

# Organizing Committee

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## **Monica Moreno Brush (Co-Chair)**

Research Associate  
Water Research and Technology Center  
University of Engineering and Technology  
Barranco, Peru



Monica Moreno is a researcher and senior analyst at the Center for Amazonian Scientific Innovation (CINCIA) and a research associate at the University of Engineering and Technology (UTEC) in Peru. She is an environmental geochemist interested in the biogeochemical cycling and bioaccumulation of anthropogenic pollutants in aquatic systems, and the subsequent impact on environmental and wildlife health. During the last 10 years, the focus of her research has been the behavior and fate of mercury in tropical ecosystems impacted by artisanal gold mining. Dr. Moreno holds a Licentiate degree in chemistry from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and a PhD from the University of Freiburg in cooperation with the Technische Universität Braunschweig in Germany.

## **Nicola Ulibarri (Co-Chair)**

Associate Professor  
Department of Urban Planning & Public Policy  
University of California, Irvine  
Irvine, California  
United States



Nicola Ulibarri is an Associate Professor of Urban Planning & Public Policy at the University of California Irvine. She is an interdisciplinary scholar who uses political, social, and technical perspectives to evaluate the sustainability of environmental planning and decision-making practices. She investigates the interaction between people, infrastructure, and the environment, with a focus on redesigning planning, permitting, and operations to meet more diverse social and environmental needs. Dr. Ulibarri earned her PhD through the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment & Resources at Stanford University.

**Julian Arellana**

Dean  
College of Engineering  
Universidad del Norte  
Barranquilla, Colombia



Julian Arellana is the Dean of the College of Engineering at Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia. He holds a Civil Engineer degree from Universidad del Norte, MSc and PhD degrees in Engineering Sciences, with an emphasis in transportation engineering, from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, former Director of Research and Graduate Engineering Programs, and 2020 medal of scientific merit for his academic contributions to transport since working at the Universidad del Norte. In 2023, the International Society IEOM recognized him with the global engineering education award. He also obtained awards for the best paper for developing countries at the WCTRS conference in Canada in 2023 and the ANPET transport conference in 2020 and 2022. He has led several research and consulting transportation projects in different Latin American countries. Member of the Academic Network of Mobility in Colombia, the Pan-American Society for Transport Research, and the International Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low-Income Communities for Latin America (INTALINC-LAC). He has co-authored more than 60 articles in scientific journals. His areas of interest are transport modeling, transport planning, transport economics, active transportation, and the novel application of choice experiments and econometrics.

**Camila Balbontin**

Associate Professor  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
Santiago, Chile



Camila Balbontin works as Assistant Professor in the Department of Transport Engineering and Logistics at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC) since March 2023. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow in the Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS) in the University of Sydney; Guest investigator in Instituto Sistemas Complejos de Ingeniería (Complex Engineering Systems Institute); and director of Sociedad Chilena de Ingeniería de Transporte (Chilean Society of Transport Engineering). In February 2018, she completed her PhD under the supervision of Professor David Hensher where she focused on integrating decision heuristics and behavioural refinements into travel choice models. She was awarded the ITLS prize for Research Excellence in Transport or Logistics 2017. After her PhD completion, she worked as a Postgraduate Research Fellow in ITLS. Camila holds a bachelor degree in the field of Civil Engineering with a diploma in Industrial Engineering and in Transportation and Logistics

from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She did her MSc degree at the same university under the supervision of Professor Juan de Dios Ortúzar. Her MSc thesis estimated the valuation of households and neighbourhood attributes in the centre of Santiago.

Her research is primarily focused on the formulation and estimation of transport demand models and discrete choice models, as well as data collection and survey design. She currently works on projects related to the BRT Centre of Excellence; business location decisions; home valuation; transport demand and work from home during and after covid-19; university travel choices; among others.

**Mónica Berger González**

Head of Unit of Medical Anthropology, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala  
Associate Researcher, ETH Zurich  
Universidad del Valle de Guatemala  
Guatemala City, Guatemala



Mónica Berger González is a sociocultural anthropologist with a PhD in sciences from ETH Zurich. She heads the Unit of Medical Anthropology at the Center for Health Studies in Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) and is an associate researcher at the Swiss TPH's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. She has over 20 years of experience leading projects at the interface of applied research for development and policy implementation. Currently, she heads several research projects in international collaborations focusing on indigenous ethnomedicine and ethnobotany, One Health approaches, pandemic preparedness and response, healthcare service provision in pluricultural settings, antenatal care, among others. Her interests include developing intercultural transdisciplinary research processes applied to socially complex settings, advancing Maya ethnomedical research for culturally pertinent healthcare interventions and policies, pluriepistemic applications of One Health in Latin America, North-South collaborations for advancing new models of UHC, among others.

**Hector Chavez**

Director  
Department of Electrical Engineering  
University of Santiago  
Santiago, Chile



Hector Chavez received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Santiago, Santiago, Chile, in 2004 and 2006, respectively, and a PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA, in 2013. In 2013, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Electrical Power Systems, School of Electrical Engineering, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. From 2006 to 2009, he was an Instrumentation Engineer at WorleyParsons Minerals and Metals, Santiago. Currently, he is the Director of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Santiago.

**Gina M. Galindo Pacheco**

Associate Professor and Head  
Industrial Engineering Department  
Universidad del Norte  
Barranquilla, Colombia



Gina M. Galindo Pacheco is an associate professor and head of the Industrial Engineering Department at Universidad del Norte, Colombia. She received her PhD in Industrial Engineering from SUNY at Buffalo in 2013. She was a Fulbright scholar in the United States from 2008 to 2013. Dr. Galindo has directed research projects in disaster management, humanitarian logistics and analytics applied to migratory phenomena. Dr. Galindo is also an associate editor of the journal Socio- Economic Planning Sciences.

**Joanna Lado**

Researcher

National Institute of Agricultural Research

Salto, Uruguay



Dr. Joanna Lado is an agronomist and graduated from Universidad de la República, Uruguay in 2007. She specialized in food science during her MSc in food quality and safety in 2011 and her doctorate in 2015 at the Universidad de Valencia, Spain. She is a member of the National System of Researchers in Uruguay and is currently a full-time principal researcher focused on fruit quality and postharvest at the National Institute of Agricultural Research, INIA Salto, Uruguay. Her research contributes to the development of new cultivars of fruit and vegetables improving conservation, quality, and flavor, in line with promoting consumption of horticultural products and reducing food losses. Improving strawberry, mandarin, sweet potato and tomato flavor guided by Uruguayan consumers will stimulate consumption in a context of low ingest of fruit and vegetables. Dr. Lado also studies main preharvest factors, fruit responses, and technologies to enhance postharvest cold tolerance in order to improve quality and flavor of citrus for export as well as for their internal consumption. She has more than 30 publications in high impact journals in the field.

**Vanesa Magar**

Physical Oceanography Department  
Centre of Scientific Research and Higher Education in Ensenada  
Ensenada, Mexico



Vanesa Magar holds a BSc in physics from UNAM, a master's in advanced studies in mathematics and a PhD in applied mathematics from the University of Cambridge, UK. She has been working in coastal and physical oceanography since 2002, and in renewable energy research and development since 2008. She joined the Physical Oceanography Department of the Centre of Scientific Research and Higher Education in Ensenada (CICESE) as a senior researcher in 2014, and in 2021 she was promoted to professor. She supervised or co-supervised 8 PhD students to completion at Plymouth University and has taught more than 20 advanced courses at CICESE, IER-UNAM, and COLEF. She has authored more than 32 papers in indexed journals, more than 5 book chapters, and is the sole author of a research monograph from CRC Press (2021). She is PI of the microscale-mesoscale model coupling project (MEWA) at CICESE (2018-2021), PI of the hydrokinetic renewable energy resource assessment in the Gulf of California subproject within the project CEMIE-OCEANO (2017-2022), and PI of the Oceanographic Buoy Project in the Gulf of Mexico Research Consortium extended programme (2021 to date). She served as president of the Mexican Geophysical Union (UGM) from 2020 to 2021 and is a member of the Energy Group of the Institute of Physics (IOP), UK. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Strategic Programme (PRONACE) in Energy and Climate Change of CONACYT (2018- ).

**Matías Mastrangelo**

Researcher  
National Council for Scientific and Technical Research  
National University of Mar del Plata  
Mar del Plata, Argentina



Matías Mastrangelo is a biologist and holds a PhD in environmental studies. He is a researcher from the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the National University of Mar del Plata. He is interested in the human, social and institutional processes underlying land-use change in rural landscapes, with emphasis on commodity production frontiers of the Argentine Dry Chaco. His current focus is on the role of institutions and land-use agents on the occurrence of legal and illegal deforestation. He also assesses the impacts of deforestation on biodiversity, ecosystem services and food security. He has an active role in intergovernmental organizations related to global environmental change such as IPBES and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).

**Pablo Méndez-Lázaro**

Associate Professor  
Department of Environmental Health  
University of Puerto Rico  
Puerto Rico



Dr. Pablo Méndez-Lázaro is currently an associate professor at the Department of Environmental Health of the University of Puerto Rico, Graduate School of Public Health. A geographer by training, Pablo expanded his transdisciplinary background by studying natural science; a master's in marine science-coastal management, a PhD in natural resources management and a 3-year post doc on climate change and weather extreme events. Working with non-governmental organizations, underserved and diverse/multicultural communities in the aftermath of Hurricane María (Fall 2017), Pablo led Public Health Brigades in Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands. He was invited in December 2017 to join Oxfam America's first delegation of responders from Puerto Rico to travel to Washington D.C. to help educate key Members of Congress and their staff about the Puerto Rico emergency during hurricanes Irma and María in 2017.

Dr. Méndez-Lázaro is an active member of the Puerto Climate Change Council, a group of 120 scientists working on different aspects of climate change, and is Chapter Lead of the ongoing Fifth National Climate Assessment of 2023 (NCA5) for the US Caribbean for the US Global Change Research Program. He is a contributing author in the IPCC Working Group II (WG2) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Chapter 6 (Cities, Settlements and Key Infrastructure): Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability 2022. He is one of the six scientists nominated by the Governor of Puerto Rico and confirmed by both the Senate and House of Representatives of Puerto Rico for the Executive Committee on Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Pablo is currently principal and co-principal investigator on several NASA and NOAA research projects on climate, public health, and vulnerable populations. He is fluent in Spanish, English and French.

**Pablo Tsukayama**

Assistant Professor of Microbiology  
Cayetano Heredia University  
Lima, Peru



Pablo Tsukayama, PhD, is a Peruvian microbiologist with a long-standing interest in infectious diseases affecting Latin American populations. His research combines approaches in clinical microbiology, genomics, bioinformatics, and infectious disease epidemiology. In 2015, he obtained his PhD in Molecular Microbiology at Washington University in St. Louis with Prof. Gautam Dantas, where my thesis work led to a research article in Nature. Later, as a Chevening UK Scholar, Pablo obtained an MSc in Public Health in Developing Countries at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 2017, Dr. Tsukayama returned to Peru to establish his research group at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH), where he had obtained a BSc degree 12 years earlier. As the principal investigator of UPCH's Microbial Genomics Laboratory, he aims to apply genomic approaches to studying microbial pathogens in Peru and generate evidence that guides policy and interventions to reduce the disease burden in our communities. In 2020, he was appointed International Fellow at the Wellcome Sanger Institute in the UK.

**Alexander Turra**

Full Professor  
Oceanographic Institute  
University of São Paulo  
Sao Paulo, Brazil



Alexander Turra is a full professor at the Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo (IOUSP) and coordinator of the UNESCO Chair on Ocean Sustainability, based at the Oceanographic Institute and the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of São Paulo. Turra is a biologist who exercises interdisciplinary and integrated research, focusing on themes such as marine biodiversity, governance, integrated management, marine conservation, environmental impact assessment, climate change, and marine pollution (marine litter). Turra seeks to promote the integration between science and society, policymakers, and the private sector to support public policies and technological development and innovation applied to the ocean.