

# Nicholas L. Padilla

Assistant Professor

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## EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Ph.D. Geography,  
May 2017

Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, Texas, M.S. Geography, August  
2009

St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin, B.A. Political Science and Spanish, May  
2006

## EMPLOYMENT

Western Michigan University, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography,  
2019-present

Western Michigan University, Instructor, Department of Geography, 2017-2019

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Geography,  
2016-2017

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Foreign Language and Area Studies  
Coordinator, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, 2017

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Teaching Assistant, Department of  
Geography, 2009-2016

St. Norbert College, Adjunct Instructor of Geography, Fall 2011

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed Articles

**Padilla, Nicholas L.** (2021). Decolonizing indigenous education: an indigenous pluriversity within a university in Cauca, Colombia. *Social & Cultural*

*Geography*. 22(4), pp. 523-544.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2019.1601244>

Sziarto, Kristin; McCarthy, Linda; **Padilla, Nicholas L.** (2014). Teaching critical thinking in world regional geography through stakeholder debate. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*. 38 (4), pp. 557-570.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03098265.2014.958658>

In Preparation

**Padilla, Nicholas L.** and Sziarto, Kristin (in preparation). Gringos in the Jungle: Teaching situated indigenous knowledges to Anglo students. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*.

**Padilla, Nicholas L.** (in preparation). Enduring decolonial natures: performing indigenous natures into existence in southern Colombia. Special Issue – Querying Nature and (de)Colonialism. *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*.

**Padilla, Nicholas L.** (in preparation). Traumatic landscapes: Sugarcane farming and Indigenous territorial liberations.

Book Reviews

**Padilla, Nicholas.** 2012. The Corner of the Living: Ayacucho on the Eve of the Shining Path Insurgency. By M. La Serna. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*. 8(3), pp. 363-364.

Other Publications

Padilla, Nicholas. 2012. Forging Indigenous Economies in Southwestern Colombia. *Panther Geographer*, 9(1).

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, HONORS

Fellowships

2013. Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- 2010. Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship to study Quichua, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2010. Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship to study Quichua, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh (declined)
- 2009. Mary Jo Read Fellowship, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## Grants

- 2020. Collaborative Research: Assessing unoccupied aircraft systems value as a part of the citizen scientist toolkit. Co-PI. National Science Foundation Science and Technology Studies. Submitted, not funded.
- 2020. Open Textbook Grant (\$1,000), Waldo Library, Western Michigan University.
- 2019. Eyes In The Sky And Feet On The Ground: Assessing Unmanned Aircraft Systems Value As A Part Of The Citizen Scientist Toolkit. Co-PI. National Science Foundation Science and Technology Studies. Submitted, not funded.
- 2017. Faculty Study Abroad Award (\$1,500), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2017. Mary Jo Read Travel Award (\$1,300), Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee
- 2017. Graduate Student Travel Award (\$250), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (declined)
- 2016. Faculty Study Abroad Award (\$1,500), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2015. Mary Jo Read Travel Award (\$750), Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2014. Mary Jo Read Fieldwork Grant (\$2,000), Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2014. Graduate Student Travel Award (\$500), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2013. Mary Jo Read Travel Award (\$1,000), Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2012. Graduate Student Travel Award (\$500), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2012. Clinton Edwards Fieldwork Grant (\$1,000), Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- 2011. Graduate Student Travel Award (\$500), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2011. Mary Jo Read Travel Award (\$1,000), Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2010. Foreign Language and Area Studies Travel Award (\$775), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

#### Awards and Honors

- 2011. Outstanding Service Award, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2006. Norbertine Leadership & Service Award, St. Norbert College
- 2006. Dean's list, St. Norbert College
- 2002. Presidential Scholarship, St. Norbert College

## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

#### Papers Presented

- 2021. "Enduring decolonial natures: performing indigenous natures into existence in southern Colombia." Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Virtual
- 2020. "Performing imperfect indigenous natures." Paper accepted (not presented due to COVID-19) at Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, Kentucky
- 2020. "Enduring natures and performativity." Paper accepted (not presented due to COVID-19) at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- 2019. "Enduring as an indigenous subjectivity in Cauca, Colombia." Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington D.C.
- 2018. "Indigenous natures – the becoming of nature and economies." Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2018. "Indigenous natures, trauma, and enduring in Cauca, Colombia." Paper presented at Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, Kentucky

2017. "Decolonizing nature and liberating Madre Tierra – persistent Southern natures." Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts
2016. "*La economía armónica*: accounting for Mother Nature, non-humans, and the more-than-human in economies." Paper presented at the Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, Kentucky
2015. "Decolonizing indigeneity: Indigenous struggles to reclaim spaces, identities, and futures in Cauca, Colombia." Paper presented to the Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2015. "Indigenous education in Cauca, Colombia: Reawakening Mother Nature and sowing the seeds of harmony." Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois
2015. "Parenting while in the field: potty training, teething, and performing slow science." Paper presented at the IGU's Gendered Rights to the City Conference. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2015. "Decolonizing indigenous education: Reawakening Mother Nature and sowing the seeds of harmony." Paper presented for the Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latin@ Studies Speaker Series, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2013. "Cultivating indigenous economies in southwest Colombia: indigenous development and *madre tierra*." Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, California
2011. "Eradicating spaces of coca culture: the discursive creation of drugs in Colombia." Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington

#### Invited Presentations

2019. "The coloniality of capitalism, indigenous trauma, and liberating territory in southern Colombia." Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan

#### Sessions Organized

2021. "Querying nature, colonialism and decolonialism I & II." Co-organized with Penelope Anthias, Kiran Asher, and Joel Correa. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Virtual.

- 2020. "Querying nature, colonialism and decolonialism I & II." Canceled due to COVID-19. Co-organized with Kiran Asher and Mara Goldman. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Denver, Colorado
- 2017. "Producing Illicit Agricultures & Natures." Co-organized with T. Garrett Graddy-Lovelace. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, Kentucky

### Panel Participation

- 2019. Panelist in the Pedagogies of Trouble and Hope session at the annual meeting of the Royal Geographical Society & the Institute of British Geographers. London, United Kingdom
- 2019. Panelist in the Engaged Learning in Geography: Pedagogy and praxis sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Washington D.C.
- 2019. Panelist in the Critical Theory from the South: Everyday Politics & Southern Feminism IV sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Washington D.C.
- 2017. "Indigenous struggles against the slow violence of coloniality in Colombia: 'Persistence' as a Southern challenge to the concept of 'resistance'." Panelist in the Quiet Social Movements & Everyday Life in the urban Global South: Towards New Geographies of Social Change sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Boston, Massachusetts
- 2017. "Potty training in the field: Parenting in graduate school". Panelist in the Graduate Student Health and Wellbeing sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Boston, Massachusetts
- 2015. "Capitalism cannot 'do' anything: accumulation by dispossession and real people." Conference on Critical Geography. Lexington, Kentucky

### Workshop Participation

- 2019. New Faculty Orientation. Office of Faculty Development, Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 2019. Geography Faculty Development Alliance. American Association of Geographers, George Washington University, Washington D.C.

## Public Scholarship

2016. "Postponing Peace in Colombia". Interview for *International Focus*. Institute of World Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfDIZsB1pgw>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University Teaching Experience

Co-Instructor, First Year Seminar 2100 – Social Sciences, Western Michigan University, Fall 2018

- First year seminar course (20 student) to explore notions of 'home' as students transition to university life

Geography 2050 – Human Geography, Western Michigan University, Fall 2018

- Large (40 students), introductory course examines key concepts in human geography

Geography 2650 – Introduction to Geospatial Technologies, Western Michigan University, Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

- Medium (25 students) introductory course examining history of and emerging geospatial technologies
- Employed self-directed study in which students to actively engage unfamiliar technologies

Geography 3800 – United States and Canada, Western Michigan University, Spring 2018

- Small (15 students) course examined historical economic, political, and social development of U.S and Canada using a regional approach

Geography 3810 – South America, Western Michigan University, Fall 2017 – present

- Large (55 students) general education course surveying historical formation of South America, uneven development, socioenvironmental conflicts, and modern social and political movements

- Discussion-oriented course that utilized guided small group conversations to analyze assigned topics

Geography 3820 – Mexico and Caribbean, Western Michigan University, Fall 2017 – present

- Large (55 students) general education course surveying historical formation of Mexico and Caribbean, uneven development, socioenvironmental conflicts, transnational connections, and modern social and political movements
- Discussion-oriented course that utilized guided small group discussions to analyze assigned topics

Geography 6620 – History and Philosophy of Geography, Western Michigan University, Fall 2021

- Graduate seminar exploring breadth and depth of geographic philosophies and evolution of geographic thinking and analysis

Instructor, Geography 497 – ‘Ecuadorian Indigenous Geographies’, faculty-led study abroad in Tena, Ecuador (June 2016, 2017)

- Multi-methods fieldwork course in Ecuadorian Amazon
- Explored on indigenous geographies and relationships to nature

Instructor, Geography 600 – Perspectives on Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Fall 2016

- Geography capstone course examined contemporary geographic thought
- Students engaged in directed geographic research

Instructor, Geography 564 – Urban Environmental Change and Social Justice, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Spring 2016

- Medium (approximately 20 students), face-to-face course that explores the geographies of justice and environmental change in the United States
- Students led classroom discussions and completed group research projects

Instructor, Geography 464 – Environmental Problems, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Fall 2015

- Large (approximately 25 students), face-to-face course that examined contemporary perspectives on environmental governance in the U.S.



- Emphasized geographic dimensions of environmental governance: shifts in scale, changing relevance of territory and boundaries, and emergence of transboundary networks

Instructor, Geography 421 – Geography of Latin America, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Spring 2015

- Small (approximately 10 students), face-to-face upper-level seminar survey course on historical, political economic, and cultural geographies of Latin America and Latinos/Latinas in the U.S.

Instructor, Geography 110: The World – Peoples and Regions, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2013-2016

- Large (approximately 40 students) online format course that explored region formation, global interconnections, political economy, and critical geopolitics

Instructor, Geography 110: The World – Peoples and Regions, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2012-2013

- Led a face-to-face lecture format (50-200 students) explored region formation, global interconnections, political economy, and critical geopolitics
- Coordinated two teaching assistants who led discussion sections

Instructor, World Regional Geography, St. Norbert College, Fall 2011

- Led a small course hybrid (face-to-face and online) course
- Explored region formation, global interconnections, political economy, and geopolitics

Head Teaching Assistant for Geography 110: The World – Peoples and Regions, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2010-2011

- Coordinated materials sharing among the course's three teaching assistants
- Collaboratively established teaching outcomes, pedagogical strategies, and student assessment for discussion sections

Teaching Assistant for Geography 110: The World – Peoples and Regions, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2009-2011

- Instructor for six 25-student discussion sections
- Guide students' writing, class comprehension, and preparation

- Discussion sections debate contemporary issues such as globalization, land reform, neoliberalism, and development

### Other Teaching Experience

Strengthening Families instructor, Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin, Spring 2007  
 Elementary Spanish instructor, St. Norbert College, Children's Language Institute, Spring 2005

## ADVISING, DIRECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, AND MENTORING

### Graduate Committee Chairperson

#### *In Progress*

2022. Hahn, Emerald (M.S.), Creating a needle exchange program in Kalamazoo, Michigan: Stigma and drug users' experiences in the city (expected).  
 2023. Palthe, Justin (M.S.), Perceptions of megafauna in Michigan's Upper Peninsula: a case study of human-moose interactions (expected)

#### *Completed*

2020. Heusinkveld, Dana (M.A.), Building an Environmental Hazard Database: Integrating Sanborn Fire Map Data into GIS.  
 2021. Shirey, April (M.S.), Feminist farmers in Michigan: Spatial stories and changing landscapes of agriculture.  
 2021. Timmeney, Graeme (M.S.), Spatiotemporal Distributions of Sargassum on Grand Cayman.

### Graduate Committee Member

#### *In Progress*

2022. Petersen, Dylan (M.S.), Non-profits in Michigan (expected).  
 2022. Reed, Zach (M.S.), Tribal Environmental Protection in Michigan (expected).  
 2022. Tennant, Daniel (M.S.), Cultural Tourism: Give the people what they want (expected).

### *Completed*

2020. Amoako, Esther (M.S.), Agritourism in Southwest Michigan: Analyzing operator and consumer motivations.
2020. Bergstrom, Nolan (M.S.), Testing a New Photovoice Model and Discussion on Critical Landscape: K.I. Sawyer case study.
2019. Aldakel, Amer (M.A.), Spatial Analysis of Residential Geographies Patterns of Foreign Workers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
2019. Morrissey, Matthew (M.S.), Perceptions of Oak Wilt in Traverse County, Michigan.

### *Withdrawn*

Romero-Sagustume, Diana (M.S.), Sustainable Heritage Tourism: A Case Study from Copán Ruins, Honduras.

### *Honors Thesis Committee Member*

2020. Marshall Kim (BS), "Disaster preparation in the Kalamazoo River watershed."
2018. Daniel Tenant (BS), "Education and poverty in Dakar, Senegal."

### *Mentoring*

Marshall Kim (BS), Doris Duke Conservation Scholar

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Research Assistant, Center for Institutional and Professional Development

Expected Learning Outcomes Grant for Geography 110: The World – Peoples and Regions, 2010

- Researched stakeholder positions related to Turkey joining the European Union to create a large lecture stakeholder debate
- Identified and reviewed literature related to pedagogical approaches to teaching world regional geography courses and active learning strategies

Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, Texas

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management, 2007-2009

- Reviewed and implemented university employee occupational protection programs, such as hearing protection and laboratory safety protocol
- Inventoried University's extremely hazardous materials and reported the findings to the Texas Commission on Environment Quality and the EPA

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

### Departmental Service

Colloquium Series Organizer, Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism, Western Michigan University, 2021-2022

Harrison Committee, Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism, Western Michigan University, 2021-present

Ad hoc Vision Committee, Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism, Western Michigan University, 2019-2020

Milton & Ruth Scherer Committee, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, 2019-2020

Digital Media & Promotion Committee, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, 2019-present

### University Service

Global and International Studies Advisory Board, Western Michigan University, 2020-present

College of Arts and Sciences International Committee, Western Michigan University, 2019-2020

Board Member, Institute of Intercultural and Anthropological Studies, Western Michigan University, 2018-2020

Environmental Collaborative Working Group, Western Michigan University, 2017-2018

Undergraduate Project Assistant, Geography Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2011-2013

Critical Geography Mini-Conference Planning Committee, Geography Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2010

Lectures Committee Member, Geography Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2010-2014  
Graduate Student Representative, Geography Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2010  
Student Representative to the Board of Trustees, St. Norbert College, 2005-2006  
Student Representative to the Executive Committee on External Relations, St. Norbert College, 2005-2006  
Treasurer, Student Government Association, St. Norbert College, 2005-2006  
Student Representative, Committee on Undergraduate International Education, St. Norbert College, 2005-2006

### Professional Service

2021. Article reviewer: ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies, Transactions of the British Institute of Geographers  
2021. Reader for AP Human Geography exam. Virtual  
2020. Article reviewer: Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography, ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies  
2020. Reader for AP Human Geography exam. Virtual  
2020. Latin America Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers Field Awards Reviewer  
2019. Article reviewer: Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography  
2019. East Lakes Division of the American Association of Geographers poster competition judge  
2019. Reader for AP Human Geography exam. Cincinnati, Ohio  
2019. Judge and moderator for the Michigan State Geography Bee. Kalamazoo, Michigan  
2018. Reader for AP Human Geography exam. Cincinnati, Ohio  
2018. Judge and moderator for the Michigan State Geography Bee. Kalamazoo, Michigan  
2018. Latin America Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers Field Awards Reviewer

### Community Service

AmeriCorps VISTA, Howe Neighborhood Family Resource Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin 2006-2007

Volunteer After-School Tutor, De Pere Middle School, De Pere, Wisconsin, 2003-2005

Volunteer Teaching Assistant, English Opens Doors (*Inglés abre puertas*), Ministry of Education of Chile, Santiago, Chile, 2004

### Affiliations

American Association of Geographers

Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers

Latin American Studies Association

Gamma Theta Upsilon, International Geographical Honor Society

Pi Gamma Mu, International Honor Society in Social Sciences

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Bilingual public speaking (English and Spanish);

Planning and organizing programming, research conferences and workshops, seminars, and cultural events;

Softwares: Esri's Arc suite (ArcCollector, ArcGIS, ArcGIS Online, Story Maps, Survey123), Microsoft Office (Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word),

SPSS; Student recruitment, advising, and engagement;

Title VI grant reporting and administration experience;

Travel planning and organization.

## LANGUAGES

Spanish (advanced speaking, reading, writing)

Quichua – Napo, Ecuador dialect (basic speaking, reading, writing)

Study Abroad experience: Santiago, Chile 2004; Tena, Ecuador 2010, 2016, and 2017.