



Monterrey y su día cero

MEXICO + H2O = CHALLENGES, RECKONINGS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

March 23-24, 2023



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

March 23 - Tsai Auditorium, CGIS South, 1730 Cambridge Street

March 24 - Piper Auditorium, GSD, 48 Quincy Street

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

OPENING REMARKS - 6PM

Steve Levitsky, Harvard/Government

Diane Davis, Harvard/Graduate School of Design

Gabriela Soto Laveaga, Harvard/History of Science

KEYNOTE PANEL - 6:15PM *WATER POLITICS IN MEXICO: FROM PAST TO PRESENT*

Iñaki Echeverría, Landscape Urbanist & Architect

Veronica Herrera, UCLA

Lisa J. Lucero, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Moderated by: **Diane Davis**

*Presented in collaboration with
Harvard Graduate School of Design, and
the Department of History of Science*

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

PANEL I - 9-11AM *WHO OWNS MEXICO'S WATER?*

Enrique Lomnitz, Director, Isla Urbana

Mario Luna, Human and Indigenous Rights
Defender for the Yaqui

Ismael Aguilar Barajas, Tecnológico de Monterrey

Antonio Azuela, UNAM

Moderated by: **Gabriela Soto Laveaga**

PANEL II - 11:30AM-1:30PM *WATER & URBANIZATION IN MEXICO*

Elizabeth F.S. Roberts, University of Michigan

Matthew Vitz, University of California, San Diego

Manuel Perló, UNAM

Luis Zambrano, UNAM

Moderated by: **Lorena Bello Gómez**,
Harvard Graduate School of Design

PANEL III - 3PM-5PM *WATER WARS AT THE BORDER*

América Lutz Ley, El Colegio de Sonora

Rosario Sánchez, Texas A&M University

Christopher Scott, Pennsylvania State University

CJ Alvarez, University of Texas at Austin

Moderated by: **Diane Davis**

Closing Remarks: **Gabriela Soto Laveaga**

RECEPTION & EXHIBITION - 5-7PM *REIMAGINING WATER FUTURES*

Gund Hall Rooms 121-123 (the Porticos)

Harvard Graduate School of Design

BIOGRAPHIES

Ismael Aguilar-Barajas is a Professor of Economic Development, School of Social Sciences and Government, and Research Associate at the Water Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, Tecnológico de Monterrey, MEXICO. He had his undergraduate education from Universidad Michoacana, in Mexico, and his master's and doctorate degrees from The London School of Economics and Political Science. He is member of Mexico's National Research System. He has experience in the public sector, serving in the ministries of agriculture and water resources, of budgeting and planning, and the Mexico City government. Dr. Aguilar-Barajas has conducted consultancy work for (Mexico) National Water Commission, the Interamerican Development Bank, the North American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the United Nations. He represents Tecnológico de Monterrey at the National Advisory Water Council – an institution created to advise the federal government on water management issues. He is the main editor of the book *Water and Cities in Latin America. Challenges for Sustainable Development* (Routledge, 2015 and 2018).

C. J. Alvarez is the author of *Border Land, Border Water: A History of Construction on the U.S.-Mexico Divide*, the first history of building projects on the border to focus not only on barrier infrastructure but hydraulic engineering as well. He is currently writing a book about the history of the Chihuahuan Desert, the largest and least-known desert in North America. He grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico, studied art history at Stanford and Harvard, and received his doctorate in history from the University of Chicago. He is currently an associate professor in the department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Antonio Azuela is a member of the Social Research Institute at UNAM. Since the late seventies he has conducted research on urban and environmental law from a socio legal perspective. From 1994 to 2000 he served as General Attorney for the Environment in the Mexican Government. His recent research focuses on the urbanization of the rural world and on policy mobilities. His latest books include *El derecho en movimiento* (Tirant lo Blanch, 2019) and *Ciudad de México. Inercias urbanísticas y proceso constitucional* (CIDE, 2019).

Diane E. Davis is the Charles Dyer Norton Professor of Regional Planning and Urbanism at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Trained as a sociologist, Davis's research interests include the relations between urbanization and national development, comparative urban governance, socio-spatial practice in conflict cities, urban violence, and new territorial manifestations of sovereignty. Her books include *Transforming Urban Transport* (co-edited, 2018); *Cities and Sovereignty: Identity Conflicts in the Urban Realm* (2011); *Discipline and Development: Middle Classes and Prosperity in East Asia and Latin America* (2004); *Irregular Armed Forces and their Role in Politics and State Formation* (co-edited, 2003); and *Urban Leviathan: Mexico City in the Twentieth Century* (1994).

Iñaki Echeverría is an architect, landscape urbanist and entrepreneur based in Mexico City. He has specialized in the integration of techniques conventionally associated to architecture, science, technology and ecology to reconsider this intersection as opportunity to transform buildings, landscape and infrastructure. He has been studying the region around Lago de Texcoco for more than 18 years. Today he is the Director of the Parque Ecológico Lago de Texcoco in Mexico National Water Commission (Conagua). Echeverría is an academic in Upenn and has taught Design in Harvard, UNAM, Iberoamericana and founded an annual workshop at Aedes Network Campus Berlin. He is a member of the board of advisors to Harvard's Office for Urbanization, Mexico City's Conduse and the Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs.

BIOGRAPHIES

Veronica Herrera is Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Political Science at UCLA. She studies the politics of development in Global South cities with a focus on Latin America. Her research interests include urban politics, decentralization, civil society participation, social mobilization, and environmental politics and policymaking. Dr. Herrera is also an expert on water policy in international development. She is the author of *Water and Politics: Clientelism and Reform in Urban Mexico* (University of Michigan Press, 2017), and the forthcoming book, *Slow Harms and Citizen Action: Environmental Degradation and Policy Change in Latin American Cities* (Oxford Univ Press, 2023).

Enrique Lomnitz is a Mexico City based designer focused on sustainable development and water access. He began working on design solutions for low-income, self-built Mexican neighborhoods while at the Rhode Island School of Design, a pursuit that led to a long-term interest in the water crisis affecting Mexico City. In 2009, he founded Isla Urbana, an organization dedicated to the development and promotion of rainwater harvesting as a way of securing autonomous access to renewable water for marginalized communities. Isla Urbana's work serves communities all over the country and has installed over 31,000 rainwater harvesting systems in homes and schools in contexts ranging from dense urban neighborhoods to remote indigenous villages. He is an Ashoka Fellow, a National Geographic Explorer, and has received multiple awards and recognition for innovation in social-environmental entrepreneurship.

Lisa J. Lucero is a professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As an archaeologist, her interests focus on ritual and power, water management, the impact of climate change on society, sustainability in tropical regions, and the ancestral Maya. She received her PhD from UCLA in 1994 and has been conducting archaeology in Belize for over 30 years, authoring seven books and an array of articles and book chapters. Dr. Lucero uses insights from traditional Maya knowledge to promote tropical sustainability and to address global climate change.

Mario Luna Romero is spokesman for the traditional authorities of Vícam, one of the Tribu Yaqui's towns in Sonora, and a defender of the human and indigenous rights of the Yaqui tribe. He also serves as director and anchor at Namakasia Radio, an independent community radio station. In the context of the Yaqui struggle to preserve its legally recognized water rights, Luna and members of his family have been threatened, attacked, detained, and kidnapped, and several of his closest collaborators detained and even killed. Mexican and international human and indigenous rights organizations—including Human Rights Watch, Artículo 19, Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Amnistía Internacional, and Fundar—have called attention to the multiple violations of Luna's, his collaborators', and his family members' rights in their struggle to defend the Yaqui tribe's rights.

America Lutz-Ley is a researcher and professor at the Center for Studies on Development at El Colegio de Sonora, in Hermosillo, Mexico. She has a PhD in Arid Lands Resources Sciences with a minor in Global Change from the University of Arizona, and a Master of Social Sciences with a specialty in Public Affairs from El Colegio de Sonora. Her research focuses on the dynamics and issues of human adaptation to climate change, water security, and mining and agricultural extractivism. She analyzes these aspects from approaches of socio-ecological systems, political ecology, feminist political ecology, and institutions and public management. America is also a member of the National System of Researchers in Mexico and has published more than 30 peer reviewed papers and book chapters since the beginning of her career; the most recent on water conservation and climate change in Mexican localities and mining towns.

BIOGRAPHIES

Manuel Perlo Cohen is an economist from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and PhD in City and Regional Planning from UC-Berkeley, tenured researcher at the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales-UNAM since 1980. Professor at UNAM, UC-Berkeley and Stanford. The main topics covered in his work: History of Water and Sewage Provision in Mexico City, Water Sustainable Development Policies in Mexico, Urban River Restoration, Housing and Land Markets, Evaluation of Housing and Land Policies, Property Tax System in Mexico, History of Urban Social Movements in Mexico, History of Political Institutions in Mexico City, Policies for Disaster Prevention, Globalization and Urban Development. Director of the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales at UNAM 2013-2017, Director of the Program of Urban Studies at UNAM 2000-2009. Visiting scholar at UC-Berkeley, UC-San Diego and Columbia University. He received the Gold Prize at the 5th cycle of the Lafargeholcim Awards for Sustainable Construction, Decoration as Distinguished Citizen Mexico City Congress, and has been a Consultant for the World Bank, The IDB and the United Nations.

Elizabeth F.S. Roberts is a professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan, who investigates scientific and public health knowledge production and its embodied effects in Latin America and the United States. One of the key aims of Professor Roberts' current work is the development of bioethnography, a method that combines social and life sciences approaches in order to make better knowledge about health and inequality. Roberts currently collaborates with engineers and environmental health scientists in the United States and Mexico as part of two ongoing team-based projects in Mexico City that she directs: "Mexican Exposures: A Bioethnographic Approach to Health and Inequality" and "Neighborhood Environments as Socio-Techno-bio Systems: Water Quality, Public Trust, and Health in Mexico City" (NESTSMX). Dr. Roberts' earlier research focused on assisted reproduction in the United States and Ecuador, reproductive governance in Latin America, and transnational medical migrations. She is the author of the book *God's Laboratory: Assisted Reproduction in the Andes* (U.C. California Press 2012) and is currently finishing a book manuscript, under contract at University of Princeton, called *In Praise of Addiction: Devotion and Defiance in Mexico City*.

Rosario Sanchez is a Senior Research Scientist at the Texas Water Resources and Associate Graduate Faculty of the Water Management and Hydrological Sciences Program at Texas A&M University. She is Co-Chair of the Transboundary Aquifers Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and, Founder and Director of the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters. She is the PI of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act Program (TAAP) for the state of Texas, founder of the Transboundary Water Portal and leader of the transboundary groundwater research team. She is Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association and the Texas Water Journal. She is serving at international panels and committees at UNESCO, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center (IGRAC) and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA).

Christopher Scott is the Maurice K. Goddard Chair in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Pennsylvania State University. His transdisciplinary research focuses on the water-energy-food nexus, water security, U.S. – Mexico and South Asia transboundary water resources policy, with emerging interests in linked transboundary energy policy. From 2006 – 2021 he was at the University of Arizona, where he served as 2017-21 Director of the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and Professor of Geography, Development and Environment. He earned his PhD and MS at Cornell University, BS and BA at Swarthmore College, and attend K-12 at Woodstock School in India. Outside the academy, Dr. Scott has worked fifteen years for NGOs, government agencies, and applied-research institutes around the world.

BIOGRAPHIES

Gabriela Soto Laveaga is Professor of the History of Science and Antonio Madero Professor for the Study of Mexico at Harvard University. Her research and teaching interests include modern Latin America, the intersection of science and culture, public health, and scientific and medical exchange in the Global South. Her first book, *Jungle Laboratories: Mexican Peasants, National Projects and the Making of the Pill*, won the Robert K. Merton Best Book Prize in Science, Knowledge, and Technology Studies from the American Sociological Association. She is completing two book manuscripts *Sanitizing Rebellion: Physician Strikes, Public Health and Repression in Twentieth Century Mexico*, which examines the role of healthcare providers as both critical actors in the formation of modern states and as social agitators and her latest project which seeks to re-narrate histories of twentieth century agriculture development aid from the point of view of India and Mexico. She has held numerous grants, including those from the Ford, Mellon, Fulbright, DAAD, and Gerda Henkel Foundations. She was a member at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, 2019-2020, and will hold the Dibner Distinguished Fellowship in History of Science and Technology at the Huntington Library, 2023-24.

Matthew Vitz is associate professor of Latin American history at UC-San Diego. He is the author of *A City on a Lake: Urban Political Ecology and the Growth of Mexico City* published by Duke University Press in 2018. He is also a contributor to the Cambridge Elements Global Urban History Series, which will soon publish his short book *Globalizing Urban Environmental History*. Vitz has also written various articles and book chapters on the urban and environmental history of Mexico.

Luis Zambrano is a biologist and PhD in Ecology from UNAM. Post-doctorate in Aquatic Ecology and Water Management Group, Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands. He began his academic career understanding the effect of introduced species in lakes. Subsequently, he has worked with ecosystem management, particularly urban ecosystems. He has over a hundred publications, comprising 62 refereed scientific articles, 51 popular articles, 11 national book chapters, four international book chapters, the editor of three books, and the author of two books. He teaches several undergraduate courses at the School of Sciences and the School of Architecture of UNAM. He has also taught courses in the graduate program of Marine Sciences and Limnology and Biological Sciences at UNAM, as well as at the Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco. He has obtained funding to develop 23 projects as a responsible researcher. Member of the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program of Stanford University, and the Mexican Academy of Sciences, and the National System of Researchers Level III. He was in charge of the Reserva Ecológica del Pedregal de San Ángel (REPSA, UNAM) 2013-2017.