

Mario Orospe Hernández

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Education

PhD in Religious Studies, Arizona State University (ASU) 2025

Dissertation: *Mattering Technologies: Secular/Religious Borders in Bolivian Lithium Mining*

Exam Fields: *Critical Secular Studies; Religion & Economy; Material Methods* (All passed with distinction)

Committee: Richard Amesbury (chair), Gaymon Bennett, Evan Berry, Shahla Talebi, Mareike Winchell

Mphil in Philosophy, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) 2018

Graduated with honors (*Summa cum laude* equivalent)

Thesis: “Biopolitics and Liberation. On the notion of human life in Agamben and Dussel”

BA in Political Science, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) 2012

Graduated with honors (*Summa cum laude* equivalent)

Academic and Professional Appointments

Research:

Postdoctoral Fellow 2026–present

Institute for Philological Research, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Supervisor: Dr. Silvana Rabinovich

- Research project in the Hermeneutics Seminar: “*From Living Matter to Raw Material.*” Investigate the conceptual history of the notion of “raw materials” (*materias primas* in Spanish), to trace its transformation from a theological and metaphysical category into an economic concept and examine its impact in mining in the colonial Andes.

Teaching:

Instructor of Record 2023–2025

School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State University

Undergraduate teaching in religious studies; online instruction.

Graduate Seminar Co-Instructor Fall 2022

School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State University

Co-taught a graduate seminar in religious studies with Dr. Gaymon Bennett.

Humanities Instructor 2017–2019

Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Santa Fe, Mexico

Taught undergraduate and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in English.

Public Service:

Head of International Relations 2025–2026

Office of the President of the Senate, Senate of the Republic of Mexico

- Reported directly to Senate President Laura Itzel Castillo and advised her on international affairs and parliamentary diplomacy. Prepared speeches, policy briefings, and institutional communications.
- Led the International Relations team to organize high-level diplomatic and interparliamentary meetings with foreign legislatures, diplomatic missions, and international organizations, including receptions for heads of state and parliamentary leaders.

Academic Distinctions

Fulbright–García Robles Doctoral Fellowship Full financial sponsorship to pursue my PhD program in the United States Fellowship by the US State Department and COMEXUS	2019–2022
CONAHCYT Doctoral Fellowship Fellowship by the National Council for Humanities, Science, and Technology of Mexico	2022–2024
Graduate College Completion Fellowship Granted by the Graduate College, ASU	2024–2025
Subvention Grant for Book Publication Granted by the Institute for Humanities Research, ASU	2022
SHPRS Research Grants Granted by the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, ASU	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Publications

Book:

“Biopolitics and Liberation: on the notion of human life in Agamben and Dussel.” [In Spanish].
Buenos Aires, Argentina: Editorial Prometeo. 2023. [ISBN 978-987-816-556-1](#).
Reviewed in: *Continental and Comparative Philosophy*; *TransModernity Journal*

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

“Toward a decolonial political theology: cultivating justice and hope amid different worlds. Interview with Silvana Rabinovich”. *Political Theology Journal* (Taylor & Francis). Vol. 25. No.1, 2024. [dx.doi.org/10.1080/1462317X.2023.2242642](https://doi.org/10.1080/1462317X.2023.2242642).

“Fetishism and the practice of anti-fetishism in Enrique Dussel’s philosophy of liberation.” [in Spanish]. *Latinoamérica. Revista de Estudios Latinoamericanos* (UNAM, México), No. 62. 2016. [ISSN 1665-8574](#).

“Nazism and the Frankfurt School: a critique of the naturalization of politics.” [in Spanish]. *Revista Reflexiones Marginales*, (UNAM, México), No. 38. 2017. [ISSN 2007-8501](#).

“The reverie of the world. Representation strategies in baroque culture”. [in Spanish]. *Revista Reflexiones Marginales*, (UNAM, México), No. 29. 2015. [ISSN 2007-8501](#).

Book Chapters and Research Reports:

“Philosophy beyond the boundaries of mere secular reason: Interview with Enrique Dussel.” Collaborative work with Bernardo Cortés Marquez. in Rabinovich, Silvana. *Notes for a Decolonial Political Theology*. New York & London: Routledge. 2024. [ISBN 9781032611020](#).

“The realization of capital as a de-realization of living labor. Commentary on Enrique Dussel's *Theoretical Production of Marx*” [in Spanish], in Pérez Nava, David and Burbano García, Claudia (eds.). *Por los caminos del pensamiento latinoamericano. Ciencias críticas y filosofía de la liberación*. Guayaquil: UNESCO/ AFyL/ FUP. 2020. [ISBN 978-9942-33-366-7](#).

“Theoretical and methodological approaches to Social Sciences’ study of poverty” [in Spanish]. Collaborative research report with Banegas, Israel, and Bonilla, Luis Fabián, in *Cuadernos de Investigación en Desarrollo*, No. 16. México: UNAM. 2018. [ISBN 978-607-30-0815-0](#).

Book Reviews and Review Essays:

“On Decolonial Translations. Review Essay of *Notes for a Decolonial Political Theology*” in *Philosophy and Global Affairs*. 2025. <https://doi.org/10.5840/pga20255296>

Public Scholarship:

“Andean energy? On animating forces beyond battery storage.” Contribution to an essay forum on Climate Futures alongside scholars such as Dominic Boyer, Judith E. Brunton, and Jessica Piskatá. [Intersections](#). Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and Henry Luce Foundation. 2024.

“Raw materials, or sacred beings? Lithium extraction puts two worldviews into tension.” [The Conversation](#) (featured in media outlets like *Yahoo news*, *Fortune Magazine*, and *ArcaMax*). 2023.

Translations:

“Im/Explosión: A conversation with diseño detonante”, Diseño Detonante, Stacey Moran & Adam Nocek, [Techniques Journal](#). Vol. 2. 2022 (Spring).

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant: Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict (ASU)

“[Beyond Secularization: Religion, Science, and Technology in Public Life](#)” (2022-2023)

Collaboration in an [interdisciplinary research project](#) developing a multi-sited and multi-modal framework to rethink the interaction between religion, science, and technology beyond secular boundaries.

Invited by the PIs to join the project based on my expertise and research skills, with a stipend covering all living expenses during the 4th year of my PhD program, in lieu of a teaching assistantship.

Funded by: Templeton Religion Trust.

Principal Investigators: Dr. Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Dr. Ben Hurlburt, and Dr. Gaymon Bennett.

Graduate Student Research Fellow: Center for Philosophical Technologies (ASU)

Collaboration in two yearlong research projects within a [transdisciplinary design space](#). “*Cannibalizing*” (2021) explored the damaging effects of colonial othering strategies on race, the environment, and human-animal relations.

“*Bordering*” (2020) examined the violence of borders while using decolonial practices to reimagine borderlands.

Funded by: School of Arts, Media, and Engineering, ASU

Coordinated by: Dr. Adam Nocek and Dr. Stacey Moran.

Graduate Student Fellow: Institute of Philological Research (IIFL, UNAM)

“*Heteronomy of Justice. Nomadism and Hospitality in Language*” (2017)

Collaboration in a multi-year [research project](#) around the work of E. Levinas, J. Derrida, and M. Buber, as their philosophical projects could help us understand the role of ethics and translation in cultivating nomadic ways of living.

Funded by: Program for Research Projects and Technological Innovation (PAPIIT) No. 402317.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Silvana Rabinovich.

Research Seminar Organizer: Association of Philosophy and Liberation (AFyL, México)

“*The Theoretical Production of Karl Marx*” (Spring 2016)

Organizer of a semester seminar focusing on the work “Grundrisse” by Karl Marx. I led one of the discussion sessions and presented a research paper that was later published as a book chapter. Funded by: UACM, México

Coordinated by Dr. Enrique Dussel.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record - School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, *Arizona State University*

- REL 202 – “Religion and Popular Culture” – Online iCourse (Summer 2025, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023)
- REL 501 – “The Study of Religion I: Genealogies, Theories, and Methods in Religious Studies”
Co-teaching of an in-person graduate seminar with Dr. Gaymon Bennett (Fall 2022)

Teaching Assistant - School of Historical Philosophical and Religious Studies, *Arizona State University*

- REL 330 – “Native American Worldviews” (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)
- REL 349 – “Nature, Sustainability, and Religion” (Fall 2020)
- REL 207 – “Ritual, Symbol, and Myth” (Spring 2020)
- REL 101 – “Religion, Culture, and Public Life” (Fall 2019)

Undergraduate Lecturer - School of the Humanities, *Tecnológico de Monterrey*, Santa Fe. México

- HUM 101 – “Ethics, Person, and Society” (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

High School Teacher - International Baccalaureate (IB), *Tecnológico de Monterrey*, Santa Fe. México

- TOK I & II - “Theory of Knowledge I & II” (Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019)
- PHI101 – “Philosophical Thinking” (Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019)

Academic Presentations

Refereed Conference Papers:

“From Living Matter to Raw Material: Theology, Economy, and the Secularization of Nature”
International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC).
October 2026 (scheduled), Venice, Italy.

“Cosmotechnics in the Andes: Rethinking the Borders of Religion and Technology”
International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC). June 2025, UC Santa Barbara.

“Abstract labor, remote mindfulness: co-producing (im)material imaginaries and secular spiritualities at Google.” *American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting*, November 2024, Tampa, FL.

“A genealogy of *raw materials* in Bolivia: unearthing wak’as, abstracting minerals”
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, November 2023. San Antonio, TX.

“A genealogy of *raw materials* [materias primas] in late colonial Charcas (1640-1790)”
Bolivian Studies Association (AEB) 11th Congress, July 2023. Sucre, Bolivia.

“Mining rituals. From the colonial invention of raw materials to the tech industry's lithium extraction”
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, November 2022. Denver, CO.

“Mining rituals. From the colonial invention of raw materials to the tech industry's lithium extraction”
American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, November 2022, Seattle, WA.

“Thinking beyond secular borders. Critical secular studies and philosophy of liberation in conversation”
Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), Annual Meeting, June 2022, UNAM, Mexico City.

“Beyond the sacred and the holy: Assembling material methods to trace abundant events”
American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, November 2021, Baltimore, MD.

“Reflections on everyday life ethics: towards a liberation theology of work”
Scholars at the Peripheries: First International Conference, August 2021, St. Andrews University, UK.

“Modes of economic appropriation and everyday life religiosity in Bolivian mining”
Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Meeting, May 2021 [virtual].

“The misty regions of religious metaphors: Matory’s and Dussel’s decolonial readings of fetishism”
Philosophies of Liberation. Encuentro II, September 2020, Bowie State University & Fordham University.

Academic Panels:

Discussant: “Borders, Boundaries, Mobilizing: Discussions on Ivan Illich and Energy Democracy”
Respondent to Papers by Terra Rowe and Brent Crosson.
International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC), UC Santa Barbara – 2025.

Participant: “Liberation or Sacrifice: Celebration Homage to Enrique Dussel and Juan Carlos Scannone”
[In Spanish] With Enrique Del Percio and Silvana Rabinovich.
Institute of Philological Research, UNAM – 2025.

Organizer and Chair: “Decolonial Political Theologies: Intersections of Religion and Politics”
The panel challenged how biblical vocabularies have been used to justify land and resource depletion.
With Silvana Rabinovich and Rafael Vizcaino. *Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, ASU* – 2024.

Co-organizer: “Dwelling otherwise. Terrains of endurance, resistance, and reparations.”
The panel focused on modes of inhabiting the world that unsettle dominant assemblages of power & capital.
American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting – 2022.

Chair: “Cartographies of production in Latin America. Extractivism and the commodities’ life cycle”
With Dr. Orlando Bentancor (Barnard College, Columbia University) as discussant.
Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Meeting – 2021.

Awards

Winner of the Anthropology Fieldwork [Photo Contest](#) 2022
Award by the American Anthropological Association

AAR Annual Meeting Travel Award 2022
Award by the American Academy of Religion

Graduate Excellence Awards 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Award by the Graduate College. ASU

The College Leaders Student Award 2021
Award by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ASU

GPSA Research Award 2023
Granted by the Graduate and Professional Association, ASU

Friends of the CSRC Research Award 2020
Research seed award granted by the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, ASU

The University of California, Los Angeles, Study Abroad Program Fall 2010
Fully funded undergraduate exchange semester at UCLA awarded by UNAM

Institutional Service

Anti-Racism Committee Graduate Student Representative - SHPRS, ASU	2020–2024
Academic Integrity Hearing Board Member Office of the University Provost, ASU	Fall 2023
Graduate Association for Religious Studies, ASU Secretary - SHPRS, ASU	2020–2022

Professional Development

QM Certification: ‘Improving Your Online Course’ Workshop to enhance instructional design and online teaching skills – Quality Matters	Spring 2024
Workshop: ‘How to Become a Successful Public-Facing Scholar’ Coached by Dr. Joan McGregor and Dr. Terry Shoemaker – SHPRS, ASU	Spring 2023
Preparing Future Scholars (PFx Seminar) Semester-long mentoring seminar – Graduate College, ASU	Fall 2022
Microteaching and Multicultural Classrooms Participant in a series of pedagogical skills workshops – Tecnológico de Monterrey, Santa Fe	2017–2018

Languages

English	Advanced reading, writing, and speaking - C1 Level - TOEFL IBT and CAE certifications
German	Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking - B1 Level - ÖSD Zertifikat
Spanish	Native Speaker

Affiliations

American Academy of Religion, American Anthropological Association, Latin American Studies Association,
International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture