

# Nicolas Restrepo Ochoa

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## Education

Duke University, Ph.D. Sociology	2022
Duke University, M.A. Sociology	2021
University of Cambridge, M.Phil. Sociology	2016
Durham University, B.A. Sociology	2015

## Research Interests

Culture and cognition | Attitudinal change | Cultural change | Agent-based modeling  
| Morality | Cultural evolution | Social learning | Social Networks

## Dissertation

*Three papers on beliefs: on their measurement, their transmission, and its implications for large-scale change*

## Publications

### Published:

- 1) "Hunter-Gatherer Foraging Networks Promote Information Transmission" (Co-author) [RSOS] [Link](#).
- 2) "The role of template matching in the attribution of immorality". [Poetics] [Link](#).
- 3) "Opinions on Hard-to-Discuss Topics Change More via Cohort Replacement" (Co-author). [Evolutionary Human Sciences] [Link](#)
- 4) "Identity Networks as a New Frontier: Conceptualizing, Mapping, and Analyzing Identity Structures and Their Impact on Well-Being" (Co-author). [Social Psychology Quarterly] [Link](#)
- 5) "Network indicators of anthropogenic removals in animal societies" (Co-author). [Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B] [Link](#)

### Conditional Acceptance:

- 1) "Measuring Movement in Cultural Landscapes" (Co-author). [Poetics] [Link](#)

### Under Review:

- 1) "The Emergence of a New Pilgrimage as an Assurance Game" (Co-author). [Proc. R. Soc. B] [Link](#).
- 2) "Liberals and Conservatives Make Different Assumptions of Vulnerability, Explaining Moral Disagreement" (Co-author). [Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin]
- 3) "Improving Functionalist Analysis" (Co-author). [American Journal of Sociology] [Link](#)

### Presented:

- 1) "Bringing ecological rationality into models of cultural transmission" – Mind and Materiality panel at the ASA conference 2020.
- 2) "Varying formative windows and the pace of cultural change" - Formal Models of Culture panel at the ASA conference 2022.
- 3) "Stubborn Agents: when does learning not pay off?" - Cultural Evolution Society Conference, Aarhus, Denmark, 2022.

- 4) "Theoretical Puzzles around the Emergence of a New Pilgrimage" - UC Davis Speaker Series, Winter 2023.
- 5) "Theoretical Puzzles around the Emergence of a New Pilgrimage" - Cultural Evolution Society Conference, Durham, UK, 2024.

In Progress:

- 1) "Cultural transmission and the global and local dynamics of social influence" (Co-author) [Link](#)
- 2) "The shape formative windows and the pace of cultural change". [Link](#)
- 3) "Has young adulthood extended? Variation in formative periods across cohorts" (Co-author).

## Teaching and Mentoring

**Doing Reproducible Research with R** 2024

*Designed and taught a 3-day course for graduate students about tools for effective, reproducible research in R*

**Mentoring at the Universidad del Altiplano** 2023

*Helping several students with their undergraduate theses*

**Introduction to R course at the Universidad del Altiplano** 2023

*Designed and taught a 2-day course geared to a mostly Spanish-speaking audience*

**Syllabus design for an Introduction to data science course** 2022

*Helped design a syllabus for an introduction to data science course and to write a set of complementary exercises using engaging data sets.*

**Project Manager - Data Plus** 2021

*Led a team of undergraduates with limited coding experience to build a dashboard of Durham Public Schools, currently being used by local organizations.*

**TA for the Social Statistics Sequence** 2021-2022

*Preparation of coding workshops for a 2-semester course focused on Bayesian statistics and causal identification.*

**Assistant to the Department's statistician at UC Davis** 2023-present

*Advising graduate students in all stages of the research process, from outlining the questions to finding the right statistical tools to answer them.*

**Instructor for Scientific Computing for Reproducible Research** 2024

*Designed and taught a three day course about using Github, Quarto, and programs like "make" to create principled and reproducible scientific workflows.*

**Instructor for Introduction to Social Network Analysis** 2024

*Designed and taught a one-day introduction to social network analysis given in UC Davis's DataLab.*

## **Funding and Awards**

Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500), Graduate School, <i>Duke University</i>	2022
Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500), Graduate School, <i>Duke University</i>	2020
Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500), Graduate School, <i>Duke University</i>	2019
Fuller's Prize for best departmental average in Sociology, <i>Durham University</i>	2015
Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Academic Excellence, <i>Durham University</i>	2014

## **Skills**

R: Proficient | Qualtrics: Proficient | Agent-based modeling: Proficient | Python: Intermediate | Network analysis: Proficient | Stan: Proficient

## **Languages**

Spanish: native | English: fluent | German: C1

## **Departmental Service**

WorldView Lab Manager (Duke)	2021-2023
Anti-Racism Committee Representative (Duke)	2021-2023
Graduate Student Forum Co-Chair (Duke)	2020-2021
Staff Appreciation Coordinator (Duke)	2019-2020
Graduate and Professional Student Council Representative (Duke)	2018-2019

## **Professional Memberships**

American Sociological Association  
Cultural Evolution Society