

## MIKAEL WOLFE

Assistant Professor  
Department of History  
Stanford University  
Email: mikaelwolfe@mac.com

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### EDUCATION

- 2009                      Ph.D., Latin American History  
                                 The University of Chicago
- 1999                      M.A., International History (major East Asia, minor Middle East)  
                                 The University of Chicago
- 1995                      B.A., East Asian Studies  
                                 Columbia University

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2012—Present            Assistant Professor of History  
                                 Stanford University
- 2010-2012                Mellon Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental History  
                                 University of California Los Angeles
- 2009-2010                Visiting Fellow, Center for US-Mexican Studies  
                                 University of California San Diego
- Spring 2009              Visiting Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies  
                                 University of Notre Dame

### RESEARCH

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#### PUBLICATIONS

##### Peer-reviewed Book

*Watering the Revolution: An Environmental and Technological History of Agrarian Reform in Mexico.* Duke University Press, June 2017

Recipient of the 2018 Conference on Latin American History's Elinor K. Melville Prize for Latin American Environmental History

Short-listed for the CLAH's 2018 María Elena Martínez Book Prize in Mexican History

Reviewed by *American Historical Review*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Environmental History*, *Agricultural History*, *Environment and History*, *Journal of Social History*, *H-Latam*, *H-Water*, *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, *Canadian Journal of History*, *The Latin American Review of Books*, *Water Alternatives*, *Interface*, *Letras Históricas* and *Historia Mexicana*

### **Peer-reviewed Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Working Paper**

- “The Climate of Conflict: Politico-Environmental Press Coverage and the Eruption of the Mexican Revolution, 1907-1911” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, forthcoming, August 2019
- “El Agua de la Revolución: The Historical Evolution and Devolution of a Socio-Environmental Right in Mexico,” in José Galindo Rodríguez, ed. *Mexico in Focus: Political, Environmental and Social Issues* (New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2015).
- “The Historical Dynamics of Mexico’s Groundwater Crisis in La Laguna: Knowledge, Power and Profit, 1930s to 1960s,” *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, Vol. 29, Issue 1, Winter 2013, pp. 3-35. Recipient of Honorable Mention, Latin American Studies Association Mexico Section Best Social Science Essay in 2013. En Español: <https://revistahistoria.universia.net/article/view/1028/crisis-agua-subterranea-mexico-dinamica-historica-recursos-lucro-conocimiento-laguna-1930-1970->
- “Considering the Alternatives: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Agriculture, Water and Migration in Mexico under State Developmentalism and Neoliberalism,” *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, Vol. 29, Issue 1, Winter 2013, pp. 1-2. Introduction to interdisciplinary special issue of four articles under my coordination.
- “The Sociolegal Redesignation of Ejido Land Use, 1856-1912,” in Matthew Butler and Antonio Escobar-Ohlmsede, ed. *Mexico in Transition: New perspectives on Mexican Agrarian History, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Mexico City and Austin, Texas: University of Texas-Austin and Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social-Guadalajara, 2013), pp. 291-318.
- “Bringing the Revolution to the Dam Site: How Technology, Labor and Nature Converged in the Microcosm of a Company Town in 1930s and 40s Mexico,” *Journal of the Southwest*, Volume 53, Number 1, Spring 2011, pp. 1-31.
- “Mining Water for the Revolution: Marte R. Gómez and the Business of Agrarian Reform in ‘La Laguna, México,” #371, *The Kellogg Institute Working Papers*, University of Notre Dame Press, July 2010.

### **Translations (Spanish to English)**

Maria-Eugenia Vázquez-Semadini, “From the Sea to Politics: Masonry in New Spain/Mexico, 1816-23,” Special Issue UCLA – Grand Lodge of California, June 2013, *Revista de Estudios Históricos de la Masonería*, Universidad de Costa Rica

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

### **Second Book Project**

“Revolution in the Air: A Comparative Historical Climatology of the Mexican and Cuban Revolutions.” To be submitted to Oxford University Press, 2020.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS (EDITOR-REVIEWED)**

### **Articles**

“La del agua, otra crisis que los candidatos ignoran” op-ed in *Proceso*, June 27, 2018  
<https://www.proceso.com.mx/540089/la-del-agua-otra-crisis-que-los-candidatos-ignoran>

“Mexico has some of the best water laws around. So why are its rivers so contaminated?”, op-ed in *The Washington Post*, April 26, 2018  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2018/04/26/mexico-has-some-of-the-best-water-laws-around-so-why-are-its-rivers-so-contaminated/?utm\\_term=.6bd3e47fe08e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2018/04/26/mexico-has-some-of-the-best-water-laws-around-so-why-are-its-rivers-so-contaminated/?utm_term=.6bd3e47fe08e)

“Conflicto por un cambio de régimen de aguas en La Laguna: la ‘construcción social’ de la primera gran presa en el río Nazas, 1900-1936” in *Buenaval Journal of the Universidad Iberoamericana-Laguna*, June 2006, pp. 1-37.

### **Book Reviews**

“Tore C. Olsson, *Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the U.S. and Mexican Countryside*,” *H-Latam* (January 2018)

“Christopher Boyer, *Political Landscapes: Forests, Conservation, and Community in Mexico*,” *Pacific Historical Review* (November 2016)

“Christopher Boyer, ed., *A Land Between Waters: Environmental Histories of Modern Mexico*,” *Environment and History* (August 2013).

“Ismael García-Colon, *Land Reform in Puerto Rico: Modernizing the Colonial State, 1941-1969*,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* (August 2011).

“Rosalva Roseta López, ed., *Agua, Poder Urbano, y Metabolismo Social*,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* (August 2011).

## **RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS (SELECTED)**

- 2019 Recipient of the CLAH's 2018 Elinor K. Melville Prize for Latin American Environmental History for my book *Watering the Revolution*
- Short-listed for the CLAH's 2018 María Elena Martínez Prize in Mexican History for my book *Watering the Revolution*
- 2018 Finalist, Agrarian Studies Program Fellowship, MacMillan Center, Yale University
- 2015 Recipient of Stanford University Center for Latin American Studies Faculty Conference Grant to hold two-day workshop "Environmental Histories of Latin America: Sources and Resources for Teaching and Research."
- 2014 Honorable Mention, Latin American Studies Association Mexico Section Best Social Science Essay Prize in 2013 for "The Historical Dynamics of Mexico's Groundwater Crisis in La Laguna: Knowledge, Resources and Profit, 1930s-1960s."
- 2010 Rachel Carson Center Fellowship, Munich, Germany (Declined)
- 2009 University of Chicago's Center for Teaching and Learning's Graduate Student Teaching Award for Excellence in Course Design for "US Intervention and Regime Change in Latin America"
- 2006-2007 Quinn Family Foundation Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of Chicago Department of History
- 2005-2006 Fulbright-García Robles Fellowship in Mexico
- 2001 Korea Foundation Fellowship (Declined)
- 1998-2002 University of Chicago Graduate Fellowship

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

- 2019 "'A Revolution is a Force More Powerful Than Nature': The Impact of Hurricane Flora of 1963 on the Agrarian Character of the Cuban Revolution." Paper presented to the Yale Agrarian Studies Colloquium, Yale University, New Haven, March 1.
- 2017-2019 Talks/discussions of my book *Watering the Revolution*: Colegio de México Historical Studies Department, Mexico City (October 4, 2017); Stanford University Center for Latin American Studies and History Department (October 20, 2017); University of Oregon Honors College History Department, Eugene, OR (November 13, 2017); University of Notre Dame Department of History, Notre Dame, IN (February 19, 2018); University of Chicago Mexican Studies

Center (February 20, 2018); Claremont-McKenna College Environmental Studies Program, Claremont, CA (March 20, 2018); University of Florida Latin American Studies Program, Gainesville, FL (April 5, 2018); Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Philadelphia, PA (May 2, 2018); Agricultural History Society Roundtable, St. Petersburg, FL (May 24, 2018); Georgetown University Department of History, Washington, DC (Aug. 29, 2018); University of California, Davis Latin American History Workshop (May 17, 2019)

- 2018 “Revolution in the Air: A Historical Climatology of the Mexican Revolution.” Phi Alpha Theta Distinguished Lecture Series, University of Central Florida History Department, March 5.
- 2017 “The Climate of Revolution in Mexico.” Paper presented to Junior Faculty Research Group Workshop, Stanford University, June 1
- 2016 “Infrastructure, Technology, and the Future of California Water.” Stanford University Environmental Humanities Seminar Series on Drought, May 17.
- 2016 “Lessons from Mexico: Art as Social and Political Expression.” San Francisco State University Spanish Department Spring Colloquium, April 23.
- 2015 “Knowing Nature (especially water) through Technoscientific Labor: A Brief History of Developmentalist Técnicos in Mexico and their ‘Incidental Conservationism.’” University of Chicago Latin American History Workshop, June 4.
- 2015 “What Made the Mexican Revolution Unsustainable?” Center for Latin American Studies Lecture Series, Stanford University, March 6.
- 2015 “Water for the Revolution: An Envirotech History of Agrarian Reform in ‘La Laguna’, Mexico.” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of History, January 25
- 2014 “Watering the Mexican Revolution: ‘Técnicos,’ Land Reform, and the Environment.” University of California San Diego Department of History, February 10.
- 2013 “Climate and Revolution in Twentieth Century Mexico: Preliminary Ideas and Research on La Laguna, 1907-1913.” Junior Faculty Research Group Workshop, Stanford University, June 3
- 2013 “La Agroecología del Agua de la Revolución en La Laguna,” Coloquio “Las ecologías de la ciudad y el campo: La historia ambiental de México.” Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas (IIH) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), April 25.

- 2013 “The Tlaxcalan Viticultural Roots of Mexico’s Modern Cotton ‘Miracle’ in La Laguna: Agroecology and Regional Identity Formation.” University of California Berkeley Latin American History Workshop, April 19.
- 2013 “A Brief History of U.S. Intervention in Guatemala,” Stanford Business School Social Innovation Program Orientation for social mission to Guatemala, February 13.
- 2011 “The Meandering Meanings of Mexico’s Nineteenth Century Ejido: Social and Environmental Implications,” University of California Santa Barbara Latin American Studies Program, November 15.
- 2011 “The Historical Uses and Meanings of the Mexican Ejido in the Nineteenth Century and their social and environmental implications,” Colloquium “Repensar la Revolución: tierra, sociedad y agrarismo antes y después de la Revolución de 1910,” Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, Guadalajara, México, May 12.

#### **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (SELECTED)**

- 2018 “The Rise of a Mestizo Climatology in Mexico, 1870s-1920s,” presented to panel I organized, “‘Developed’ Science and ‘Developing’ Mestizo Environments in Africa, Colombia and Mexico, 1876 to the present,” at the Association of Environmental History, Riverside, CA. March 15.
- 2015 “Drought and Revolution in Northern Mexico: 1907-1911,” presented to workshop I organized “Environmental Histories of Latin America: Sources and Resources for Teaching and Research” that brought sixteen leading environmental historians of Latin America to Stanford. April 23-25.
- 2013 “The Mestizo Technopolitics of Water Control and Land Reform in Mexico: Parallels with Spain, 1900-1940,” paper presented to International Water History Conference, Montpellier, France. June 26.
- 2013 “Pacifying a Rebellious Waterscape: Climate, Technology, and Revolution in La Laguna, Mexico, 1907–27.” Paper presented to panel I co-organized, American Historical Association and Conference on Latin American History Meeting in New Orleans, January 5.
- 2011 “‘Técnicos! Técnicos!’: A Social History of Mexican Hydraulic Engineers and Agronomists as Intermediaries among State, Society, and Nature,” paper presented to American Historical Association Annual Meeting in Boston, January 3.
- 2011 “Dams, Pumps and (Manmade?) Drought: A Mexican Story or Two,” presented to faculty symposium I organized “The Future of Environmental History: What

the Past Teaches us about the Future of the Environment,” UCLA Department of History. October 27.

- 2010 “El Agua de la Revolución: La Reforma Agraria Cárdenista y el Conocimiento eco-técnico en La Laguna,” paper presented to Conference of Mexican Historians of the US, Canada and Mexico, Queretaro, México, October 29.
- 2010 “Water Apartheid and the New White Gold of Dairy: Ground and Surface Water in ‘LALA’guna, Mexico, 1920s to the present,” presented to workshop I co-organized “Mexico’s Other National Security Crisis: Food and Water Sustainability,” Center for US-Mexican Studies, UCSD Workshop. April 15-16.
- 2010 “Mexicanizing Groundwater Pumping Technologies, 1920s to 1960s,” paper presented to Society of the History of Technology, Tacoma, Washington, September 30.
- 2010 “Water, the Green Revolution, and the re-engineering of agrarian reform in Mexico: The case of La Laguna, 1946-1976,” paper presented to American Society of Environmental History, Portland, Oregon, March 13.
- 2010 “Dam(M/N)ing the Agrarian Reform: The Politics of Irrigation, Public Works and State Formation in La Laguna, México, 1936-1946,” paper presented to AHA Meeting at San Diego, January 4.

### **DISCUSSANT/CHAIR**

- 2018 For panel, “Water and Urban Power in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Latin America,” at the American Historical Association/Conference in Latin American History, Washington DC, January 6
- 2015 For panel, “Development and Nature,” at the Graduate Student Symposium on Infrastructure and Building the Modern State in Latin America, Center for Latin American Studies, Stanford University, May 1.
- 2012 For panel, “Challenging the System: Indians and the Struggle for Resources in Colonial and Postcolonial Mexico,” at the Southeast Council on Latin American Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, March 29.
- 2011 UCLA History Graduate Student Association Conference, October 8.
- 2011 For paper, “Global Trade, Contracts and Poverty Alleviation in Indigenous Communities: Cochineal in Mexico” presented by Alberto Díaz Cayeros to Space and Place in Latin American History Conference, Center for US-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, May 20.

### **TEACHING**

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## **COURSES OFFERED**

### **Undergraduate history courses, Stanford University, 2012-2019**

- Human Society and Environmental Change (co-taught and cross listed with Earth Systems), Fall 2015/2016
- Water in World History (cross-listed with, and competitively selected as core requirement for, The Program in Science, Technology, and Society), Spring 2017/Fall 2015
- Mexico since 1876: History of a Failed State? Winter 2015
- The Ethical Challenges of Climate Change (cross-listed with, and competitively selected as core requirement for, The Program in Science, Technology, and Society), Winter 2015/2019
- Film and History of Latin American Revolutions (cross-listed with International Relations), Spring 2014/2015/2016/2017/2019
- U.S. Intervention and Regime Change in Twentieth Century Latin America (cross-listed with International Relations), Spring/Fall 2013, Spring 2015
- Comparative Historical Development of Latin America and East Asia, Winter 2013/Spring 2016 (cross-listed with Latin American Studies, Iberian Languages and Cultures, and East Asian Studies)

### **Undergraduate history courses, UCLA, 2010-2012**

- Comparative Historical Development of East Asia and Latin America, Spring 2012
- The Making of Modern Mexico: History of a Failed State? Winter 2011

### **Undergraduate courses, University of Chicago, 2007-2008**

- U.S. Intervention and Regime Change in Latin America (cross-listed with International Studies and Latin American Studies), Spring 2008
- B.A. Thesis Colloquium for Latin American Studies, Fall and Winter 2007-2008

### **Graduate Courses, Stanford University, 2012-2016**

- Exploring Latin American History and Historiography (cross-listed with, and required masters seminar for, Latin American Studies), Fall 2016/Winter 2019
- Historical Ecology of Latin America (cross-listed with, and required masters seminar for, Latin American Studies), Fall 2013/Spring 2019
- Environment, Technology and Revolution in World History (cross-listed with The Program in Science, Technology, and Society), Spring 2013

### **Graduate Courses, UCLA, 2011**

- Environment, Technology and Revolution in World History, Department of History, UCLA, Fall 2011
- Environmental Historiography of Latin America, UCLA, Spring 2011

### **Graduate Courses, El Colegio de México, Mexico City, 2002-2004**



- Modern Korean History, Spring 2002 and Spring 2004

## **SERVICE**

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### **TO THE PROFESSION**

- 2019 Referee and book reviewer, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Pittsburg University Press
- 2018 Referee, *The Americas*, *Water Alternatives*, *Global Environment, History and Technology*, *Journal of Latin American Studies* and *Oxford Research Encyclopedia Latin American Environmental History Section*
- 2017 Book reviewer, *H-Latam*
- 2016 Member, editorial board *Hispanic American Historical Review* (until 2022)
- 2016 Referee, *Radical History Review* and *Hispanic American Historical Review*
- 2015 Referee, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia Latin American Environmental History Section*
- 2014 Referee, *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*
- 2013 Book reviewer, *Environment and History*
- 2011-2013 Referee, *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*
- 2012 Revisions contributor and reviewer, “Honduras,” “Nicaragua,” and “Guatemala” entries, *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations* (13<sup>th</sup> edition)
- 2010 Book reviewer, *Hispanic American Historical Review*

### **TO STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

- 2017 Successful application for nomination of Tinker Visiting Fellow in Latin American Studies, Claudia Leal, to teach history of race and environment in Latin America in winter and spring quarters 2018
- 2016-2017 Graduate Affairs Committee and Diversity Committee, History Department
- 2013-Present Dissertation chair (one student); dissertation committee member (three students); oral examination committee (four); undergraduate honors thesis adviser (three), History Department
- 2015-2016 Graduate Affairs Committee, History Department

- 2014-2015 Undergraduate Studies Curriculum Committee, History Department
- 2014 Successful application for nomination of Tinker Visiting Fellow in Latin American Studies, María-Eugenia Vázquez-Semadini, to teach late colonial/early national Mexican history course during spring quarter
- 2014 History Selection Committee for Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities
- 2013-2014 Fellow, “Conversations Revolving Around the Teaching of Ethical Reasoning,” Stanford Dean’s Initiative for New Undergraduate “Ways of Thinking/Doing” Curriculum
- 2013-2014 Historical Conversations Committee, History Department
- 2012-2013 Undergraduate Studies Curriculum Committee, History Department

**TO THE PUBLIC (SELECTED)**

- 2018 Op-ed “La del agua, otra crisis que los candidatos ignoran” in *Proceso*, June 27; Op-ed “Mexico has some of the best water laws around. So why are its rivers so contaminated? The other border crisis” in *The Washington Post*, April 26.
- 2017 Interviewed by *Stanford Report* on my book *Watering the Revolution*, Dec 31. <https://news.stanford.edu/2017/12/31/technology-nature-historically-interconnected/>
- 2017 Organizer of public event, “Cuba After Fidel: Reflections on his Legacy Past, Present, and Future” featuring Lillian Guerra as keynote speaker, sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, June 12
- 2016 Organizer of public lecture “Technology and the Search for Progress in Modern Mexico” by Edward Beatty co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of History, the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and Stanford Global Studies Division, May 13.
- 2016 Invited presentation on the “History of Environmentalism” as part of History Week at Los Altos High School. Los Altos, CA, February 9.
- 2015 Interviewed by *Deutsche Welle* (DW) for article “Going local to solve Mexico City’s water crisis,” October 10, 2015. <http://www.dw.com/en/global-ideas-mexico-water-shortage-climate-change/a-18792527>

- 2014 Interviewed by *Big Bend Now* for article “Mexico’s Mennonites: What happens when the water runs out,” December 17.  
<http://bigbendnow.com/2014/12/mexicos-mennonites-what-happens-when-the-water-runs-out/>
- 2014 Research profiled by *Stanford Report* for feature story “Stanford Historian unearths greed-drenched origins of Mexico’s groundwater crisis,” October 17.  
<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2014/october/mexico-water-crisis-101714.html>
- 2014 Organizer of public lecture “New Perspectives on the American Revolution: The View from George Washington, Cuba” by Elena Schneider co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of History, and the Humanities Center. Stanford University, October 9.
- 2013 Interviewed by Southern California Public Radio for story “Mexican state of Guanajuato suffering poor water quality, erosion issues,” December 19.  
<http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2013/12/19/35199/mexican-state-of-guanajuato-suffering-poor-water-q/>
- 2013 Organizer of public lecture “The Pueblo Revolt of 1680: A Religious Insurrection or a Slave Rebellion?” by Andrés Resendez co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, The Chicano/a Studies Department, the Department of History, and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Stanford University, November 13.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Historical Association (since 2006)  
 Conference on Latin American History (since 2006)  
 Latin American Studies Association (since 2009)  
 American Society for Environmental History (since 2006)  
 Climate History Network (since 2012)  
 La Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (since 2015)

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish: fluent speaking, reading and writing  
 French: bilingual  
 Portuguese: reading knowledge  
 Japanese: proficient speaking, basic reading and writing

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request