

PAOLA VELASCO-HERREJÓN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Development Studies, University of Cambridge, UK (Defence date: 17 February 2021) Dissertation: <i>Energy Justice from the Bottom Up: A Capability Approach to Community Acceptance of Wind Energy in Southern Mexico</i> Supervisors: Graham Denyer-Willis, Helena Perez-Niño and Solava Ibrahim	2016-2020
M.A.	Gender and Development, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK <i>Distinction</i> Dissertation: <i>Insights into the processes of women's empowerment through participation in artisan cooperatives in Chiapas, Mexico</i>	2012-2013
B.A.	International Relations, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Guadalajara, México AACSB/EQUIS <i>1st Equivalent</i>	2005-2009
Diplomas & Certificates	Social Impact Assessment and Consultation, Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO)	2018
	Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Statistics, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)	2010-2011
	Certificate of Political Studies (CEP), Sciences Po Toulouse, France	2007-2008

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Oslo, Institute of Technology Systems, Norway | *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow* 01/2023-Present

- Supervisors: Marianne Zeyringer and Tanja Winther
- I project-manage the Horizon Europe project SAMVIND, which aims to develop an innovative and interdisciplinary mixed-methods approach integrating concepts of sociology (stakeholder analysis), economic philosophy (capability approach), and technology systems (energy systems modelling) to better define the 'real world' feasibility of large-scale wind farms from a range of economic, political, regulatory, and societal perspectives.
- I participate in a range of research projects on the relationship between society and energy transitions across spatial scales and sectors. I contribute to grant writing and funding acquisition on strategic themes. I undertake science dissemination and communication on prominent international and national platforms. I supervise three graduate students and mentor early-career researchers.

University College Cork, Environmental Research Institute, Ireland | *Postdoctoral Researcher* 01/2021 – 01/2023

- Cleaner Promotion and Production Unit. Working closely with the unit director, I co-project-managed the following Horizon Europe projects:
 - EnergyMEASURES. Address energy poverty in seven European countries (BE, BG, IE, MK, NL, PL, UK) by working with energy poor households to improve their energy efficiency through a combination of low-cost measures, and changes in their energy-related behaviours and practices.
 - REALISE. Develop an in-depth understanding of the societal, socio-political, and commercial context of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) deployment for three business cases relevant to refineries in the EU and China and develop a social acceptability framework for CCS in consultation with stakeholders.
 - EnergyPOLITIES. Reveal linkages between political, institutional, and organisational frameworks and citizen participation in the energy system through three case studies of energy projects (a bottom-up community-led solar energy project in Austria, as well as the more top-down electricity grid extension from Cork to Kildare, and a gas onshore pipeline in County Mayo) that have stimulated significant citizen participation. We are exploring how governance structures intersect with the socio-economic and key socio-cultural factors, including gender, to influence the social acceptability or otherwise of energy infrastructure projects.
 - ENCLUDE: Map existing patterns of citizen participation and energy citizenship in Europe's energy system.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mexico | *Researcher* 04/2015 – 08/2016

- Drafted a national social development strategy based on complementary regional development policies, designed according to sustainability criteria.
- Co-developed a design and process evaluation, and a monitoring and evaluation strategy for four core programmes of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (more than 90,000 beneficiaries a year).
- Identified and systematised primary and secondary sources related to human development, poverty, regional development, inequality, and other related subjects to support activities related to the design of public policy proposals.

Institute of Development Studies (University of Sussex), UK | *Research Assistant*

12/2012 – 10/2013

- Coded and analysed the Concern Graduation Programme's baseline database for the Centre for Social Protection.
- Completed a literature review entitled "What is Business and Development?" (Published in May 2013).
- Drafted and edited research for the Knowledge, Technology and Society team that resulted in two publications.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Bauwens, T., Esquetini-Friant, M., Beumer, K., **Velasco-Herrejon, P.** (forthcoming) Pluriversal Technologies: Pluriversal technologies: A decolonial typology of knowledge integration for disruptive sustainability. *Research Policy*

Velasco Herrejón, P., Medina Hancio, L., Romo López, J., López Toledo, E., and Zeyringer, M. (forthcoming chapter) Energy Transition and Indigenous Communities. *Social Dimensions of Energy Transition*. Elsevier.

Shahzad Javed, M., Fossheim, K., **Velasco-Herrejón, P.**, Elias Koop, N., Guzik, M., Seibt, B., Zeyringer, M. (under review) Quantifying the Norwegian youth attitudes and preferences for a more inclusive energy transition.

Bauwens, T., **Velasco-Herrejón, P.** Esquetini-Friant, M., Guttorm Einarsen, A. (under review) From Knots to Constellations: A Recursive Pluriversal Model of Organizational Responsibility.

Velasco-Herrejón, P., Violen, I., Valenzuela-Venegas, G., Sartori, S., & Zeyringer, M. (2025). Astronomy and energy justice in the Atacama Desert. In *Energy Justice in Latin America* (pp. 181-198). Routledge.

McKenna, R., Lilliestam, J., Heinrichs, H., Weinand, J., Schmidt, I., Staffell, I., Hahmann, A., Burgherr, P., Chen, R., Visconti, P., Burdack, **Velasco-Herrejón, P.**, A., Zeyringer, M., Sacchi, S., Lowitzsch, J., Ramirez Camargo, L., Scherhauser, P., Price, P., Novo, R., Bucha, M., Lehmann, P., Klingler, M (2025) The systemic impacts of wind energy: assessing challenges and opportunities to elaborate a research agenda. *Joule*, 9(1).

Roithner, M., **Velasco-Herrejón, P.**, Van Greevenbroek, K., Grochowicz, A., Vågerö, O., Hvidsten, T.V., Price, J. and Zeyringer, M. (2025). Balancing act: the cost of wind restrictions in Norway's electricity transition. *Environmental Research: Energy 2*.

Velasco Herrejón, P. and Bauwens, T. (2024) Are Energy Transitions Reproducing Inequalities? Power, Social Stigma and Distributive (In)Justice in Mexico. *Global Environmental Change*. 87, 102883.

Velasco-Herrejón, P., López Toledo, E., Romo López, J. A., Antonio Escobar, T. K., Carrasco Morales, E., Hernández Ramírez, W. & Martínez Arreguin, J. (2024). A capability approach to analyse well-being impacts of wind energy infrastructure. *Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability*.

Velasco-Herrejón, P., Lennon, B., Dunphy, N. P. eds. (2023) *Living with Energy Poverty: Perspectives from the Global North and South*. Routledge.

Velasco-Herrejón, P., Lennon, B. and Dunphy, N.P. (2024) The Global Face of Energy Poverty. In *Living with Energy Poverty* (pp. 3-14). Routledge.

Dunphy, N.P., Lennon, B. and **Velasco-Herrejón, P.** (2023) Identifying Energy-Poor Households, Experiences from the Global North. In *Living with Energy Poverty* (pp. 17-28). Routledge.

Dunphy, N.P., Lennon, B. and **Velasco-Herrejón, P.** (2023) Towards a Better Understanding of Energy Poverty. In *Living with Energy Poverty* (pp. 275-281). Routledge.

Lennon, B., Dunphy, N. P., **Velasco-Herrejón, P.**, & Quinlivan, L. (2022, May). Shifting the Power Balance: community-led resistance and the shaping of local understandings of place. In Conference Proceedings of the 20th STS Conference Graz: Critical Issues in Science, Technology and Society Studies (pp. 194-213).

Velasco-Herrejon, P., Bauwens, T., and Esquetini-Friant, C. (2022) Challenging Dominant Sustainability Worldviews on the Energy Transition: Lessons from Indigenous Communities in Mexico and a plea for Pluriversal Technologies. *World Development*, 150, 105725.

Velasco-Herrejon, P., Bauwens, T. (2020) Energy Justice from the Bottom Up: A Capability Approach to Community Acceptance of Wind Energy in Mexico. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 70, 101711.

Velasco-Herrejon, P., Savaresi, A. (2020) Wind Energy, Benefit-sharing, and Indigenous Peoples: The case of Southern Mexico. *Oil, Gas & Energy Law Journal (OGEL)*, 18(1).

Yaganeh, M., **Velasco Herrejón, P.**, Wantson, N., Spratt, S. and Cicera, X. (2013) What is Business and Development? An Annotated Bibliography. *IDS Evidence Report 4*, Brighton: IDS.

Ibanez-Velasco, G. y **Velasco-Herrejon, P.** (2005) Electrolysis Applied to Environmental Clean-up. *Prax. Naturwiss. Chem. Sch.*, 34-36.

Academic Book Reviews

Velasco-Herrejón, P. (2022) *Who owns the wind?: Climate crisis and the hope of renewable energy*, by David McDermott Hughes. Verso. 2021. pp. 256. £11.89 (pb). ISBN-13:978-1-83976-113-3.

Velasco-Herrejón, P. (2022) *Sustainability, Capabilities and Human Security: edited by Andrew Crabtree, Cham, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020, pp. xiii+ 184, ISBN 978-3-030-38904-8.*

JOURNAL ACTIVITIES

Frontiers in Sustainable Energy Policy	Review Editor
Nature Energy	Referee
Energy Research & Social Science	Referee
World Development	Referee
Sustainability Science	Referee
Environmental Politics	Referee
Environmental Research: Energy	Referee
Journal of Human Development and Capabilities	Referee
Journal of Agrarian Change	Referee
Sustainability Science	Referee
Environmental Science and Policy	Referee
Journal of International Business Policy	Referee
Oil, Gas & Energy Law (OGEL)	Referee

EDUCATIONAL PORTFOLIO

Pedagogical training

Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, University of Cambridge, UK 2022-2023

Postgraduate teaching experience

Lecturer. Social Aspects of the Energy Transition. Course TEK5340 – Energy Systems Analysis: Modelling, Methods and Scenarios and TEK5300 Renewable Energy: Science and Technology. Department of Technology Systems, University of Oslo. 2023-Present

Supervisor. Master’s in Applied Economics and Sustainability, Norwegian University of Life Sciences 2024-Present
Master’s in Renewable energy, UiO

Thesis examiner. Master’s in Development, Environment and Cultural Change. Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo. 2024-Present

Teaching Assistant. Business, Government and Technology in Emerging Markets (TP4 Paper) for the MPhil in Technology and Policy, and Engineering for Sustainable Development. 2018-2021
Cambridge Judge Business School

Lecturer. Climate Mitigation and Social Justice in Indigenous Communities. 2020-Present
Managing Global Governance Academy at the German Development Institute (DIE).

Lecturer. Sustainability and Community Development (La sustentabilidad y la gestión comunitaria). 2021-Present
PhD Programme in Humanistic Counselling and Psychotherapy
Organisational, Family and Individual Development Institute, Mexico

Undergraduate Teaching Experience

Convenor and lecturer. Sustainability: Perspectives, Challenges and Solutions. Course SUS2000, University of Oslo. 2024-Present

Lecturer. Is a just transition to clean energy possible? Understanding community acceptance of wind energy in Mexico. Course PSY2506 – Green Mediation: Conflict, Collaboration, and Change Towards a Sustainable Future. Department of Psychology, University of Oslo. 2023-2024

Lecturer. International Organisations. Dalian University of Foreign Languages (DLUFL), China. 2022-2023

Lecturer. Economics of Climate Change, Sutton Trust, University of Cambridge. 2018

Bye-Fellow. Downing College, University of Cambridge 2021-2023

Supervisor of Economics (Part IIB Paper 8: The Economics of Developing Countries)

Supervisor. University of Cambridge (various departments). 2018-2021
Land Economy (Paper 17 Land Policy and Development Economics), Sociology (Soc 3 Environmental Justice and Control and Resistance in Digital Societies), Undergraduate upper division papers.

Tutor. Global Business and Economics, Summer Discovery. 2017-2022

Tutor. Sustainable Living in Cambridge, Cambridge Eastern Education and Development. July 2017

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Grupo Mexico, Mexico | Community Development Coordinator (Energy Section) 10/2013 – 04/2015

- Co-designed and implemented a community development strategy for 7500 participants based on social entrepreneurship.
- Managed a team of 16 people (staff and volunteers) for the wind energy company.
- Designed and coordinated a participatory baseline that included 314 interviews with stakeholders including community members, wind energy companies' representatives, government authorities, and local NGOs.
- Prepared strategic presentations for different stakeholders.

Embassy of Canada, Mexico | Consular Assistant / Immigration Assistant 07/2010 – 09/2012

- Provision of consular information, assistance and guidance to Canadians travelling or living in Mexico.
- Contributed to the organisation of trade shows and events, such as Canada Day and Canada Week.

Women's Institute of Queretaro, Mexico | Liaison Coordinator 02/2010 – 07/2012

- Designed and coordinated model to prevent, detect, address and refer cases of violence against Indigenous women, which provided legal and psychological attention to 1,862 Indigenous women in 8 months

INTERESTS AND OTHER SKILLS

Computing: Microsoft Office, ArcGIS, and STATA

Languages: **Spanish:** Native Speaker, **English:** C2 **French:** C1, **Norwegian:** B1, **Polish:** Basic

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOP INVITATIONS

Human Development and Capabilities Conference. Bedford, UK. 09/2025

Preserving and Transferring Indigenous Knowledge in a Digital World (Co-LABorate 2 GIGA Workshop) 03/2025

Human Development and Capabilities Conference. Kolkata, India. 09/2024

10th Nordic Geographers Meeting 06/2024

Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom - Pathways to Human Flourishing (Workshop). The New Institute, Germany 03/2024

Measuring Affordability and the Social Impacts of Clean Energy Transitions (Workshop). IEA, Paris 03/2024

Human Development and Capabilities Conference. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria 09/2023

EGU General Assembly. Austria. 04/2023

Human Development and Capabilities Conference. University of Antwerp, Belgium. 09/2022

Development Studies Association Conference. Online (UCL, UK) 07/2022

Energy Research and Social Science. University of Manchester, UK. 06/2022

Conference of Irish Geographers. University of Limerick, Ireland. 05/2022

20th Annual STS Conference. University of Graz, Austria. 05/2022

Sustainability and Development Conference. Online (University of Michigan) 01/2022

Social innovation in the energy transition conference. Online (TU Delft) 11/2021

5TH Energy and Society Conference. Online (Trento, Italy) 02/2021

Human Development and Capabilities Conference. Online (New Zealand). 09/2020

Human Development and Capabilities Conference. UCL, UK. 09/2019

New Pathways for Community Energy and Storage. Universities of Groningen and Twente 06/2019

Energy, Culture and Society in the Global South. University of Cambridge, UK. 05/2019

Energy Justice and the Capability Approach Conference. Malmo, Sweden. 09/2018

International Workshop on Poverty, Inequality Dynamics, and Economic Development: Tensions and Trade-offs in Mixed Methods Research. Kings College, UK.	09/2018
4 TH Energy and Society Conference. University of Exeter, UK.	09/2018
Development Studies Association Conference. University of Manchester, UK.	07/2018
ETH Academy on Sustainability and Technology. ETH Zurich, Switzerland.	06/2018
The Just Transition towards a Low-Carbon Economy – Integrating Climate, Energy and Environmental Justice. Edinburgh, Scotland.	03/2018
International Congress, Network for Energy Sustainability, Environment and Society. Cuernavaca, México.	09/2017
Human Development and Capabilities Conference. Cape Town University, South Africa.	09/2017

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (2023-2027) - € 283K
- CONACYT Energy Sustainability Scholarship (2016-2020) – £96K
- Becas Magdalena O. Vda. de Brockmann (BecasMOB) (2012) – \$18,600
- CONACYT Excellence Scholarship (2012) – £7K
- Scotiabank Mobility Award (2009) – \$4K
- Cambridge Political Economy Society PhD Funding (2019) – £3K
- Thirkill Award, Clare College, Cambridge (2019, 2021)
- Graduate Research Grant, Clare College, Cambridge (2017)
- Development Studies Association Grant – Development Studies Conference (2018, 2019)
- University of Michigan – Sustainability and Development Conference (2018, 2019)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE / PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Thematic Group Empowerment and Collective Capabilities Coordinator , Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA)	01/2018 – 10/2025
Black and Minorities Officer , Clare College MCR	05/2018 – 04/2020
President , Cambridge Social and Economic Development Society Organised two seminars (65 attendees), a reading group (15 participants), and a one-day international conference (150 attendees).	09/2018 – 10/2019
Clareity President , Clare College Coordinated a range of academic events including talks and a symposium to exchange ideas and learn about the latest research in Clare College (reaching 660 students).	04/2018 – 04/2019
President , University of Cambridge Mexican Society Arranged seminars, talks, and various social events that reached 251 participants. Organised the XVII Symposium of Mexican Studies and Students in the UK 2019 (120 attendees).	01/2017 – 01/2018

INTERESTS AND OTHER SKILLS

Computing:	Microsoft Office, ArcGIS, and STATA
Languages:	Spanish: Native Speaker, English: Fluent, French: Fluent, Norwegian: Intermediate, Polish: Basic
Volunteering:	Active member of ‘Indigenous Peoples’ Rights’ of Amnesty Mexico, 2010 – 2015 Developed a report that documented a history of all institutional alliances for The Hunger Project Mexico, 2011 Supported and promoted sales for a small-scale cooperative of organic coffee and honey producers in trade fairs as part of the Mexican Association of Credit Unions of the Social Sector (AMUCSS), 2009 Supported the organisation of seminars to facilitate the mobility of youth in East Europe as part of the Centre for Youth Co-operation and Mobility, Poland, 2005