

Omar Pérez Figueroa

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EDUCATION

- 2022 (exp.) **ABD Ph.D.** Environmental and Urban Planning and Public Policy
University of California, Irvine
Imagining a Different Waterscape: The Case of Community Aqueducts in Puerto Rico
- 2014 **M.S.** Water, Interdisciplinary Analysis, and Sustainable Management
University of Barcelona
Analysis of Strategies to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation. Two Case Studies: Ceará and Phnom Penh
- 2011 **B.A. Social Sciences** Puerto Rican Studies
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
Magna cum Laude
The Geography of the Water Crisis: Where is Puerto Rico?

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

- 2020 Scott, T.A., Ulibarri, N., **Pérez Figueroa, O.** NEPA & National Trends in Federal Infrastructure Siting in the United States. *Review of Policy Research*, 37(5). <https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12399>
- 2020 **Pérez Figueroa, O.** & Aponte Rolón, B. Clashing Resilience: Competing Agendas for Recovery After the Puerto Rican Hurricanes. *Science Under Occupation*, 23(1).
- 2019 Ulibarri, N., Scott, T.A., & **Pérez Figueroa, O.** (2019, November). How does stakeholder involvement affect environmental impact assessment? *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 79.

Under review

Pérez Figueroa, O., Ulibarrí, N., & Suellen, H. (2021). Exploring Social Media Use During Hurricane María: A Functional Framework Approach. *Disasters*,

Dissertations & Theses

- 2014 **Pérez Figueroa, O.** *Analysis of Strategies to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation. Two case studies: Ceará and Phnom Penh.* Research project requirement for a master's degree. Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2011 **Pérez Figueroa, O.** *La Geografía de la Crisis del Agua: ¿Dónde esta Puerto Rico?* Honor's Thesis, for the University of Puerto Rico Honors Program.
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/609990e44d5db764a5348801/t/6101a79e7c3ad446fa453dc6/1627498400508/LaGeografiade%2BlaCrisisdelaGuaDondeEtaPR.pdf>

Other Publications

- 2021 López-Aybar, L. & **Pérez Figueroa, O.** (2021, March). Water Insecurity Through a Psychological Lens. *United Nations' Special Rapporteur's on Water and Sanitation Thematic Report.* <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Environment/EnvironmentWater/Academics/Laura.docx>
- 2015 **Pérez Figueroa, O.** *La Crisis bajo la alfombra.* UPR Diálogo.
<http://dialogoupr.com/agua-la-crisis-bajo-la-alfombra/>
- 2012 **Pérez Figueroa, O.** & Huber, D. Center for Climate Change and Energy Solutions. *Extreme Weather Events Map in the US 1995-2012.*
<http://www.c2es.org/blog/huberd/mapping-extreme-weather-across-us>

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 *Don Owen Water Science and Policy Fellowship Endowment.* Don Owen Water Science & Policy Fellow. \$4,000
- 2021 *Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.* Awarded by the National Academy of Sciences. \$28,000
- 2020 *Beyond the Academy Travel Grant.* Recipient and Participant. "Charting the Course for the Future of the Academy," hosted by UCLA. \$1,000
- 2019 *UC-Cuba Travel Grant.* UC-Cuba Academic Initiative. \$1,500
- 2017 *Graduate Dean's Recruitment Fellowship.* Awarded by the University of California, Irvine. Supplement financial support packages of those

prospective doctoral and MFA students who have received competitive offers from other institutions. \$5,000

2011 *Harry S. Truman Scholarship*. Awarded by Harry S. Truman Foundation. \$20,000

2010 "Venturing Beyond Comfort" for poster presentation at Ohio State de CIC/SROP Conference Awarded to the best student working outside his/her field of study

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

2021 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Building Resilience through water: the case of community aqueducts in Puerto Rico*. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. Environmental Justice of/for/with Water II Panel (forthcoming October 22-23)

2020 Pérez Figueroa, O & Ulibarri, N. *Considering Environmental Injustices in Environmental Impact Assessment*. Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, April 9-11. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19)

2019 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Learning from Communities: Examining Social Networks in the Wake of a Hurricane*. 49th Annual Conference UAA (Urban Affairs Association). April 24-29, Los Angeles, California.

2019 Pérez Figueroa, O. *An Island Blackout: How Individuals Leveraged Twitter to Communicate After Hurricane Maria*. Caribbean Strong Building Resilience with Equity Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico, February 27–March 1.

2018 Ulibarri, N, Scott, T, & Perez Figueroa, O. *How Does Stakeholder Involvement in Planning Processes Affect Resource Tradeoffs in Water and Energy Infrastructure?* Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 8-10. (Coauthor presented).

2018 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Hurricane Maria Relief Efforts: Reality versus Policy*. The IXth edition of the Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference. Austin, Texas, October 23-25.

2018 Ulibarri, N., Scott, T., & Pérez Figueroa, O. *Using text-mining to identify ways to manage water-energy infrastructure tradeoffs*, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, April 5-8 (Coauthor presented).

- 2015 Morales López, R. & Pérez Figueroa, O. *Mapping the geographies of poop; local resident's participation in the management and elimination of sanitary sewage pollution*. Annual AAG (American Association of Geographers) conference, March 28.
- 2010 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Water Crisis in Puerto Rico: Lack of Planning or Natural Disaster*. Annual AAG (American Association of Geographers) Conference, Washington DC, April 14-18.
- 2010 Pérez Figueroa, O. & Schneider, D. *The Effect of Society on Activated Sludge Treatment Plant*. Presented at CIC/SROP Research Conference, Columbus, Ohio, July 23-24.
- 2010 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Crisis hidrológica: falta de planificación o desastre natural*. Presented at 1st Research Symposium of Honor Students, Carolina, Puerto Rico, April 23.
- 2010 Pérez Figueroa, O. & Schneider, D. *The Effect of Society on Activated Sludge Treatment Plant*. Presented at SROP, SPI y McNair Symposium, Champaign, Illinois, July 19.

Invited Panel Presentation

- 2021 Pérez Figueroa, O. *The Road to completing a doctoral program in the U.S.* Talk at Planning School at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 8.
- 2021 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Imagining a Different Waterscape: The Case of Community Aqueducts in Puerto Rico*. Emerging Utopias in Latin America and Latinx Communities Panel, Hosted by the University of California, Riverside, May 21.
- 2020 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Sustainability Salon Panel on Environmental Justice*. Talk at the UCI Sustainability Resource Center. Irvine, California, March 3.
- 2020 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Hurricanes, Disasters, and Solidarities*. UC-Cuba Annual Student Workshop. University of California, Irvine, February 7.
- 2019 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Trapped in the Toxic Lens of Hurricane María*. Center for Ethnography's Visualizing Toxic Subjects gallery show. Viewpoint Gallery, Irvine, California, May 31.
- 2019 Escobedo Garcia, N.R. & Pérez Figueroa, O. *Water Justice*. "Friday Morning Live: Interactive morning plenary with California Graduate Students," California Water Policy Conference, San Diego, CA, April 21.

- 2016 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Water and Urban Planning: Learned experiences from the community*. Lecture series: Río Piedras se piensa, se une y se transforma. Endorse by Centro de Acción Urbana, Comunitaria y Empresarial (CAUCE) University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and 80 Grados, November 30.
- 2016 Martínez, G.A., Pérez-Alegría, L., Sotomayor-Ramírez, D., Pérez Figueroa, O., & Morales López, R. *Outfall Reconnaissance Inventory of the San Juan Estuary Bay Watershed*. Borinken Week, Fort Buchanan. San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 18.
- 2015 Morales López, R. & Pérez Figueroa, O. *El mojón nuestro de cada día: La injusta geografía de las descargas sanitarias*. Symposium of Construyendo Movimientos Sociales transnacionales, retos y consecuencias de cruzar fronteras. College of Planning, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 5.
- 2015 Molinelli, J., Rivera Santana, J., & Pérez Figueroa, O. *Origins and causes of the Puerto Rico drought*. Domingo Marrero Navarro Amphitheatre. University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, September 16.
- 2012 Pérez Figueroa, O. *Risk assessment for the Río Grande de Manatí upper river basin*. Research Symposium of the Geo-Internado, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 30.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructure of Record

Spring 2016 **Instructor of Record**
 Course: *Water use and management: An Interdisciplinary approach*. (OU1)
 University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
 Honor Students Program

Gest Lectures

Fall 2019 **Guest Lecturer**
 Course: Introduction to Urban Studies (UPPP 4)
 University of California, Irvine
 Urban Planning and Public Policy

Spring 2019 **Guest Lecturer**
 Course: Environmental Policy and Natural Resources (PLAN 6617)
 University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
 Urban Planning

- Fall 2019 **Guest Lecturer**
 Course: Environmental Hazards (UPPP 142)
 University of California, Irvine
 Urban Planning and Public Policy
- Spring 2016 **Guest Lecturer**
 Course: Analysis of Planning Methods (PLAN 6551)
 University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras
 Urban Planning
- Spring 2015 **Guest Lecturer**
 Course: Introduction to Geography (GEOG 3100)
 University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras
 School of Social Sciences
- Winter 2015 **Guest Lecturer**
 Course: Social and Cultural Anthropology (ANTR 3006)
 University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras
 School of Social Sciences

Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2021 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Urban America (UPPP 104)
 Instructor: Dr. Maria Rendón
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology
- Winter 2021 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Naturalistic Field Research (Social Ecology 194W)
 Instructor: Dr. Karna Wang
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology
- Fall 2020 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Environmental Governance (UPPP 145)
 Instructor: Dr. Nicola Ulibarri
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology
- Spring 2019 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Introduction to Urban Studies (UPPP 4)
 Instructor: Dr. Rodolfo Torres
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology
- Fall 2019 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Environmental Analysis and Design (UPPP 8)
 Instructor: Dr. Juliana Zanotto
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology

- Winter 2019 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Environmental Hazards in a Urbanizing World (UPPP 142)
 Instructor: Dr. Victoria Basolo
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology
- Fall 2018 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Introduction to Urban Studies (UPPP 4)
 Instructor: Dr. Walter Nicholls
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology
- Fall 2017 **Teaching Assistance**
 Course: Urban America (UPPP 104)
 Instructor: Dr. Maria Rendón
 University of California, Irvine
 School of Social Ecology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- 2020-2021 *Teacher Assistant.* University of California, Irvine
- 2020 *Summer Fellow.* THRIVE, Santa Ana—Community Land Trust. Santa Ana, CA
- 2018-2020 *Research Assistant.* University of California, Irvine
- 2017 *Community Mobilization Specialist.* Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit-Puerto Rico Science and Research Trust. San Juan, PR
- 2016 *Research Specialist.* Purdue University. Indiana, US
- 2016 *Climate Change Facilitator.* San Juan Bay Estuary Program. San Juan, PR
- 2015-2016 *Water Quality and Field Data Collection Facilitator.* San Juan Bay Estuary Program. San Juan, PR
- 2014-2015 *Junior Database Consultant.* Global Water Operators Partnerships Alliance—United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Barcelona, Spain
- 2013-2014 *Intern.* Global Water Operators Partnerships Alliance—United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Barcelona, Spain
- 2013-2014 *Water Fellow.* Water Research Institute. University of Barcelona. Barcelona, Spain
- 2012 *Research Assistant.* Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. Science and Impact Division. Washington, DC; EU
- 2010-2011 *Planner Assistant.* Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico. Water Planning Division. San Juan, PR
- 2010 *Intern.* Summer Research Opportunity Internship (SROP) Urbana Champaign, Illinois; EU

PROFFESIONAL SERVICE

- 2020 *Organizer.* "Caribbean Transnational Synergies". Annual UC-Cuba Academic Initiative Workshop. Irvine, California, February 7.

- 2019 *Coordinator and Organizer.* The 1st Annual Fall 2019 Doctoral Student Conference Space and Climate in the Urban Setting. University of California, Irvine, October 18.
- 2019 *Technical coordinator and organizer.* Exploring Diverse Trajectories Beyond Graduate Training. University of California, Irvine, February 26.
- 2018 *Technical support.* "Creating a water filter from coconut shell." Provided technical knowledge to high school students from *El Colegio Montessori de Puerto Rico* to create a water filter for their community. San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 28.
- 2018 *Organizer.* "Building Community Resilience: Strategies for Making Communities Stronger to Natural Disasters," as part of the Truman Scholars Association 2018 National Reunion. Washington, DC, July 21.
- 2018 *Organizer and facilitator.* "Environmental Justice: What's in Your Power?" Workshop to spark participant's interest in environmental justice. PUENTE 9th Grade Student Leadership Conference. Irvine, California, February 24.
- 2017 *Community field technician.* Assessment to identify heavy metals and nutrients in wells of Las Mareas Community. Salinas, Puerto Rico, May 22.
- 2016 *Evaluator and Collaborator.* Reef Check monitoring assessment of east and west reefs of Flamenco Bay at two different depths: shallow (<5ft) and deep (>10ft). Culebra, Puerto Rico, June 24
- 2015 *Technical coordinator.* 10 Years of Monitoring the Water Institute. University of Barcelona, Spain, November 15.
- 2013 *Technical coordinator.* Research Symposium. Groundwater hidden strategic global resource. University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, October 24.
- 2013 *Rapporteur.* A representative of the Department of Natural Resources of Puerto Rico: Stockholm Water Week. Stockholm mässan, Älvsjö, Stockholm, September 1-6.
- 2011 *Organizer.* International Water Day Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 22.

PREFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2020-Pres. American Society of Public Administration
 2017-Pres. American Planning Association
 2010-Pres. American Association of Geographers
 2007-2011 Honor Student Association University of Puerto Rico,
 (President 2010)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

- 2016 *Coastal Inundation Mapping.* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 16 Hours of Instructional Time. June 7-8, 2016, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.

2015 *Designing finance for small community aqueducts workshop.* Environmental Finance Center Network and American Water Works Association with the support of the Environmental Protection Agency. 3 Hours of instructional time. June 15, 2015, University of Puerto Rico, Cayey Campus.

LANGUAGES

Español (oral and writing proficiency; native speaker)

English (oral and writing proficiency; advanced level)

Français (oral and writing proficiency; basic)

Catalán (oral and writing proficiency; basic)

REFERENCES

Dr. Nicola Ulibarri

Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Public policy. University of California, Irvine

Ulibarri@uci.edu

Dr. Dave Feldman

Professor of Urban Planning and Public policy. University of California, Irvine

dfeldman@uci.edu