

# DR. CLAUDIA FONSECA ALFARO

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## PROFILE

Postcolonial and feminist urban scholar with expertise in Latin America

### Research interests

smart cities, infrastructure, Export Processing Zones (EPZs), comparative urbanism, production of space, everyday life, global South, racial capitalism

### Language Skills

Spanish (Native) | English (Fluent) | Swedish (Intermediate)

## EDUCATION

### PhD in Urban Studies | February 2018

Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, Sweden

### MSc in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science | June 2010

Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), Lund University, Sweden

### BS Biotechnology Engineering | December 2007

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Mexico

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Project Researcher** | Malmö University, Institute for Urban Research | January 2022 to present

**Postdoctoral Fellow** | Malmö University, Institute for Urban Research | January 2020 to December 2021

**Research Assistant** | Malmö University, Institute for Urban Research | March to December 2019

**PhD Student Lecturer** | Malmö University, Department of Urban Studies | February 2013 to February 2018

**Social and Environmental Sustainability Analyst** | Levi Strauss & Co. | March 2011 to February 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-reviewed

Fonseca Alfaro C (2023) *Producing Mayaland: Colonial Legacies, Urbanization, and the Unfolding of Global Capitalism*, Wiley.

Fonseca Alfaro C (2022) Planetary urbanization and maquiladoras in Motul, Yucatán. Unveiling abstract space in the Ex-City. In: Reis N and Lukas M (eds), *Beyond the Megacity: New Dimensions of Peripheral Urbanization in Latin America*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Fonseca Alfaro C, Melgaco L and Baeten G (2022) Understanding smart cities through a critical lens. *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Futures*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-51812-7\\_344-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-51812-7_344-1)

- Fonseca Alfaro C (2021) Feminist Lefebvre? Understanding Capitalist Urbanization through the Global Intimate. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies* 20(4). Available at: <https://acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/1891>.
- Fonseca Alfaro C (2020) The production of maquiladora space in Motul, Mexico: from henequen municipality to industrial city. *Articulo - Journal of Urban Research* 21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/articulo.4577>.
- Fonseca Alfaro C (2018) *The Land of the Magical Maya: Colonial Legacies, Urbanization, and the Unfolding of Global Capitalism*. Malmö University.

### Popular Science

- Fonseca Alfaro C (2021). Finding the secondary or overlooked city? Some methodological reflections from a postcolonial urban scholar. In: Neves Alves S and Ruszczyk H (eds), *Theorizing from the overlooked city: Generating a research agenda & network on small/secondary cities*, digital magazine. [https://93e76a9d-000c-45df-b30c-cc5dbe0e070.filesusr.com/ugd/7cb1c8\\_ae7c1cea778d4f5eac9354008e37e6be.pdf](https://93e76a9d-000c-45df-b30c-cc5dbe0e070.filesusr.com/ugd/7cb1c8_ae7c1cea778d4f5eac9354008e37e6be.pdf)
- Fonseca Alfaro C (2019) *Las Maquiladoras En Yucatán: Una Mirada Al Pasado*. La Voz de Motul. Yucatán.

### Other

- Celik Ö, **Fonseca Alfaro C**, Kadioglu D, et al. (2021) Helga Leitner, Jamie Peck and Eric Sheppard (eds.) 2020: *Urban Studies Inside/Out: Theory, Method, Practice*. London: Sage. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. DOI: 10.1080/00346768200000024.

## RESEARCH EXPERTISE

### Awards and Distinctions

- 2018 Best Doctoral Thesis | Malmö University | 50,000 SEK (4,965 €)
- 2008 CONACYT Fellow | Mexican Science and Technology Council

### Research Funding (as main applicant)

- 2019 | Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (FORMAS) | *Smart Cities in the Global South: Contributing to Cosmopolitan Urban Studies* | 2.1 million SEK (208,557 €)
- 2015 | Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography | Fieldwork PhD Project | 40,000 SEK (3,973 €)

### Research Funding (as co-applicant)

- 2020 | Malmö University's Special Call for Research Related to COVID-19 | *Public Health, Epidemics and Urban Planning: Reinstating the Connection* | 700,000 SEK (69,519 €)
- 2020 | Institute for Urban Research | *Dislocating Urban Studies: Rethinking Theory, Shifting Practice* | 100,000 SEK (9,931 €)

### Reviewer

- 2022 | Revista Invi | Instituto de la Vivienda, Universidad de Chile
- 2022 | Book Chapter | *Territorios y Desarrollo en Latinoamérica: Debates Actuales y Perspectivas Futuras desde una Óptica de la Región* | Universidad de Costa Rica
- 2021 | Culture Unbound. Journal of Current Cultural Research
- 2020 | Space and Culture
- 2020 | Urban Planning
- 2019 | *Emotion, Space and Society (EMOSPA)*

2019 | Book Chapter | Beyond Housing Displacement: Conceptual and Methodological Issues | Routledge

### Scientific Committee

2021 | Theme: Urban-Rural Development | The Baltic University Programme Symposium

2020 | Theme 4: Urban-Rural Development | The Baltic University Programme Symposium

### Participation in Conferences

2021 RC21 Conference. Online. Session organizer: *Racial capitalism, everyday life and the city*

2021 RC21 Conference. Online. Session: *The Paradox of Mega Urban Projects: Imaginaries, Practices and Experiences*

2019 Beyond Smart Cities Today Symposium. Centre for BOLD Cities. Rotterdam. Session: *Rethinking smart city scholarship*

2019 RGS-IBG. London. Session: *Natural Slaves: Labour, Race, and Infrastructure*

2019 Nordic Geographers Meeting. Trondheim. Session: *Struggling with the planetary turn*

2018 Global Challenges: Borders, Populism, and the Postcolonial Condition. Växjö. Linnaeus University Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies. Session: *Colonial Legacies*

2018 AAG. New Orleans. Session: *Urbanism and Marginality in the Global South II*

2017 Nordic Geographers Meeting. Stockholm. Session: *Women in geography: is there a disciplinary glass ceiling?*

2017 9th Conference of the Nordic Latin American Research Network. Gothenburg. Session: *Development models*

2016 RGS-IBG. London. Session: *Emergent urban spaces: A planetary perspective*

2016 AAG. San Francisco. Session: *Peri-urban spaces in the neoliberal Americas 1*

### TEACHING

Lund University | Department of Human Geography | Master's in Human Ecology

Course: Theory of Science II

Lund University | Faculty of Social Sciences | Graduate School

Course: Critical Feminist Perspectives in Social Theory

Malmö University | Department of Urban Studies | Free-standing PhD Course

Course: Dislocating Urban Studies: Rethinking Theory, Shifting Practice

Malmö University | Department of Urban Studies | Migration, Urbanisation and Societal Change (MUSA) Doctoral Program

Course: MUSA Introduction Course

Malmö University | Department of Urban Studies | Master's in Urban Studies

Courses: The Urban Question, Catching Urbanity (Methods course), Making Urban Studies (Creative Methods course), Research Internship (2 mentees), Thesis Supervision (5 successful MA thesis advisees)

Malmö University | School of Arts and Communication | Master's in Communication for Development

Courses: Communication and Development Cooperation; Culture and Media Analysis; Media, Globalization and Development; Degree Project (Thesis Supervision)

### PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

2021 | Collaborative Learning in Digital Learning Environments (HP621A), 5 ECTS credits, Malmö University

2021 | Educating for Critical Thinking (HP622E), 5 ECTS credits, Malmö University

2016 | Supporting the Learning of Others (MAH0207), 5 ECTS credits, Malmö University

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2020 | Lecture high school students, *Globalization and urbanization*, Öckerö seglande gymnasieskola  
2018 | Interview, *Myten om mayafolket används för att locka investeringar till Mexikos exportindustri*,  
Communication Department, Malmö University

## INVITED TALKS

- 2020 | PhD Workshop, *Stress and Time Management*, Malmö University  
2018 | Career Planning Workshop, *Life after a PhD*, Malmö University  
2018 | Woman in Academia: Perspectives from Swedish Early-Career Women Academics, Karlstad University  
2018 | LUCSUS Seminar on Urban Environmental Justice, Lund University  
2017 | Development Research Day, Lund University

## LEADERSHIP ROLES AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Organization: Seminar Series, Workshops and Conferences

- 2022 | **Beyond Smart Cities Today: Power, Justice and Resistance.** Conference organizer (with Carina Listerborn, Maja de Neergaard, Adriana de la Peña, Fredrik Torisson). Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University  
2021 | **Dislocating Urban Studies: Rethinking Theory, Shifting Practice.** Workshop organizer (with Özlem Çelik, Defne Kadioglu, and Lorena Melgaço). Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University in collaboration with University of Helsinki  
2019-2020 | **Brown Bag Seminars.** Seminar series organizer. Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University  
2018 | **Gendered and Racialized Bodies: Doing Decolonial Geography in/from the Margins.** Workshop organizer (with Srilata Sircar). Malmö University in collaboration with Lund University  
2013-2014 | **Seminars in Urban Studies.** Seminar series organizer (with Malin Mc Glinn). Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University

### Membership in Research Boards or Collegia

- 2019 - present | **Board Member.** IUR Executive Board, Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University  
2016-2017 | **Chairperson, Doctoral Collegium.** Faculty of Culture and Society, Malmö University  
2015 | **Board Member.** Communications Officer. Doctoral Student Union, Malmö University