

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 Structures and Well-Being" (Co-author). [Social Psychology Quarterly] [Link](#)

R and Rs:

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

Under Review:

- 1) "Resilience in Animal Networks" (Co-author). [Phil Trans B]

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.

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).
- 4) "Signals of what? The puzzle of the emergence of new collective rituals" (Co-author).
- 5) "Understanding moral disagreement through assumptions of vulnerability" (Co-author).
- 6) "Improving Functionalist Analysis" (Co-author).

Teaching and Mentoring

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.

Funding and Awards

Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500), Graduate School, Duke University 2022

Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500), Graduate School, Duke University 2020

Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500), Graduate School, Duke University 2019

Fuller's Prize for best departmental average in Sociology, Durham University 2015

Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Durham University 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