para la Reincorporación y la Normalización (Government agency in charge of the National Policy on Social and Economic Reintegration of former combatants)
Aug. 2013-Aug. 2014	Research Assistant Universidad de los Andes Research on Peruvian "Political Violence" comics (1989-2010), funded by the Young Researchers and Innovators Grant
Jan.-Jul. 2014	Interviewer of former combatants from paramilitary groups Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica–Dirección de Acuerdos de la Verdad (Government agency in charge of historical memory reconstruction to contribute to the right to the truth for the victims of the Colombian armed conflict)
May-Dec. 2012	General Assistant Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES, a Colombian Human Rights NGO) Project: *Collective reparation for the labor movement in Colombia. Historical memory and guarantee of the victims' rights* (Reparación colectiva del movimiento sindical en Colombia. Memoria histórica y garantía de los derechos de sus víctimas)
Feb.-Apr. 2012	Consultant Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES, a Colombian Human Rights NGO) Project: *Collective reparation for the labor movement in Colombia. Historical memory and guarantee of the victims' rights* (Reparación colectiva del movimiento sindical en Colombia. Memoria histórica y garantía de los derechos de sus víctimas)
Aug.-Dec. 2009	Research Assistant of Curatorial Team Universidad de los Andes Project: Museum exhibition "De cara al Bicentenario" (Commemorative exhibition on the 200th anniversary of Colombia's Independence)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

2023-2024	**Graduate Student Coordinator** New York Latin American History Workshop
2023	**Academic Coordinator of the NYC Edition** Colombia Migrante Film Festival
2022	**General Coordinator of the NYC Edition** Colombia Migrante Film Festival

2018-Present	**Organizer and Member** Colombian Studies Group (with chapters in several universities around the United States)
2018	**Mentor of Students who received Scholarships** Universidad de los Andes Mentorship Program
2009-2010	**Collaborator in Recruitment Sessions** Universidad de los Andes