

Edisson Aguilar Torres

Historian of
technology

6149 N Broadway Street, Apt 218, Chicago, IL,
60600

edisson.aguilar@northwestern.edu

3123883271 (mobile)

Current position

Weinberg College Postdoctoral Fellow in Science in Human Culture
Northwestern University
History Department, 2025-2027

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in History, 2021-2025

King's College London

Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHoSTM)
Funded by the Hans Rausing Scholarship and the Leverhulme Study
Abroad Studentship.

Thesis 'The Power Dynamics of Small-Scale Technology: Community-
Managed Water Supply and State Formation in Colombia, 1942-1989.'

MA in Modern History, Sept 2020- 2021

King's College London

Distinction and the highest cumulative score (C-Score) in the cohort.
Specialisation in History of Science, Technology and Medicine

Thesis 'The emergence of a global technology: the adoption of
chlorination in England, the United States and Colombia, 1900-1925.'

MA in Modern History Prize, King's College London, 2021.

Funded by the Hans Rausing Scholarship

MA in Social Studies of Science, Jun 2016

National University of Colombia

Highest average mark in the cohort.

Thesis 'The multiple ontologies of water. Mercury, community water
supply and territory in the Ciudad Bolívar district' (original title in
Spanish).

Dissertation awarded with distinction.

B.A., Sociology, Dec 2012

National University of Colombia

Bogotá, Colombia

Awards

-Leverhulme Study Abroad Studentship, 2024-2025, supporting my role as a visiting student at the University of Montreal during the same period.

- Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) Postgraduate & Postdoctoral Research Conference Bursary, 2023.

-Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) Postgraduate & Postdoctoral Research Support Award, 2022.

-Principal's Global Leadership Award, King's College London, 2021.

-MA in Modern History Prize, King's College London, 2021.

-Hans Rausing Scholarship, 2020-2024.

Works in Progress

Book manuscript 'Pipes for the people: Water, Community, and State Formation in Colombia, 1942–1989.'

Main publications

'Toward a Symmetrical Global History of Technology: The Adoption of Chlorination in Bogotá, London, and Jersey City, 1900–1920', *Technology and Culture*, 65 (2024) 4, 1195-1221.

'Estado y movimientos sociales como formadores ambientales en torno al agua en Colombia', en: Javier Sáenz Obregón (ed.) *Pedagogización, Creación y Vida: Prácticas Formativas por Fuera de la Escuela*, (Bogotá, 2024).

'La confianza como motor del ejercicio de la ciudadanía en Medellín', en: *Diez años Construyendo Juntos Cultura Ciudadana en Medellín*, (Medellín, 2018), 68-93.

'El debate público sobre la minería en Colombia. El rol de los expertos en controversias socioambientales', *Memoria y Sociedad* 19 (2015) 39, 128-138.

'Ensamblando representaciones. Ciencia y tecnología en situaciones de conflicto social. Etnografía de una exposición', en: *Ensamblado en Colombia*, (Bogotá, 2013).

Teaching experience

King's College London – War Studies

Department

Graduate Teaching Assistant 2023-2024

Teaching in the module Contemporary Security Issues, including sessions on nuclear proliferation, cybersecurity and environmental security.

King's College London – Digital Humanities Department
Graduate Teaching Assistant 2023-2024

Teaching in the module Digital Economy, including sessions on digital labour, automation of work and peer production.

King's College London – History Department
Graduate Teaching Assistant 2022-2023

Teaching in the modules Making the Modern World 1780-1900 and Making the Modern World 1900-present, including sessions on the history of production and energy, environmental history, and modern science.

Rosario University – Human Sciences School
Adjunct Lecturer

JANUARY 2018 – JUNE 2020, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

I taught Sociological Theory and Colombian History. My courses focused on the interdependence between theory, historiography, and fieldwork in the Colombian context.

Central University of Colombia – Social Sciences, Humanities and Art Faculty

Adjunct Lecturer

JULY 2016-JULY 2017

I taught Sociology of Advertising. The course focused on analysing the labour market in the creative sector in Colombia.

Research experience

Road Safety National Agency – National Observatory of Road Safety
Research consultant

DECEMBER 2018 – August 2020, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

I led the creation and piloting of Colombia's first National Road Safety Survey and coordinated the research on behavioural factors that increase the risk of road accidents in the country.

National University of Colombia – Social Studies Centre

Senior Researcher

JANUARY 2017 – JUNE OF 2019, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Researcher at the project Non-School Education in Colombia, financed by the Administrative Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation of Colombia (COLCIENCIAS). I analysed two cases of non-school environmental education to understand the differences between programs promoted by the State and those led by civic organisations.

Corpovisionarios – Observatory of Culture Citizenship**Senior Researcher****JANUARY 2016-DECEMBER 2018 BOGOTA, COLOMBIA**

I led the research to design the Economic and Financial Education program for the Ministry of Education and created the curricula for peace education for the Education Department of Bogota. Additionally, I coordinated the design and analysis of surveys and qualitative research to understand compliance with the law, interpersonal trust, collective action, and citizenship in different Colombian and Latin American cities.

Centre for the Investigation in Society, Health and Culture and Education Department of Bogota**Research Consultant****OCTOBER 2014 – NOVEMBER 2015**

I researched through IAP (Research-Action-Participation) how sexual education was being taught in schools in Bogota, and I helped secondary school teachers to include respect for gender and sexual diversity in their curricula.

National University of Colombia – Department of Sociology**MAY 2014 – AUGUST 2014****Research Assistant**

I did quantitative research on the distribution of economic resources among the different faculties of the National University of Colombia. I found an unequal distribution that favoured mainly the faculties of Sciences and Mathematics to the detriment of the social sciences and humanities.

University Education and Development Foundation (Fedesarrollo) and the Institute for Research and Debate about Governance**Research Assistant****MARCH 2013-NOVEMBER 2013, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA**

I researched urban adaptation strategies to climate change in six Colombian cities. As a result, I wrote sixteen articles explaining the achievements and challenges of the mayors and civic organisations in facing the environmental and social consequences of climate change. http://www.institut-gouvernance.org/fr/corpus_auteur/fiche-auteur-362.html