

Julio Rodríguez Stimson

Postdoctoral Research Associate – University of Oxford

Environmental anthropologist working on risk, agriculture, extractivism, and energy transitions in Latin America

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Oxford** 2019 – 2023
Thesis: ‘Galapagos farmers: Risk and the coexistential rift’.
Examiners: Thomas Hylland Eriksen & David Pratten.
- Master of Science, Social and Cultural Anthropology, KU Leuven** 2014 – 2016
Thesis: ‘Cofán pragmatism in times of uncertainty: Negotiating the negligent hegemonic state and imaginary oil’. Distinction: Magna Cum Laude.
- Bachelor of Arts, History, Carleton College** 2007 – 2011
Thesis: ‘Resistance under Franco (1959-1975): Exploring the role of Basque clergy and their involvement with Euskadi ta Askatasuna (ETA)’. Cum Laude.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Oxford** 2024 – 2026
- Conducted ethnographic and archival research on community perspectives of geothermal energy, critical mineral extraction from geofluids, and the Soufrière Hills volcano, island of Montserrat.
 - Collected over 100 interviews during five months of fieldwork and facilitated two UK-based focus groups; currently analysing data and drafting journal articles in collaboration with the research team.
- Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Maine** 2023 – 2024
- Investigated the interplay between mosquito-borne diseases and tourism in Guatemala.
 - Led the broader impacts (communications) aspect of an NSF-funded interdisciplinary project.
- Doctoral Research, University of Oxford** 2019 – 2023
- Researched the compounding risks faced by Galapagos farmers, including climate change, agricultural pests, and COVID-19. Coined the ‘coexistential rift’ concept, describing a cycle of debt and alienation.
 - Conducted a year of participant observation during three farm stays and collected over 200 interviews.

PUBLICATIONS

- Stimson, J. R. (2026). The geographical imaginaries of Galapagos: Scientific laboratory, tourist paradise, bureaucratic prison, or lifeworld? *Journal of Political Ecology*, 33(1), 10402.
- Rothenberg, M., Stimson, J. R., & Roach, M. (2026). “One more river to cross”: Creativity, tradition, survivance, and solastalgia in 30 years of volcanic crisis on Montserrat. In A. Richards & R. Ansano (Eds.), *Intangible cultural heritage and emergencies in the Caribbean*. Routledge. [In Press].
- Rivera, E. P., De Urioste-Stone, S., Rickard, L. N., K C, A., Stimson, J. R., Caprara, A., & Estrada, L. N. (2025). Understanding international travelers’ health risk perceptions, preferences, and decisions: A segmentation analysis. *Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines*, 11(1), 20.
- Stimson, J. R. (2023). Farming paradise: Covid-19 and the coexistential rift. *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford*, 15(1), 154–177.
- Stimson, J. R. (2016). The Chipko movement: A pragmatic, material & spiritual reinterpretation. *CrossAsia-Repository*, 7, 1–19.

Under Peer Review

- Stimson, J. R., Ciftci, M. M., Tuitt, S., McElroy, C., Bivar, V., Mather, T. A., & Pyle, D. M. (2026). Energy transition in post-disaster Montserrat: Challenges and futures of geothermal development. *Energy Policy*.
- Stimson, J. R. (2026). Permanently temporary: Infrastructure, aid, waiting, and colonial governance in Montserrat. *American Ethnologist*.
- Stimson, J. R., & Thornton, T. (2025). Voices from the Galapagos: How farmers perceive climate change. *Journal of Rural Studies*.
- Stimson, J. R., Rivera, E. P., & De Urioste-Stone, S. (2025). Risk perceptions of mosquito-borne disease and COVID-19: A qualitative study of Guatemalan tourism stakeholders. *Journal of Tourism, Sustainability and Well-being*.

Works in Progress

Stimson, J. R. (2026). *Fractured paradise – Galapagos farmers and the coexistential rift*. Palgrave Macmillan
[Book manuscript under contract, due 2027].

Stimson, J. R. (2027). Exporting people and money: Volcanic displacement, demographic replacement, and the structural barriers to Montserratian return. *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*.

Stimson, J. R. (2027). Who belongs in Galapagos? Plagas, care, and coexistence. *Cultural Anthropology*.

Ciftci, M. M., McElroy, C., Stimson, J. R., Wetzter, T., Elias-Roberts A. (2026) Critical minerals in round holes: Governing energy and mineral co-extraction from geothermal brines in Montserrat. *Territory, Politics, Governance*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, UK**

- Introduction to Anthropological Theory [Tutorials – designed, taught, graded]. Spring 2026
- [Paternity Leave]. Fall 2026
- Introduction to Anthropological Theory [Tutorials – designed, taught, graded]. Spring 2025
- Social Analysis and Interpretation [Tutorials – designed, taught, graded]. Fall 2024

School of Forest Resources, University of Maine, USA

- Ecotourism: Principles, Trends, and Issues [Designed syllabus, taught, graded assignments. Student evaluation: 4.8/5]. Spring 2024
- Qualitative Data Analysis in Natural Resources [Designed syllabus, taught, graded assignments. Student evaluation: 4.7/5]. Fall 2023

Departamento de Lenguas, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador

- ESL instructor in advanced undergraduate English, USFQ, Ecuador. Spring 2014

CPI de Mosteiro Meis, Galicia, Spain

- ESL instructor for students aged 9-16 at a primary and secondary school. 2011 – 2012

Spanish Department, Carleton College, USA

- Spanish Teaching Assistant for Undergraduate Spanish 101 & 102. Spring 2011

STUDENT SUPERVISION

- Elizabeth Pellecer Rivera, University of Maine, ‘Exploring the social dynamics of mosquito-borne diseases and COVID-19 on tourism management’ (co-supervised). 2023 – 2024
- Advisor to seven graduate students at Kellogg College, University of Oxford. 2024 – 2026

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- ‘Geothermal challenges in post-disaster Montserrat’, Seminar leader, University of Oxford. 2026
- ‘Rethinking natural resources on the island of Montserrat’, Society for Applied Anthropology, *The Everyday Practice of Applied Anthropology*, Albuquerque, NM [Virtual]. 2026
- ‘Galapagos: Tourist paradise, scientific laboratory, bureaucratic prison, or lifeworld?’, World Anthropological Union, *Unearthing Humanity*, Antigua, Guatemala [Virtual]. 2025
- ‘A volcanic past & geothermal future?’, *SHV30 Conference*, Montserrat Island. 2025
- ‘Complicating care: Interdisciplinary perspectives and the ontological politics of care practice’, *Praxis*, American Anthropological Association, Tampa FL, USA [Virtual]. 2024
- ‘The coexistential rift: A Galapagos ethnography’, *Pathways Europe 2024: Revisiting What Is Wild for Coexisting*, Córdoba, Spain. 2024
- ‘Riesgos y convivencia: los desafíos del sector agrícola’, Puerto Ayora Town Hall, Galapagos. 2023
- ‘Galapagos and the coexistential rift’, *Unsettling Landscapes*, American Anthropological Association, Seattle WA, USA. 2022

ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP

- Collaborated with a team of interdisciplinary scientists, designed and executed a communications plan to disseminate research results for the ‘broader impacts’ component of a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded project at the University of Maine. Tasks included designing a [website](#), writing/editing/translating articles, uploading content, writing factsheets, producing an animation, redesigning diagrams. 2023 – 2024
- Completed the University of Maine’s ‘Student Engagement Strategies Community of Practice’ faculty training course on methods for making teaching more engaging. 2024
- ‘Introductory IPA’ virtual workshop, led by Professor Jonathan Smith. 2024
- Led focus groups with Latino participants to support Gabrielle Venne’s Master’s thesis, ‘Barriers to outdoor recreation and nature-based activities’, at the University of Maine. 2024
- Coedited and wrote for [Weathermatters.net](#), on the human dimensions of climate change. 2020 – 2024

FUNDING & AWARDS

- Frederick Soddy Postgraduate Award, Royal Geographical Society. 2020 – 2021
- School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography Doctoral Scholarship, U. of Oxford. 2019 – 2021

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE

- Video Chronicler, Lindblad Expeditions – National Geographic** 2017 – 2020
 Filmed, edited, and produced over fifty 30-minute videos to document expeditions aboard National Geographic ships in Galápagos, Antarctica, Alaska, Iceland, Svalbard, Panama, and Costa Rica.
- Environmental Communications Officer, Charles Darwin Foundation, Galapagos** 2017 – 2018
 Wrote, edited, and translated annual reports, articles, web content, Facebook posts, and monthly e-newsletters. Filmed and edited videos about conservation.
- Communication / Public Information Intern, UNEP (CMS/AEWA), Germany** 2017
 Researched and drafted segments of the “Value of Spiritual Conservation” resolution presented at CMS COP12. Wrote and published articles for CMS and World Migratory Bird Day, produced three promotional videos, and managed WMBD and CMS social media.
- Film & Communications Intern, Charles Darwin Foundation, Galapagos** 2014 – 2015
 Wrote, edited, translated, and uploaded social media posts, articles, and website content. Managed bilingual social media pages, increasing likes from 1,000 to 10,000. Filmed and edited 20 short films, presented CDF’s work on ships, and helped raise \$1.3 million in unrestricted donations.
- Film & Journalism Intern, Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation, Greece** 2013 – 2014
 Filmed, edited, and produced 10 short films about environmental conservation work. Edited posters, articles, and website content.
- Film & Education Intern, Forbes Marshall, India** 2012 – 2013
 Rewrote the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) brochure. Filmed, edited, and produced 23 short films about energy efficiency and CSR. Taught English at Akanksha (local NGO).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- [Striving for Coexistence: Is Galapagos Goat Cheese the Solution?](#), Geography Directions, 2021.
- [Galapagos Eutopia](#), Weather Matters, 2021.
- [Coping with Uncertain Times](#), Weather Matters, 2021.
- [In the Field](#), Royal Geographical Society, 2021.

SKILLS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Languages:** Bilingual/fluent in English & Spanish; intermediate French (B1); beginner Portuguese.
- Skills:** Interviews, focus groups, ethnographic and archival research, analysis, syllabus design, teaching.
- Software:** NVivo, Zotero, Adobe Premiere, Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint.
- Citizenships:** Spain, USA, Ecuador.