

Matthew Furlong
Curriculum Vitae
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Department of Anthropology
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[The Human Rights in a New Key Podcast](#)

Research Interests

Urban anthropology; political and legal anthropology; infrastructure studies; housing and urbanization; migration and border studies; economic anthropology; science and technology studies; environmental politics; Mexico and Latin America.

Academic Appointments

2026–	Lecturer in Anthropology and the Honors College, UIC
2024-26	Adjunct Lecturer in Anthropology and the Honors College, UIC
2021-23	Post-doctoral Fellow in Human Rights and Anthropology, University of Chicago

Education

2021	Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Chicago.
2014	M.A. Anthropology, University of Chicago.
2010	B.A. English, Philosophy, and Sociology, Williams College.

Publications

Books

In prep.	Infrastructures of Ambivalence: Affective Entanglements with Privatized Public Housing in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands
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Journal Articles

2026. ["Graduated Hospitality: Perceiving scale through migrant resettlement infrastructure in Querétaro, Mexico."](#) *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*.
- Under Review*. "Infrasecular Therapeutic Landscapes: *Curanderismo* and Biomedicine in Urbanizing Mexico, 1960–1980." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*.
- In prep. "Suspending Emergency: The Contested Politics of Atmospheric Crisis in Monterrey, Mexico."

Book Chapters

2025. ["Rethinking the Economization of the Refugee and Asylum Crisis among Central American Youth from Urban Zones along Mexico's Southern and Northern Borders."](#) (In Spanish). *Las fronteras de México y Argentina*. Ed. Porcaro, Tania, Dolores Camacho, and Alejandro Benedetti. Buenos Aires: Teseo Press.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Lecturer, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois, Chicago. 2024-2026. Current Courses: "Economic Geography: Markets and the Commodification of Lived Spaces" "The Midwest as a Borderlands: Global Connections and Local Impacts" (UIC Honors College), "Is there an Affordable Housing Crisis?"

Lecturer, the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights and the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, 2021-2023. Courses taught: 'Global Society I, and III' Core Undergraduate Sequence; Anthropological Approaches to Human Rights; 'Self, Culture and Society I and III' Core Undergraduate Sequence.

Lecturer, Department of History, Roosevelt University, 2018-2019. Courses taught: "The History of Mexico: Pre-Colombian to Post-Revolutionary Histories" and "Colonial Latin American History."

Graduate Student Lecturer: Courses Taught: "Colonizations III: Decolonial Histories." Core Undergraduate Sequence, 2019.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Latin America Studies, and Pozen Family Center For Human Rights. Courses: "Latin American Civilizations I, II, III" (Winter 2017 and Winter 2018); "Trump 101" (Spring 2017); "Human Rights: Contemporary Issues" (Fall 2017); "Introduction to Anthropological Theory" (Fall

2016); “Self, Culture, and Society I, II, III” (2013-2014).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Post-Dissertation Fieldwork, Tapachula, Mexico, 2021-2023. Supported by The Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at The University of Chicago. Partially in collaboration with Dr. Iván Francisco Porraz Gómez of *El Colegio de la Frontera Sur* (ECOSUR). Key field sites: worker housing developments in Tapachula’s urban periphery occupied by asylum-seeking populations; asylum-seeking resident home gardens (*huertas caseras*).

Monterrey, Mexico. 2023-2026 with Fernando Euristides, instructor of anthropology and doctoral candidate at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, in Monterrey, Mexico on urban environmental politics.

Long-Term Ethnographic Dissertation Fieldwork, based in Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, and Mexico City, 2015-2017. Supported by the National Science Foundation. Key field sites: industrial housing construction companies, worker housing resident committees, and state urban development and housing institutions.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Haunted Belonging: The Uneven Criminalization of Curandero Practice in 1960s–1970s Urban Mexico.” Paper presented at the Sixteenth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society, Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, Lima, Peru, June, 2026.

"Enduring Incompletion: An Ethnography of Ambivalent Attachments to Unfinished Infrastructure in Tijuana, Mexico" University of Illinois, Chicago Department of Anthropology’s Afternoon Talk Series. Fall, 2024.

“The Extractivism-Urbanism Nexus in Contemporary Mexico.” Invited Public Lecture, Cenotes Urbanos Environmental Politics Forum, Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Winter, 2024.

“Unpacking Possession: Entanglements of Housing Invasion and Spirit Invasion in Tijuana and Tapachula, Mexico.” Latin American Studies Association Panel "The Historical and Ongoing Struggle for Land, Tenancy, and Political Representation in Latin America ‘Irregular,’” Vancouver, Canada. Spring, 2023.

Invited Lecture, Ecosur, Tapachula. Faculty of Migration Studies Virtual Event: “Social

Theory Graduate Student Seminar." Winter, 2022.

"Genealogies of the Satellite City." Jornadas Históricas del Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Autonomous University of Baja California, Tijuana, Baja California. Spring, 2019

"Una Propuesta Heterodoxa Respecto al Concepto de 'Escala' en la Antropología Urbana," Autonomous University of Baja California, Tijuana, Baja California. Fall, 2018.

"A Geographic Headache" American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA. Fall, 2018.

"Alluvial Worlds" (Dissertation Chapter). Histories of Capitalism Workshop, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Fall 2018.

"En Obra Negra: Mexico's 'New Urban Peripheries' as Territorial Aporia" (Dissertation Chapter). Urban Studies Workshop, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Fall 2017.

"Concrete Brokering" (Dissertation Chapter). Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Spring 2017.

"Housing Populism and Territorial Rehabilitation in Mexico's New Urban Peripheries" El Colegio de Michoacán, Zamora de Hidalgo Michoacán, Fall 2016.

"The Aftermath of a Mexican Housing Boom, Viewed From One's Window, Discreetly" The Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting 2016, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Spring 2016.

"After Mexico's Housing Boom: Anthropological Perspectives from Tijuana and Cancun" UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, CA, Spring 2016.

"The Biopolitical Backstage in Tijuana," The Newberry Library Latino Studies/Borderlands Conference, The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, Spring 2014.

"Theaters of Remembrance: On the Origins of a National Sacred Order," The American Studies Colloquium, University of Erlangen, Erlangen, Germany, Spring 2011.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Creator and Co-host: 'Human Rights in a New Key' Podcast. Project funded by The Pozen Center and the Summer Institute in Social Research Methods, University of Chicago, 2021-2023.

<https://humanrights.uchicago.edu/human-rights-in-a-new-key-podcast>

Faculty Student Mentor, Summer Institute in Social Research Methods (SISRM) at the University of Chicago, Summer 2022.

Volunteer Research Collaborator with CAMMI (*Centro de Apoyo Marista al Migrante*), Universidad Marista, Querétaro, Mexico, Spring 2022.

Volunteer Translator with RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services), San Antonio, Texas, Winter 2017.

Coordinating Member of *Espacio Migrante*, (Migrant Assistance NGO, Tijuana, Mexico), 2015-2017.

HONORS/AWARDS

Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at The University of Chicago, 2022-2023.

Social Sciences Division Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The University of Chicago, 2019-2020.

Center for Latin American Studies Tinker Grant, The University of Chicago, 2014-2015.

Summer Language Fellowship, DAAD, 2012.

Graduate Student Research Fellowship, The National Science Foundation 2011-2015

University of Chicago Graduate Student Fellow, 2010-2016.

Friedrichs Prize in Sociology, 2010, Williams College.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Latin American Studies Association

American Anthropological Association

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish, Proficient in German.