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I am an urban anthropologist specialized in illegal markets, urban space, borders and security issues, and have conducted extensive fieldwork in Latin America, particularly in Mexico and the Tri-Border region in Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina. My research interests include the ethnography of illegal commodity chains, border cities, urban space policing, and discourses of (in)security.

CURRENT AND PAST POSITIONS

- 2008- Assistant Professor, Department of Latin American Studies, University of Leiden.
- 2007-2009 Postdoctoral fellow, Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation CEDLA, University of Amsterdam.
- 2002-2007 PhD candidate, Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation CEDLA, University of Amsterdam.
- 1997-1999 Lecturer/researcher, Department of Social and Cultural Studies, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente Iteso, Mexico.
- 1996 Research assistant, Centre of Gender Studies, University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

EDUCATION

- 2007 Ph.D.
Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam
Dissertation: *Dirty CDs. Piracy, Globalisation and the Emergence of New Illegalities in the San Juan de Dios Market, Mexico.*
- 2001 M.A.
Social Sciences, International School for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1997 B.A.
Communication Sciences, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente Iteso, Mexico.

GRANTS

- 2009 Research grant, Global Consortium on Security Transformation.
- 2005 Travel grant, Network on Regionalism, Social Development and Borders, EuropeAid, Cooperation Office Latin America Directorate and the University of Puebla.
- 2001 Research grant, Consejo Nacional para la Ciencia y la Tecnología, Mexico.
- 1999 Study grant, Institute for International Education, United States.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Spanish Mother tongue.
- Dutch Close to native level (*Staatsexamen Nederlands als Tweede Taal Programma II* afgenomen op 19 april 2006).
- English Close to native level.
- Italian Fluent.
- German Basic understanding and speaking.

MEMBERSHIPS AND DISTINCTIONS

- 2010- National Researcher, level C, Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (National Register of Researchers), Consejo Nacional para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (National Council for Science and Technology) Mexico.
- 2009- Member of the scientific advisory board of the Mexico Institute, University of Groningen.
- 1996 B.A. Excellence Student, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente Iteso, Mexico.

TEACHING

- 2008- *The City in Latin America*. Department of Latin American Studies, University of Leiden. BA level.
- Research Methodologies for Latin America*. Department of Latin American Studies, University of Leiden. MA and BA level.
- Civil Society in Latin America*. Department of Latin American Studies, University of Leiden. BA level.
- 2007-9 *Framing the Latin American City: Urban Space, Legality and Security*. Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation CEDLA, University of Amsterdam. BA and MA level.
- Research Methodologies*. Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation CEDLA, University of Amsterdam. MA level.

- 2006 *Towards a Latin American Agenda: Perceived Problems in the Region Nowadays*. Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation CEDLA, University of Amsterdam. BA level.
- 2003 *Mexico: society and culture*. Institute Hendrik Kraemer, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 2003 *Social Theory*. Department of Social and Cultural Studies, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente Iteso, Mexico. BA level.
- 1998-1999 *Sociology*. Instituto de Filosofía, Mexico. BA level.
- 1997-1999 *Introduction to Social Sciences, Cultural Analysis, Qualitative Research Methods*. Department of Social and Cultural Studies, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente Iteso, Mexico. BA level.

PUBLICATION LIST

Journals

- 2013 Aguiar, José Carlos G., forthcoming. 'Cities on edge: illegality, police and the contestation of borders in South America', *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*.
- 2010 Aguiar, José Carlos G., forthcoming. 'La piratería como conflicto. Discursos sobre la propiedad intelectual en México', *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*.
- 2010 Aguiar, José Carlos G., in press. 'The Ambivalent Relation Between State and Illegal Actors: Piracy Retail in Mexico', *Etnográfica*.
- 2009 Aguiar, José Carlos G. 'The dictator's seduction. Politics and the popular imagination in the era of Trujillo, by Lauren Derby. Book review'. *Etnofoor*, 21(2).
- 2009 Aguiar, José Carlos G. 'Nuevas ilegalidades en el orden global. Piratería y la escenificación del estado de derecho en México', *Foro Internacional*, n. 196, April-June, Colegio de México, Mexico.
- 2006 Aguiar, José Carlos G. 'Las políticas de seguridad en América Latina: policía, violencia y narcotráfico en México', *Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe* 81, Amsterdam.
- 1999 Aguiar, José Carlos G. 'Un paso a tres tiempos. El cuerpo en las ciencias Sociales', *Replones* n. 41-42, March, Iteso, Guadalajara.
- 1998 Aguiar, José Carlos G. '¡Ámame por ser bello! Masculinidad=cuerpo+eros+consumo', *La Ventana* n.8, December, University of Guadalajara, Guadalajara.
- 1998 Aguiar, José Carlos G. 'Cárcel de máxima seguridad o pantalla de encuentros hedonistas. Dos ejes contemporáneos de problematización del cuerpo humano', *Juglares y Alarifes* n. 16, August, Iteso, Guadalajara.
- 1997 Aguiar, José Carlos G. 'Transgresión/mutación: los cuerpos de los otros', *Armario* n. 172, 2nd March, El Occidental, Guadalajara.
- 1997 Aguiar, José Carlos G. 'Ciudad de cuerpos flotantes. Cuatro conclusiones tapatías acerca del uso de la carne', *Juglares y Alarifes* n. 10, January, Iteso, Guadalajara.

Books and edited volumes

- 2011 Aguiar, José Carlos G. and Rivke Jaffe (eds.), forthcoming. 'Fragmentation, Conflict and Hope in the Neoliberal City: Urban Space in Latin America'. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, special issue.

2008 Aguiar, José Carlos G. and María Eugenia Suárez de Garay (eds.). *Policía, seguridad y transición política. Perspectivas sobre la reconfiguración del México contemporáneo*. Cuadernos del CEDLA, Amsterdam.

Book chapters

2011 Aguiar, José Carlos G., forthcoming. “‘They Come from China’”. Pirate CDs in a transnational perspective’ in Gordon Mathews, *et al* (eds.), *Economic Globalization from Below*.

2010 Aguiar, José Carlos G., forthcoming. ‘The ‘war on piracy’: globalization and new illegalities in Mexico’ in Wil Pansters (ed.), *Illegality, Violence and the State in Mexico*, Stanford University Press, Palo Alto.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2010 ‘International entrepreneurs at Ciudad del Este. Transnationalism and the advantage of borders’, XXIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, 6-9 October, Toronto.
- 2009 ‘Stretching the border: smuggling practices and state policies in South America’, Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation CEDLA, 18 December, Amsterdam.
- 2009 ‘The Tri-border area: illegality and security. A reflection from the hearth of the Southern Cone’, 53rd International Congress of Americanists ICA, 19th-24th July, Mexico City.
- 2009 ‘Neoliberalismo y economías informales en América Latina: venta de piratería en México y contrabando en la Triple Frontera’, International Conference Métropolisation et transformations marchandes dans les pays émergents. Les grandes villes dans les mutations du commerce mondial, 1st-3rd July, Colegio de Mexico.
- 2009 ‘Sacoleiros, laranjas, and cambistas. Cross-border practices and informal actors at the Tri-border region’, 45th Annual Conference of the Society for Latin American Studies SLAS, 26-27 March, University of Leeds.
- 2008 ‘Cities on edge: Conflicting policies and border practices at the Tri-border region’, NALACS/CEDLA International Conference Conflict, Fragmentation and Hope in the Neoliberal City Urban Space in Latin America, 6-7 November, Amsterdam.
- 2008 ‘Pitazos, mordidas and madrinas. The ambivalent relation between law enforcers and illegal actors: piracy retail in Mexico’, “Ambiguidades contemporâneas da segurança. Para um olhar de perto”, 6th-7th May, University of Lisbon.
- 2008 ‘Producing the State in the City. Geographies of Global Governance and the Informal Commerce: the case of Mexico’, International Congress REDEFRO, 20th-23rd February, University of the Americas, Cholula.
- 2007 ‘The ‘War on Piracy’: Globalisation and New Illegalities in Mexico’, Expert Meeting “Illegality, Violence and the State in Mexico”, 21st-22nd June, Utrecht University.
- 2006 ‘La lucha contra la piratería en México: apuntes analíticos’, Symposium “La seguridad entre lo global y lo local: los entornos latinoamericanos”, 52^o International Congress of Americanists, 17th-21st July, University of Seville, Spain.
- 2005 ‘El pirata, el policía y la alianza transnacional. La seguridad y el orden comercial entre lo local y lo regional: el caso la venta de piratería en el Mercado de San Juan de Dios’, 12th Congress Federación Internacional de Estudios sobre América Latina y el Caribe (FIEALC), América Latina y el proceso de modernización, Rome, Italy.

- 2005 'The informal retailer, the political actor. Popular commerce, political representation and the PRI regime: The San Juan de Dios market, Guadalajara', SLAS Conference, University of Derby, England.
- 2004 'Corporatism and popular markets in the post-PRI era: a democratic transition? The San Juan de Dios market, Guadalajara', Mexico, SLAS conference, April 2004, University of Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2002 'On the defence of patrimony. Articulation of modernities in the San Juan de Dios market', 3rd European Congress on Latin American Research, Cruzando fronteras en America Latina, University of Amsterdam.
- 1997 'Cárcel de máxima seguridad o pantalla de encuentros hedonistas. Dos ejes contemporáneos de problematización del cuerpo humano', 9th Encuentro CONEICC, 1997, Querétaro, Mexico.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Since the 19th century, the Paraguayan, Brazilian and Argentinean states have launched different programmes to produce and enforce their national borders at the Tri-border area. Through the years, the zone enjoyed some kind of regime of exception and turned into a 'forgotten' wild spot, where contraband expanded with the illegal trade of cars, cigarettes and other goods. Yet, since the early 1990s the area has gained much attention. With the arrival of new ethnic groups, mainly Muslim and Asian migrants, the urban area at the cities of Ciudad de Este, Foz de Iguazú and Puerto Iguazú experienced a demographic boom. These new residents have expanded the scope of the networks visible at the Tri-border area through trade, and consolidated the economy of the region. Yet, the bonanza at the Tri-border area has a controversial side. According to the US government, terrorism (reportedly, Hezbollah, Hamas, and al-Qai'da cells) and organised crime (human traffickers, drug and weapons smugglers) profit from international trade. The region poses interesting questions regarding the ethnography of national borders, the reduction of crime and illegality against the background of globalisation, and South-South relations in the context of transnational networks.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION, COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

- 2009 Co-organizer international symposium: *Security between the global and the local: the Latin American context*, 53rd International Congress of Americanists, 19th-24th July, Mexico City.
- 2008 Organizer international conference: *Conflict, fragmentation and hope in the neoliberal city: urban space in Latin American*, October, RedNLA/NALACS, 6-7- November, Amsterdam.
- 2007-8 Manager Master Programme Concertación, Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation CEDLA, University of Amsterdam. Tasks include curricular coordination, budget management, and students' advice.
- 2006 Co-organizer international symposium: *La seguridad entre lo global y lo local: los entornos latinoamericanos*, 52nd International Congress of Americanists, 17-21 July 2006, University of Seville, Spain.
- 2004-8 Founder and member of the network *RedNLA, Latin American Scholars in the Netherlands*.

REVIEW AND EDITORIAL WORK

- 2006- Co-editor of *Etnofoor*, anthropology journal, Amsterdam.
- 2008- Member of the advisory board *Replones*, journal of social sciences, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente Iteso, Mexico.
- 2004-2006 Co-editor of *Social Anthropology*, journal of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, University of Leiden.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE PhD DISSERTATIONS

- 2009 María de los Angeles Erazo Pesántez, 'La comunicación pública de la ciencia dentro de la política científica', PhD dissertation in Anthropology, April, University of Salamanca.
- 2008 José Luis López Ulloa, 'Entre aromas de incienso y de pólvora. Los Altos de Jalisco, México, 1917-1940', PhD dissertation in Latin American studies, 5 November, University of Leiden.

THESIS SUPERVISION (selection)

- 2009 Annemieke Dekker, 'Ecotoerisme en duurzame ontwikkeling in Costa Rica' (Ecotourism and sustainable development in Costa Rica), MA in Latin American Studies, University of Leiden.
- Kelly Heemskerk, 'De drugsoorlog in Mexico, 2000-2008' (The war on drugs in Mexico, 2000-2008), BA in Latin American Studies, University of Leiden.
- Roos Micke, 'De relatie van de media en de politiek in Mexico na 2000' (Media and politics in Mexico after 2000), BA in Latin American Studies, University of Leiden.
- Femke Pee, 'De positie van in de maquiladoras werkende vrouwen aan de grens van Mexico en de Verenigde Staten' (The position of women working in the *maquiladora* industry at the Mexico-US border), BA in Latin American Studies, University of Leiden.

INVITED LECTURES/DEBATES

- 2008 Debate: *Children of the War*, Movies that Matter, Amnesty International, 13th January, Amsterdam.
- 2007 Debate: *Mexico at a crossroad: The (global) politics behind Mexico's cultural contemporary transformations*, Cinemaztlán Film Festival, 21st September, Amsterdam.
- 2007 *Mexico: politieke overgang en accountability* (Mexico: political transition and accountability), Algemene Rekenkamer (The Netherlands' Court of Audit), The Hague.
- 2006 *Links, centrum en rechts? Politieke partijen en stromingen in Latijns Amerika. Verkiezingen Mexico 2006* (Left, center and right? Political parties and tendencies in Latin America. Elections Mexico 2006), International Affairs, Partij van de Arbeid (Labour Party), Amsterdam.

- 2005 *When topos entails desire. The Zona Rosa in Mexico City. The sexualization of the urban space*, Mosse Lectures, University of Amsterdam.
- 2005 *San Juan de Dios makes big news. Police raids and state performativity against piracy retail in Guadalajara, Mexico*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2009 'Schatrijk worden in Mexico met coke, kogels en bloed', De Standaard, Belgium, 4 April.
- 2008 '*México: Resultados de Operación Limpieza se evidencian en detenciones*', El Nacional, Venezuela, 30 November.
- 2008 '*Mexico zit in totale drugsoorlog*', De Standaard, Belgium, 8 October.
- 2008 TV debate show with Enrique Cárdenas, Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias, Mexico, 22 February.
- 2007 *Corrupt Mexico kan piraterij niet stoppen*, NRC Handelsblad, The Netherlands, 15 June.