

Dean Chahim

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Education

2019 (expected)

PhD, Cultural Anthropology

Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

Dissertation Committee: James Ferguson (chair), Paulla Ebron, Miyako Inoue, and Mikael Wolfe

Dissertation: Engineering the Infinite City: Water and the Limits to Growth in Mexico City

2016 **M.A., Cultural Anthropology**

Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

2012 **B.A. with Honors, International Development & Social Change**

Department of Individualized Studies, University of Washington

(Interdisciplinary, self-designed course of study with classes in International Studies, Political Science, Geography, Global Health, Law, Public Affairs, Social Work, as well as study abroad in Tajikistan.)

Honors Project: Designed and taught a new critical development studies course.

B.S.C.E., Civil & Environmental Engineering

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Washington

(Coursework specializing in environmental engineering and water resources.)

Team Capstone Project: Developed plans for an office park with on-site water reuse.

Professional Experience

Environmental Engineer, GeoEngineers, Inc., Seattle

2013 - 2014

Performed environmental site assessments in the field and designed remediation strategies for soil and groundwater contaminated with petroleum and other toxic chemicals. Worked with CEO to lead junior-level staff effort to generate a vision for social responsibility for the company.

Extramural Awards and Fellowships

- 2017 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$17,385 for fieldwork in Mexico)
- 2017 Social Science Research Council International Research Fellowship (\$17,400 for fieldwork in Mexico)
- 2016 Bernard J. Siegel Award for Outstanding Achievement in Written Expression by a Ph.D. Student in Anthropology (\$500, awarded by the Stanford Department of Anthropology)
- 2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program - Honorable Mention
- 2016 Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (\$5000 for research)
- 2011 National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship (\$20,000; *declined*)
- 2011 Foreign Languages and Area Studies Award (\$7,500 for Dari study in Tajikistan)
- 2007 NASA Space Grant Scholarship (\$20,000 in academic support over four years)

Intramural Awards and Fellowships

- 2015 Haas Center Graduate Public Service Fellowship (\$3,000 to support work mentoring undergraduates)
- 2014 Frank O. Hamilton Graduate Fellowship in the School of Humanities and Sciences (full tuition and stipend support at Stanford)
- 2011 Bonderman Travel Fellowship (\$20,000 for eight months of independent travel - *see below*)
- 2011 Fritz Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,500 for Dari study in Tajikistan)
- 2011 Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship (\$4,000 for work with Critical Development Forum)
- 2011 University of Washington (UW) College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Award (\$1,000 to present at conference)

- 2010 UW Department of Civil Engineering Scholarship (\$5,000 in academic support)
2010 UW Undergraduate Research Conference Travel Award (\$540 to present at conference)
2008 Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship (\$4,500 for work with Engineers Without Borders)
2008 Mary Gates Research Scholarship (\$900 for structural engineering research internship)
2007 Mary Gates Research Scholarship (\$1,700 for plasma stabilization research internship)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Chahim, D., and A. Prakash (2014). “NGOization, Foreign Funding, and the Nicaraguan Civil Society.” *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* 25, no. 2: 487–513. doi:10.1007/s11266-012-9348-z. (Lead author and sole field researcher.)

Multimedia Publications

Chahim, D. (2016). “La Exportación de La Contaminación.” *Ruta Antropológica* 3 (5): 110–16. (photo essay) http://www.posgrado.unam.mx/antropologia/revista/revista_05.pdf

Reports and White Papers

Benjamin, M., Steele, A., Deichsel, A. J., Alsheimer, A., De La Via, C., & **Chahim, D.** (2011). “Road Stabilization and Drainage Improvements in North Potosi, Bolivia-Improving Access to Markets, Clinics, Schools, and Facilitating Future Development.” Transportation Northwest Report No. TNW2010-13. (Project manager and editor.)

Burke, E., Stzern, S., Battisti, D., Barcelos, J., Marlow, J., Bender, S., **Chahim, D.**, Eshback, L., Gordon, L., Kaplan, F., McCusker, K., Palevsky, H., & Rowell, M. (2011). “Initial Assessment of Lead Agency Candidates to Support Alaska Native Villages Requiring Relocation to Survive Climate Harms.” White paper presented by Three Degrees Project to United States Congress. (Contributor to report.)

Courses Designed and Taught

Engineering for Social Justice: Politics and Possibilities of Engineering (Co-instructor)

Designed and co-taught (with Daniel Ullom) new undergraduate seminar at the University of Washington grounded in science and technology studies, engineering studies, and critical development theory, under the supervision of Susan Bolton, Professor of Forest Resources, Adjunct Professor of Civil Engineering and Global Health. Winter quarter, 2014. Variations of this syllabus have been taught in student-directed courses at the University of Washington and the University of California – Berkeley. *Course website, syllabus, and student evaluations available on portfolio, <http://deanchahim.com/engineering-for-social-justice/>.*

Beyond Good Intentions: Evaluating Global Development Critically (Instructor)

Designed and taught innovative new undergraduate seminar at the University of Washington on critical development studies and alternative ways to engage with the global South, under the supervision of Matthew Sparke, Professor of Geography and International Studies, Adjunct Professor of Global Health. Winter quarter, 2012. *Course website, syllabus, and student evaluations: cdfseminar.tumblr.com.*

Teaching Assistantships

Medical Ethics in a Global World: Examining Race, Difference and Power in the Research Enterprise (TA)

Teaching assistant for course in Department of Anthropology at Stanford University, taught by Professor Duana Fullwiley. Led two sections per week and gave two lectures. Fall quarter, 2015.

Conference Participation

“Anthropocene Curriculum: The Technosphere Issue,” participated in biennial workshop hosted by Haus der Kulturen der Welt and Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, April 14-22, 2016.

“Engineering the infinite metropolis: Mexico City’s water resource engineers and the crisis of urban growth,” presented at the Young Environmental Scholars Conference at Stanford, December 2, 2015. *Won best presentation award for Water Conservation and Management section.*

“From Good Intentions to Praxis: Learning from the Successes and Failures of the Critical Development Forum,” presented at the Engineering, Social Justice, and Peace conference in Troy, New York, August 14-16, 2013.

“Grass without Roots: Foreign Funding and the Underdevelopment of Nicaraguan Civil Society,” presented at the International Studies Association convention in Montreal, Quebec, March 16-19, 2011.

“Grass without Roots: Foreign Funding and the Underdevelopment of Nicaraguan Civil Society,” presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Action conference in Arlington, Virginia, November 18-20, 2010.

Invited Lectures and Presentations

“The Contradictions of ‘Sustainable Urban Development’ in the UN’s New Urban Agenda: The view from Mexico City,” guest lecture for graduate course on the UN Habitat III summit, for the Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies at Stanford University, October 20, 2016.

“Unintended Consequences: How engineers’ supposed sustainability solutions can worsen the problems they’re trying to solve,” guest lecture for undergraduate “Hard Earth” sustainability seminar series in the Department of Civil Engineering at Stanford University, September 28, 2016.

“Politics of Engineered Artifacts,” guest lecture for undergraduate Socially Engaged Engineers course at the University of California – Berkeley, March 2, 2016.

“How to Engineer a Water Crisis,” invited presentation for Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences Graduate Research Salon, Palo Alto, CA, February 11, 2016.

“Politics of Engineered Artifacts,” guest lecture for undergraduate Socially Engaged Engineers course at the University of California – Berkeley, September 22, 2015.

“Anthropology Meets the Public: Op-Ed Writing,” invited workshop for undergraduate capstone course in the Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, December 4, 2014

“The False Hope of Technology,” invited presentation for TEDxUofW, University of Washington, May 3, 2014. Available online: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53iihyJ3wK0>

“Grass without Roots: NGOs, Foreign Funding, and Democratization in Nicaragua,” guest lecture for undergraduate American Foreign Policy course at the University of Washington, May 28, 2013.

“Bringing Global Health Home: Bridging Geographies of Inequality in a Globalizing World,” presented at Department of Global Health graduate seminar on Geography, Culture, Urbanization and Global Health at the University of Washington, April 5, 2013.

“Thinking Globally: Challenging Ourselves to be Critical of Development Work at Home and Abroad,” presented on panel sponsored by the Critical Development Forum at the University of Washington, February 5, 2013.

“From ‘Saving Africa’ to Looking in the Mirror: Reflections on the Critical Development Forum’s Student-Driven Popular Education Initiative to Re-Politicize ‘Development’ at the University of Washington,” presented at the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s Centre for Civil Society colloquium in Durban, South Africa, July 25, 2012.

“Saving the World? Make the Most of Your Good Intentions,” moderated panel at Western Regional International Health Conference at the University of Washington, April 29, 2012.

“Grass without Roots: NGOs, American Foreign Policy, and Nicaragua,” guest lecture for undergraduate American Foreign Policy course at the University of Washington, April 19, 2012.

“Grass without Roots: NGOs, American Foreign Policy, and Nicaragua,” guest lecture for undergraduate American Foreign Policy course at the University of Washington, May 24, 2011.

“Can You Save the World? Challenging ourselves to go beyond good intentions in development,” moderated and co-organizers panel of academics, activists, and practitioners sponsored by the Critical Development Forum at the University of Washington, May 23, 2011. Available online: <http://vimeo.com/24364256>

“Grass without Roots? Funding and Accountability in Nicaraguan Civil Society,” presented at Department of Global Health graduate seminar on Accountability, Transparency, and Corruption in Global Health at the University of Washington, April 30, 2010.

“Unintentional Underdevelopment? Engineering and Aid in the Global Context,” guest lecture for mixed undergraduate and graduate course on Engineering in the Developing World at the University of Washington, April 22, 2010.

“Funding the Terms of Development: An observational field study of the effects of funding on Nicaraguan NGOs,” guest lecture for undergraduate course on World Politics at the University of Washington, December 8, 2009.

Articles in Mass Media

Chahim, D. “Syria won’t be another Iraq, but it’s already another Afghanistan.” *Seattle Globalist*, September 11, 2013. <http://www.seattleglobalist.com/2013/09/11/syria-isnt-iraq-its-another-afghanistan/16327>

Chahim, D. “UW student activist calls on Millennials to be less dreamy, more political.” *Humanosphere*. December 7th, 2011. <http://www.humanosphere.org/2011/12/uw-student-activist-calls-on-millennials-to-be-less-dreamy-more-political/>

Chahim, D. “Grass without roots: the dilemma of funding for social change.” *Real Change*. February 16th, 2011. <http://www.realchangenews.org/index.php/site/archives/5302/>

Leadership and Community Service

Visuals Team Lead, Fossil Free Stanford (<http://www.fossilfreestanford.org/>)

2015

- Helped produce and film multiple short videos to promote direct action campaign.
- Lead photographer for action; photos appeared in global news outlets including The Guardian US.

Organizer, Seattle Solidarity Network (seasol.net) 2013 - 2014

- Organized with low-income and undocumented Latino workers to win improved working conditions and over \$12,000 in back wages through collective direct action campaigns

Co-founder and Lead Organizer, Critical Development Forum 2011-2012

- Created new organization involving over 500 members and 15 active organizers to challenge growing trend towards international “voluntourism” at the University of Washington; encouraged students to reflect critically about their work abroad and rethink the meaning of “development” through workshops, forums, and courses.

Project Manager, Engineers Without Borders – University of Washington 2009-2011

- Managed student design teams, logistics, reports, and outreach for rural road improvement project in Bolivia; overseeing a \$25,000 budget and grant reporting.
- Cultivated relationships with community and local professional mentors; trained field team.

Projects Director, Engineers Without Borders – University of Washington 2009-2010

- Coordinated and advised student project teams and vetted new projects; liaison between design and fundraising teams and projects’ public face for community outreach and recruitment.
- Responsible for managing the coordination of three projects (potable water, irrigation water, and clean cookstoves) in Bolivia with a budget of over \$80,000.

International Experience

Travel Fellow, Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of Washington Honors Program 2012-2013

- Funded to travel for eight months independently across 10 countries (Nicaragua, Bolivia, Brazil, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Morocco, Israel & Palestine, India, and Afghanistan), learning .
- Spent time with everyday people and activists ranging from student movements in Brazil to grassroots solidarity organizers in the occupied Jordan Valley; learned two new languages (Portuguese and French) at conversational level through immersion.

Language Study, American Councils Eurasian Regional Language Program - Tajikistan Jun. – Aug. 2011

- Intensive one-on-one Dari and Tajiki language courses and cultural immersion program with homestays; instructors from Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Roads Project Travel Team, Engineers Without Borders – University of Washington Sep. 2008

- Traveled to Bolivia for three weeks to implement road drainage improvements with a remote village, working closely with community members during construction work.

Technical Certifications and Skills

- **Engineer in Training (E.I.T.)**, certified by the State of Washington
- **Geographic information systems (GIS) with ArcGIS**: basic proficiency
- **Land surveying and GPS field mapping**: basic proficiency

Languages

- **Spanish**: Fluent reading, speaking, listening, and writing
- **Persian**: Advanced speaking and listening (Afghan heritage speaker); intermediate writing and reading.
- **French**: Intermediate reading.
- **Portuguese**: Intermediate reading.