

# Diana Heredia-López

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Candidate THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, History, expected July 2025  
*Dissertation:* “Dissecting Cochineal’s Mythical Red: Local Parasites, Cross-regional Knowledge, and the Erasure of Indigenous Market Vitality in Early Modern New Spain”  
Supervised by Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra.
- B.Sc. NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO (UNAM), Biology, received April 2015  
*Honors Thesis* “The Circulation of the Visual Culture of the Royal Botanical Expedition to New Spain (1787-1803).” *Cum laude*. Supervised by Erica Torrens Rojas.

## PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2018 – Fall 2024 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN:  
Department of History, Teaching Assistant  
*Courses:* History of Science (2019), Perspectives on Science & Math (2020) U.S. History Surveys (2018, 2020, 2021, 2024), and The Black Power Movement (2020)
- Fall 2023 – Spring 2024 Department of History, Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Talitha LeFlouria
- Fall 2022 – Summer 2023 The Institute for Historical Studies, Graduate Research Assistant
- Fall 2019 – Spring 2020 Department of Rhetoric and Writing, Digital Pedagogy Specialist

## RESEARCH INTERESTS AND TEACHING FIELDS

Empires and Environment in the Atlantic World, Early Modern Material and Visual Culture, Early Modern History of Science and Medicine, Cultural History of Modern Latin America, Colonial Latin American History

## ARTICLES

“When Nopales and Papers Proliferate: Reading Knowledge, Politics, and Ecologies in Cochineal Cultivation Visual Culture (1599-1620)”, *In preparation for submission to Renaissance Quarterly*.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Bradley Skopyk, “Colonial Cataclysms: Climate, Landscape, and Memory in Mexico’s Little Ice Age”, *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*. 77, no 1 (2022), 176–78. [doi:10.1017/ahss.2022.56](https://doi.org/10.1017/ahss.2022.56). (trans. Laurent Vannini)

Christina Bueno, “The Pursuit of Ruins”, [E2W Review of Books](#), Spring 2020.

James Delbourgo, “Collecting the World: Hans Sloane and the Origins of the British Museum,” *Not Even Past*, January 2018.

## PUBLIC AND DIGITAL HISTORY

Public History Article – with Ashley Thuthao Keng Dam, Rachael Nelson, and Erin Wrightson, “[Ayahuasca: Amazonian Plant Lessons](#)”, *Dumbarton Oaks, Plant Humanities Lab*, July 2022.

Public History Article – “[Los conquistadores invisibles](#)”, *Letras Libres*, No. 252, December 2019.

Public History Website – [“A Witch in New Spain”](#), May 2019 (includes digitized archival document).

Blog piece featured in [The Octo Blog](#) of The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, November 2019

Digital Showcase – “Setting Materia Medica in Place: Apothecary Shops in Eighteenth-Century New Spain”, November 2017: <https://arcg.is/ojKKez>

#### AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 John Carter Brown Library Short-Term Fellowship
- 2022 Professional Development Award, College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2022 LLILAS Benson Digital Scholarship Fellowship
- 2021 Dissertation Research Fellowship, History Department, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2021 Digital Plant Humanities Summer Program, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections (remote)
- 2021 E.D. Farmer International Fellowship, Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS)
- 2019 Tinker Field Research Summer Grant, Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS)
- 2019 Mellon Summer Institute in Spanish Paleography, The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA
- 2017 First Year Academic Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2017 Tuition Assistance for Mexican Students, International Office, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2014 Research and Technological Innovation Project Support Program (PAPIIT) Undergraduate Studies Completion Fellowship, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- 2013 Summer Internship Grant, Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC)

#### PRESENTATIONS

Roundtable Participant: “The State of ‘Things’ in Colonial Latin America: Approaches to Material Culture,” Institute for Historical Studies. The University of Texas at Austin, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Session organizer: *Weaving Together Material Frontiers in Spanish America and the Pacific*. Individual Paper – “Imperfect Roads to Color: Mapping Dye Prospecting in Sixteenth-Century Spanish America,” Conference for Latin American History, San Francisco CA, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

“Imperfect Reds, or How Wild Cochineal Became a Commercial and Natural Category in Early Modern Hispanic Commerce,” HSTEM Colloquium, Department of History, UT Austin., November 17, 2023.

Session organizer: *Disrupting (neo)colonial Life’s Order: Locality, Indigenous Knowledges, and Resistance in Latin America before the twentieth century*. Individual Paper – “Codifying Nahua Knowledge on Cochineal Cultivation in Sixteenth-Century Tlaxcala: From Unprecedented Wealth to Abrupt Field Destruction,” History of Science Society Meeting, Portland OR, November 9, 2023.

“The Short Life of Cochineal Cultivation in Seventeenth-Century Yucatan,” Brown Early Americas Graduate Seminar, Brown University, Providence, RI, October 7, 2023.

“The Red Dyad of Fine and Wild Cochineal: On the Creation of Commercial and Hidden Ethnic Categories in Early Modern Hispanic Commerce,” *Commodities of Empire, Fur, Fin, and Feather: Commodifying Wild Animals*, University of York, July 6-7, 2023.

“Debating Alternative Roads to Plantation Economies: Nahua Knowledge, Cochineal, and the *Repartimiento de Mercancías* in Seventeenth-Century Yucatan,” Dartmouth Summer History Institute: *The Global and the Local: New Histories from Across the Seventeenth-Century World*, June 20-23, 2023.

“From Cabinet to Field: Recasting Notions of Indigenous Knowledge in Sixteenth-Century Cochineal Cultivation,” 4S/ESOCITE Joint Meeting. Cholula, México, December 9, 2022.

“Cultivating Parasitism: Early Modern Insect Crops at the Origins of the Plantationocene,” Climate in Context Conference. The Institute for Historical Studies, UT Austin, April 22, 2021.

“Selling Medicines in the New World: Business Networks, Charity, and Reputability in Seventeenth-Century Mexico City,” Currents of Atlantic History Across Four Centuries Student Conference. UT Austin. December 2018.

Poster Presentation: “How to Disappear 150 Years and Not Be Forgotten: Lessons from the Visual Culture of the Royal Botanical Expedition to New Spain,” History of Science Society Meeting. San Francisco CA. November 2015.

“Rediscovering Nature through the Visual Culture of the Royal Botanical Expedition to New Spain (1787-1803),” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Conference, UQAM. Montréal, Canada. July 2015.

#### **SERVICE & PARTICIPATION**

Fall 2023 - Present      Steering Committee, Science and Knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Fall 2019 – Spring 2020   Latin America Area Representative, History Graduate Student Council, UT Austin

#### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (first language), English (second language, highly proficient speaking, reading, and writing), French (proficient reading, writing, and speaking), German (basic speaking and reading), Latin (basic translation skills).

#### **OUTSIDE SERVICE & PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT**

2016 - 2017      High School Teacher (Bilingual courses on Environmental Sciences and Biology), Secondary School Division, Universidad del Valle de Atemajac, Guadalajara, Mexico.  
2013-2015      Student Research Assistant, Flora del Valle Tehuacán-Cuicatlán, National Herbarium, Instituto de Biología, UNAM, Mexico City  
2012-2015      Student Research Affiliate, Laboratorio de Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia, School of Sciences, UNAM, Mexico City  
2014      Co-founder and Organizer, Science Film Club (*Cineclub para pensar la ciencia*), School of Sciences, UNAM, Mexico City  
2013      Intern, National Astronomical Observatory Archive (FOAN), UNAM, Mexico City