

Santiago Orrego

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POSITION

2025 – Research associate at the Materiality of Crisis Lab, Universidad de Murcia, ES.

FORMER POSITIONS

2023 – 2025 Research associate, George Simmel Center for Urban Studies. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, DE. (DFG Walter-Benjamin Fellowship).

2017 – 2021 Predoctoral researcher, Munich Center for Technology in Society, MCTS. Technical University of Munich, DE.

EDUCATION

2021 Ph.D. TechnoScience Studies, Technical University of Munich, DE.

2016 M.A. Sociology, Universidad de Antioquia, CO.

2013 B.A. Journalism, Universidad de Antioquia, CO.

AREAS OF RESEARCH/INTEREST

Science and Technology Studies; Urban Studies; Experimental Ethnography; More-than-Human Research; Empirical Philosophy; Environmental Humanities; Data Visualization.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

[2027] Orrego, S., and Martínez, F. “Thermal Abandonment: Arid Urbanism and the Loss of Hydraulic Landscapes in Murcia, Spain.” *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. (Under review).

[2027] Martínez, F., and Orrego, S. “The Social Life of Shadows: Non-Objects in a Mediterranean City.” *Journal of Material Culture*. (Under review).

[2027] “Fragmented Floras: Ontologies of Medicinal Plant Fragments in Bogotá’s Markets.” *Environmental Humanities*. (Under review).

[2026] “Toxic Suspension: Living Inside the Restricted Zone during Catalonia’s African Swine Fever Outbreak.” *Ethnofoor*. (Accepted for publication).

[2026] Usón, T. J., Orrego, S., Pietrzak, B., Lee, J. H., Jasper, S., Usón, N., & Winkler, C. “Multispecies Mapping: Exploring Practices of Fragmentation, Scale, and Care.” *Zoophilologica: Polish Journal of Animal Studies*. (Accepted for publication).

[2026] “Floating Infrastructure: Bogotá’s Séptima Informal Market.” *Roadsides*. (Accepted for publication).

- [2026] “‘My neighborhood is an amusement park, and I am [not] okay with that.’ Co-laborative Explorations of an Outdoor Escalator System in Medellín, Colombia.” *Architecture and Culture*. (In press).
- 2026 “Speculative Manuals: Illustration as Situated Translation in Ethnography.” *Multimodal Studio*. Society for Cultural Anthropology. <https://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/speculative-manuals-illustration-as-situated-translation-in-ethnography>
- 2025 “Des-plegar.” Theorizing the Contemporary, *Fieldsights*, October 23. <https://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/des-plegar>
- 2024 “Partial Encounters: Exploring More-than-human Entanglements in Berlin's Animal Enclosures.” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. DOI: 10.1177/08912416241309.
- 2022 “Turning a Traffic Light into an Epistemological Device: An ANT Proposal to Disassemble and Stabilize Urban Life into Regions of Usability.” *Social Epistemology*. DOI: 10.1080/02691728.2022.2040638.

Multimodal production

Tarde, a handbook of minimal and irrelevant urban entanglements. ISSN: 2941-4393. <https://tarde.info>

2025

- Orrego (Editor), Rondel and Henneke (Authors). “Out-of-place: Redundant Infrastructures and Walking in Auto-landscapes.” (May – June). DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/3Z7QU.
- “Watching animals doing nothing. A visual exploration of animal immobilities” (March – April). DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/5GAHK.
- Orrego and Tess. “Umbrellas and other Umbracula” (January – February). DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/9HXE7.

2024

- Orrego (Editor), the Department of Umbrology (Collective author). “Prototypes for a Department of Umbrology.” (November – December). DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/ACF64.
- Orrego (Editor), Feldmann, Stanze, and Manualpillai (Authors). “Trashure Hunting” (September – October). DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/92YHX.
- Orrego (Editor) and Criado (Author). “The City of Shades: Ethnography of Urban Habitability in Times of Climate Mutation” (July-August) DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/JU6VM.
- Orrego (Editor) and Criado (Author). “Landscaping Pavements” (May – June) DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/RCASX.
- Orrego and Pankin. “Rats as Urban Infrastructure” (March – April) DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/Y762A.
- “Urban Animal Enclosures: a Critical Fieldguide to Watch and (Possibly) Pet Farm Animals in Berlin” (January – February) DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/U8MPE.

2023

- “The Insignificant Others: Stories of Irrelevant Beings” (November – December)
DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/HVJX5.
- “Glitch Infrastructures: Walking on a Mosaic of Failures” (September – October).
DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/FJ5V9

Book Chapters

- [2027] “Mapping Unwanted Relatedness: Rat-zones, Expertise, and the Ambivalence of Care in Western Medellín.” In Ritter, C. and Pikner, T. (eds) *Expertise and Environmental Care in Multispecies Worlds*. Routledge. (Accepted).
- [2027] “Home. A User’s Manual.” In Martinez, F. and Errázuriz, T. (eds) *Take One Object: An Ethnographic Journey through Domestic Material Culture*. Bloomsbury. (Accepted).
- [2027] “Toxic Afterlives: Specimenography and the Uneven Residues of Industrial Farming.” In Dewan, C., Ippolito, R., and Little, P. (Accepted).

Book Reviews

- 2021 Fariás, I. and Orrego, S. “Urban Ethics: Conflicts Over the Good and Proper Life in Cities.” *Zeitschrift für Volkskunde* 117, 2, 290-291.

Academic Service

- 2022 Peer Reviewer for Journal “Social Epistemology.”

Other editorial contributions

Creation of biographical vignettes and interviews, editorial assistance, and book design

- 2015 *Espíritus libres 3*. Cadavid, A. (Ed.). Medellín: Universidad de Antioquia. ISBN: 978-958-8890-50-0.
- 2012 *Espíritus libres 2*. Cadavid, A. (Ed.). Medellín: Universidad de Antioquia. ISBN: 978-958-8748-43-6.
- 2012 *Huellas y Voces: Memoria, Egresados Universidad de Antioquia*. Cadavid, A. (Ed.). Medellín: Universidad de Antioquia. ISBN: 978-958-8748-45-0.

FUNDING

- 2022 *Walter Benjamin postdoctoral position*, fellowship granted by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft - German Research Foundation, DFG.
- 2021 6-month postdoc preparation funding granted by the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.
- 2017 *Convocatoria Doctorados en el Exterior, convocatoria 756/2016, Colciencias*. Colombian Administrative Department of Science and Technology, Colciencias, call 756/2016 to undertake Ph.D. Students abroad.

RESEARCH INVITATIONS

- 2025 5-month visiting scholar at the Collaborative Research Center “Re-Figuration of Spaces” (CRC 1265) at Technische Universität Berlin.
- 2021 1-year visiting scholar at Georg-Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.
- 2019 6-month visiting scholar at the School of Public Engagement at The New School, New York City.

RESEARCH AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 – Co-founder Research Group on Geomodalities, an experimental space for thinking and working with human–environment relations across scales, at the Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems – IRI THESys at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- 2023 – 2025 “Infrastructuring Multispecies encounters: an ethnography of more-than-human urban assemblages in Berlin's petting zoos.”
- 2018 – 2025 Member of *Stadtlabor* at Georg-Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.
- 2017 – 2021 “Mirrors and Labyrinths: Learning from Times Square How to Make an Urban STS Ethnography.” Doctoral research. <https://mediatum.ub.tum.de/1610446>.
- 2014 – 2016 “When the Cool is not Cool. Hipster colonization of the Wild East of New York”. Master research. <http://bibliotecadigital.udea.edu.co/handle/10495/5649>.
- 2015 – 2021 Member of *Grupo Medio Ambiente y Sociedad* (MASO), Universidad de Antioquia. Environment and Society, research group.
- 2015 – 2021 Mentor at *Semillero de investigación Grupo Medio Ambiente y Sociedad* (SIGMAS), Universidad de Antioquia. Research hotbed from the Environment and Society research group.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2026 “Fragmented Floras: Afterlives vegetales, clasificación y fragmentografía en Samper Mendoza.” *Seminario Permanente GESCTM (Grupo de Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia, la Tecnología y la Medicina)*, Bogotá, CO (23.02).
- 2025 “The Politics of Invasiveness: A Research Route to Track the Controversy of Hippopotamuses Living in Colombia’s Wild.” *50th Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S): Reverberations*, Seattle, US (3-6.09).
- 2025 Panel organizer. “Towards Pluriversal Urbanisms: Reimagining Postcolonial and More-than-human Futures.” *50th Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S): Reverberations*, Seattle, US (3-6.09).

- 2025 “Watching Animals do Nothing: a Cartographic Exploration of Animals’ Immobility.” *STS-hub.de 2025 Diffracting the Critical*, Berlin, DE (13.03).
- 2025 Panel organizer. “Multispecies Mapping: Diffracting the Critical through More-than-human Cartographies.” *STS-hub.de 2025 Diffracting the Critical*, Berlin, DE (11-14.03).
- 2024 “Nomadic Urbanism: A multimodal Ethnography of how Digital Nomadism Shapes Latin American Cities.” The Getaway Conference: Mobilities, Societies, the State, and Detoxing. Riga, LV (11.10).
- 2024 “La Etnografía como Espacio de Invención.” *Desensamblando las calles de Medellín: Una exploración colaborativa de las urbanidades ínfimas a través de la invención etnográfica*. Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, UPB. Medellín, CO (09.09).
- 2024 Workshop organizer. “Desensamblando las Calles de Medellín: Una Exploración Colaborativa de las Urbanidades Ínfimas a Través de la Invención Etnográfica.” Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, UPB. Medellín, CO (09-13.09).
- 2024 “Unpacking Berlin’s Animal Enclosures: Encounters, Exchanges, and Power Relationships in the More-than-human city.” *EASA2024: Doing and Undoing with Anthropology*, European Association of Social Anthropologists. Barcelona, ES (18-27.07).
- 2024 Panel discussant. “Re-doing Anthropological Futures from Multiple Histories: Towards Pluriversal Anthropologies.” *EASA2024: Doing and Undoing with Anthropology*, European Association of Social Anthropologists. Barcelona, ES (18-27.07).
- 2024 “Discussing Partial Encounters: Exploring Human-animal Interactions in Berlin Animal Enclosures.” *EASST-4S: Making and Doing Transformations*, Society for Social Studies of Science. Amsterdam, ND (16-19.07).
- 2024 “The Ethnography of Ephemeral Urban Entanglements in Times of Climate Mutation.” *The City of Shades: Ethnography of Urban Habitability in Times of Climate Mutation*. Open University of Catalonia. Barcelona, ES (17.06).
- 2024 Workshop organizer. “The City of Shades: Ethnography of Urban Habitability in Times of Climate Mutation.” *Open University of Catalonia*. An activity part of Setmanes d’Arquitectura 2024. Barcelona, ES (17-21.06).
- 2024 Criado and Orrego. “Prototypes for a Department of Umbrology.” *A session for the M.A. course on Design Anthropology*, Institute of Design Research, Hochschule der Künste Bern, CH (12.03).
- 2023 “Walking on a Mosaic of Failures. Exploring Glitch Infrastructures.” *Tarde Workshops*. Bureau for Experimental Ethnography, University of Texas, Austin, US. (25.10).
- 2023 “Rats as Urban Infrastructure. Encounters, Crashes, and Circulations in the Anthropocentric City.” *STS-hub.de 2023 Circulations: Towards encounters amongst STS scholars in Germany*. Aachen, DE (15-17.03).

- 2022 “On Rats, Dogs, and a Garden Full of Life.” *RN37 V Midterm Conference, European Sociological Association*. Berlin, DE (05-07.10).
- 2022 Panel organizer. “Seeing the City Through Multispecies Perspectives: Mobilizing Nature to the City and the City to Beyond.” *RN37 V Midterm Conference, European Sociological Association*. Berlin, DE (05-07.10).
- 2022 “Being like a Human, Thinking like a Dog: Fabulating and Mapping Encounters and Urban Imaginaries of Dog-persons in the Streets of Medellín.” *EASST 2022 Congress, Politics of Technoscientific Future*. Madrid, ES (06-09.07).
- 2021 “Learning from Outside, Grasping and Representing Multiplicities. The case of Pedestrianized Times Square.” *DGSKA 2021 Conference, Seismographies of the Anthropocene*. Virtual University of Bremen, DE (28.09).
- 2020 “Designing Multimodal Artifacts for Exploring Urban Life.” *EASST4T Conference Prague 2020. Locating and Timing Matters: Significance and Agency of STS in Emerging Worlds*. Online Prague, CZ (19.08).
- 2020 “Working Together. Exploring Collaborative Encounters Between Times Square and Me”. *Second-year doctoral presentation. MCTS Doctoral Colloquium #mytopic.in.society*. Winter Semester 2019/2020. Munich, DE (13.02).
- 2018 “Urban Studies Without the Urban and Without the City.” *First-year doctoral presentation. MCTS Doctoral Colloquium #mytopic.in.society*. Winter Semester 2017/2018. Munich, DE (10.02).
- 2016 “Expandiendo la Geografía a Través de Redes Sociotécnicas. Dialogando entre la Geografía Humana y los Estudios de Ciencia, Tecnología y Sociedad”. *Seminario y socialización de líneas y proyectos de investigación, Grupo Medio Ambiente y Sociedad*. Medellín, CO (19.08).
- 2015 “Territorio como Campo de Batalla. Apuntes para una sociología del espacio como un campo social.” *Congreso Ciudades, Metrópolis y Regiones Habitables*. Medellín, CO (30.09).
- 2015 “Teoría Urbana y Estudios del Lugar, una Propuesta de Análisis Social desde la Geografía Humana.” *Paper presented at the Seminario y socialización de líneas y proyectos de investigación, Grupo Medio Ambiente y Sociedad*. Medellín, CO (21.08).
- 2013 “Tablets y Eduentretenimiento para la Enseñanza de Historia en los Colegios y Escuelas de Medellín.” *Ninth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*. Illinois, US (15.05).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal, DE

2025/SoSe Urban Mapping (Social Work, undergraduate).

Hochschule Emden-Leer, DE

2024-25/WiSe Urban Mapping (Social Work, undergraduate).

2024/SoSe Urban Mapping (Social Work, undergraduate).

Universidad de Antioquia, CO

2016/2nd-semester Ethnography (Librarianship, undergraduate).
2016/2nd-semester Interactive Media (Journalism and Social Communication, undergraduate).
2016/1st-semester Journalism and Sociology (Journalism, undergraduate).
2016/1st-semester Introduction to Sociology (Librarianship, undergraduate).
2015/2nd-semester Interactive Media (Journalism and Social Communication, undergraduate).
2015/2nd-semester Digital Research (Journalism and Social Communication, undergraduate).
2015/1st-semester Interactive Media (Journalism and Social Communication, undergraduate).
2015/1st-semester Digital Research (Journalism and Social Communication, undergraduate).
2014/2nd-semester Interactive Media (Journalism and Social Communication, undergraduate).

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

2013 – 2014 Director's assistant - Journalist at *Programa de Egresados*, Universidad de Antioquia.
 Alumni office.
2012 – 2015 General director and co-founder of Future Paper, an ICT company specializing in
 interactive media.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Data visualization skills.
Adobe software Suite (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop).
Content Management System Literacy (WordPress).
Communication skills and event planning.