

EDUCATION

- Aug. 2022 - May. 2026 Ph.D. in Transition Design, Carnegie Mellon University, United States.
Dissertation: "[Designing Between Worlds: A Reckoning with the Unfinished Condition of Public Design Transitions](#)"
- Aug. 2019 – May. 2021 MFA Design Research and Strategy, Indiana University, Indianapolis, United States.
MFA Thesis: "[Understanding the designer's role in Latin American Public Sector Innovation Labs](#)." Fulbright Foreign Student Program Scholar.
- Feb. 2013 – Oct. 2017 Graphic Designer, University of Cuenca, Ecuador. Thesis: Graphic User Interface and User Experience Design for "Efectivo desde mi celular," e-money service.
- Sep. 2015 – Aug. 2017 Honors Program, University of Cuenca & Inter-university Council of Flemish Universities VLIR. Final paper: "Designing for e-money in Ecuador, a user-centered approach"

PUBLICATIONS

- Under review* Working Title: "Individual, Organizational, and Pluriversal Handiness: A Framework for Public Design" [Mobilizing Design for Governance](#). Journal: Frontiers in Political Science.
- Sep. 2026 "Emerging Roles Between Worlds: Dialogues with Public Designers in Latin America and the Caribbean" [2026 Special Issue: Design Practices Transitioning Towards Embracing Systemic Worldviews](#). Journal: Temes de Disseny. <https://doi.org/10.46467/TdD.2026.433311>
- Jun. 2026 The Unfinished Designer: Toward a Dynamic Understanding of Positionality in Transition Design. Transition Design Conference 2026. México City. México. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20966947>
- Jun. 2026 Holding Paradoxes Together: Navigating Institutional Complexity in Public Design. Design Research Society Digital Library. DRS2026 Conference. Edinburgh, United Kingdom. <https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2026.1405>
- Apr. 2026 Diseñando en América Latina y el Caribe: Fricciones Sistémicas y Respuestas Situadas en el Diseño Público para Transiciones. Visiones del Diseño IX. Transiciones históricas y contemporáneas. [Journal: Cuadernos del Centro de Estudios en Diseño y Comunicación](#). Universidad de Palermo. Argentina. <https://doi.org/10.18682/cdc.vi315>

Sep. 2025	Examining the Impact of Design Studies: Systems and Persuasion Courses on Undergraduate Students at Carnegie Mellon University. Design Research Society (DRS) Special Interest Group (EdSIG) LearnXDesign 2025 Conference. Aveiro, Portugal. DOI: https://doi.org/10.21606/drsld.2025.059
Jun. 2025	Designing from Handiness: Cultivating Collective Design Capabilities in Quito, Ecuador. Visiones del Diseño VIII: El diseño como mediador cultural del cambio sistémico. Journal: Cuadernos del Centro de Estudios en Diseño y Comunicación. Universidad de Palermo. Argentina. DOI: https://doi.org/10.18682/cdc.vi264.12326
Apr. 2025	Co-Design of a Program for Medical Students' Experiential Learning in Community-Engaged Research. The Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education. ERIC Number: EJ1470318
Oct. 2024	DRS2024: PhD Consortium. Design Research Society Digital Library. DRS2024 Conference. Boston, United States. https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2024.170
Jun. 2024	Designing for Just and Sustainable Policies in the Space between Institutions and Experimental Government Practices. DRS 2024 Conference. Boston, United States. https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2024.156
Jun. 2023	Understanding the designer's role in Public Sector Innovation Labs. In The 6th International Conference on Public Policy, Toronto, Canada. ResearchGate Link.
June 2023	The Designer's Role in Enabling Transdisciplinary Social Transformations in Latin America. The 10th Nordic Design Research Society (Nordes) Conference, Linköping, Sweden.
Apr. 2021	A New HIP Public: A Community-Engaged Project to Invest in Low-Income Hoosiers' Health & Wellness. The Bringle and Hatcher Civic Engagement Showcase. Center for Service Learning and the Institute for Engaged Learning at IUPUI. Indianapolis, USA.
August 2020	Design as a Catalyst for Change in the Public Sector. Design Research Society Conference 2020, Conversations Track. Brisbane, Australia.
Aug. 2020	How might we re-imagine public spaces using a people-centered design approach?. A case study in The Canal Walk of Indianapolis. Walk Bike Places 2020 Conference. Indianapolis, United States.
Jun. 2020	How might we inform design research through participatory design approaches? Participatory Design Conference 2020. Manizales, Colombia.
Nov. 2018	Academic Poster: "Knowledge and practices of Sustainable Feeding in children of the Andes and Amazon of Ecuador". XVIII Latin American Nutrition Congress. Guadalajara, Jalisco, México.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Nov. 2022 – Sep. 2026 **Senior Teaching Consultant Fellow.** Eberly Center at Carnegie Mellon University. Teaching Consultant Fellows (TCFs) are a group of experienced instructors who work with the Eberly Center to support the professional development of CMU graduate students who teach. In my role, I have offered consultations on classroom observations, course and syllabus design, lesson plan reviews, and statements of teaching philosophy to over 85 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. As a Senior TCF, I support the recruitment and training of TCFs in all services we provide.
- Aug. 2022 – May. 2026 **Ph.D. Teaching Fellow (Instructor of Record).**
School of Design. Carnegie Mellon University.
Spring 2025: Design for Social Innovation Graduate-Level
Fall 2024, 2025: Design Studies: Systems.
Spring 2023, 2024, 2025: Design Studies: Persuasion.
Fall 2023: Design Studies: Cultures.
- Aug. 2022 - Sep. 2025 **Future Faculty Program.** Eberly Center at Carnegie Mellon University. The Future Faculty Program helps graduate students develop and document their teaching skills in preparation for a faculty career. Participants in this program learn the principles of effective course design and pedagogy through our seminars, receive feedback on their teaching through teaching feedback consultations, and apply what they have learned in completing a course & syllabus design project and a statement of teaching philosophy project.
- Aug. 2021 - Dec. 2021 **Adjunct Faculty.** Herron School of Art and Design. Indiana University, Indianapolis, United States.
Course: Print and Digital Design Production. Junior class, Fall 2021.
- Aug. 2019 - May. 2021 **Herron Graduate Fellowship.** Indiana University, Indianapolis, United States. **Teaching Assistant** for the 'Design and Context' (Spring 2020 & Fall 2020) and 'Intro to Design Research' (Spring 2021).
- Jan. 2020 - May. 2021 **Emerging Scholars of College Instruction Program (ESCIP).** This program offers IU graduate students the opportunity to develop and document their college teaching skills over a three-semester period.
- Sep. 2020 - Feb. 2021 **IU Indianapolis: Preparing Future Faculty and Professionals (PFFP).** The program engages IU graduate students in a full range of career options, responsibilities, and mentoring opportunities in both academic and non-academic settings through year-round programming.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Sep. 2026 – to date **Postdoctoral Researcher in Systemic Design for Complex Collective Planning.**
Tecnológico de Monterrey.
I contribute to several research initiatives applying systemic design to complex societal

challenges. My work includes collaborating with a network of Regenerative Living Labs, with a particular focus on the emerging Xochimilco Regenerative Lab and its connections to a broader Canada–Mexico collaboration on bioregional development. I also contribute to the continued development of the Mexican World Model for the 21st Century, exploring how systemic mapping can make complex societal challenges more accessible for collective learning and engagement.

2022 – 2026

Doctoral Researcher in Transition Design. School of Design. Carnegie Mellon University. <https://transitiondesigninstitute.net/research/t-di-researchers/>

My research examines how design capabilities emerge within public institutions and how public designers contribute to long-term societal change. Through qualitative and participatory research, I explore how learning, collaboration, and institutional contexts shape public innovation.

Jun. 2026

Track Chair. Design Research Society 2026 Conference

8.1 Public Design Education: Plural Practices and Situated Teaching and Learning

Editorial: <https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2026.147>

Summary: This track explored how designers learn to work in and with government, emphasizing the knowledge, relationships, and systemic awareness needed to address complex public challenges.

Jun. 2026

Track Chair. Design Research Society 2026 Conference

11.2 Relationality as Reconciliation – Designing for Equiponderance

Editorial: <https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2026.216>

This track explored how design can foster more equitable futures by bringing together diverse ways of knowing and supporting collaboration across communities, institutions, and cultures.

Jun. 2024

DRS 2024 Conference: Designing for Just and Sustainable Policies

Editorial: doi.org/10.21606/drs.2024.156

This track explored how design can strengthen public policymaking by fostering collaboration, experimentation, and innovation within and beyond government institutions.

Aug. 2020 to May. 2021

Community Engagement Associate Scholar Program: During Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, as a graduate student, I collaborated with Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) insurers and diverse congregational partners to increase public awareness of the health needs of low-income Hoosiers and promote the shared responsibility of supporting continuous health coverage for improved wellness and care. The Bantz Community Fellowship and Bantz Community Scholar Awards supported the project.

Aug. 2019 to May. 2020

Re-Imagining the Canal Walk Experience: A Human-Centered Design Approach.

During Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, I worked as part of a research team to investigate people's experiences in the Downtown Canal Walk in Indianapolis, in coordination with the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development.

Mar. 2017 to Aug. 2019	<p>Qualitative Researcher Biosciences Department, University of Cuenca, Ecuador.</p> <p>My primary role was to conduct qualitative analysis based on 32 focus groups involving children, parents, and teachers from schools across the Andean and Amazonian regions of Ecuador. The analysis aimed to identify patterns in food consumption, physical activity, and sustainable practices within these educational settings.</p>
2016 to 2018	<p>Assistant researcher: "Design of the Flipped Learning Model in three subjects of the University of Cuenca". MediaLab, University of Cuenca.</p> <p>The project investigated how the Flipped Learning model could enhance students' academic performance, motivation, interest, and autonomy, while facilitating individualized learning paces in three areas of knowledge. Moreover, it sought to compare the effects on students and teachers to analyze the possible application of this model in other areas.</p>
2015 to 2016	<p>Assistant Researcher: "Box of Light". University of Cuenca.</p> <p>The project investigated the effectiveness of pinhole analog DIY projects as a didactic resource for photography classes. Moreover, it explored the importance of analog photography as an entry point to photography techniques and the visual language.</p>

WORK EXPERIENCE

Dec. 2021 - Jul. 2022	<p>Design Research Assistant. Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. Indianapolis, United States. As part of the Research Jam team, I am developing patient-informed recommendations for scientific studies at Indiana University through a human-centered design process.</p>
Jul. 2021 - Jul. 2022	<p>Public Space Fellow. Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Indianapolis, United States.</p> <p>Through a strategic design approach, my activities focus on understanding people's perceptions and desires in a public space system in downtown Indianapolis. The results will include user profiles and experience maps to support the organization's mission of creating an enjoyable and equitable city.</p>
Apr. 2019 - Aug. 2019	<p>Sub coordinator - Citizen Monitoring Oversight for Public Bike-sharing System, Cuenca, Ecuador. Thanks to the fifth power that citizens can exercise voluntarily in Ecuador, our group accompanied the implementation process of a bike-sharing system. The objective was to analyze the project's implementation to anticipate possible shortcomings in its contractual, financial, technical, and citizen perception components. Project report: https://bit.ly/33evwV7</p>
Sep. 2018 – Jun. 2019	<p>Innovation Specialist. RED CEDIA. Cuenca, Ecuador. cedia.edu.ec</p> <p>My activities focused on supporting the Innovation unit's mission of achieving synergy among the key stakeholders (academia, public, and private sectors) of Ecuador's innovation ecosystem. Additionally, I coordinated the implementation of two open innovation programs to identify initiatives that positively contribute to public transportation problems. The program was funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für</p>

Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Ecuadorian Corporation for the Development of Research and Academia.

Oct. 2017 – Aug. 2019

Designer. El Studio. Cuenca, Ecuador. I hosted a podcast (in Spanish) to reflect on design and how it is connected to our complex world: <https://bit.ly/305WU6l>

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Sep. 2026

Keynote Speaker: “Prototyping for Interdisciplinary Experimentation.” Interdisciplinary Department of Space and Population (DIEP) [Fifth Symposium](#). University of Cuenca. Cuenca, Ecuador.

Jan. 2026

Guest Lecture for “Digital Society, Multimedia Management and Creativity.” Master's Degree in Digital Art and New Media. Tecnológico de Monterrey. Mexico.

Nov. 2025

Guest Lecture for “Research Methods in Design.” Northeastern University. United States.

Oct. 2025

Diseño para las transiciones en el sector público (Ecuador/EEUU). [Diseño y Diáspora Podcast](#).

Oct. 2025

Talk and Exhibition of Students' Work. Design Studies: Systems at Carnegie Mellon University. RSD14. OCAD University. Toronto, Canada.

Spring 2025

Guest Lecture for “Human Centered Design and Business.” UW-Madison. United States.

Fall 2024

Guest Lecture for “First Year PhD Seminar.” Northeastern University. United States.

Fall 2024

Guest Lecture for “Research Methods in Design.” Northeastern University. United States.

Fall 2024

Guest Lecture for Graduate Students in the Master of Science in Management Engineering. Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

Fall 2023

Guest Lecture for Graduate Students in the Master of Science in Management Engineering. Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

Fall 2023

RSD12-Pittsburgh: Colloquies for Transgenerational Collaboration. **Conversation with Robert Knisely.** “Challenges and Opportunities around Design and Government”

Spring 2023

[Design in Transition/Diseño en Transición Podcast](#)

“Las características creativas y facilitadoras del diseño en el contexto público”

Spring 2020

Speaker at Indy Design Week. <https://www.indydesignweek.com/>

LEADERSHIP

May. 2024 - May. 2026

Vice President of Academic Affairs. Carnegie Mellon University.

Responsibilities, committees, and initiatives include:

- **Chairing the Academic Affairs Committee**, where I led initiatives to advance equitable academic experiences across disciplines and organized a university-wide, multidisciplinary showcase highlighting graduate student research from all seven colleges at CMU.
- **The Doctoral Student Minimum Stipend Committee**, which established the first regular review process for doctoral stipends and led to a major policy revision that closed loopholes previously excluding some students from receiving the minimum 12-month stipend. Our efforts contributed to securing a baseline of \$30,300 per year for qualifying students.
- **Scholar to Scholar Graduate Project Showcase**: I organized an inaugural university-wide, multidisciplinary showcase highlighting graduate student research from all seven colleges at CMU in partnership with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs.
- Several faculty and administrative hiring committees, where I provide graduate student perspectives on institutional leadership and academic appointments.
- I am a member of the **University Leadership Student Advisory Council (ULSAC)** and the **Student Government Executive Council**, where I contribute to the university's broader strategic planning and student advocacy efforts.

Aug. 2023 - May. 2024

Graduate Student Assembly Representative for the School of Design.

Carnegie Mellon University.

Fall 2019

Graduate Student Representative for Herron School of Art & Design.

Indiana University, Indianapolis

2015-2017

Vice President of the School of Design Student Association & Student Representative to the Directors' Board in the Arts & Design School. University of Cuenca, Ecuador.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Spring 2026

Graduate Student Teaching Award, Carnegie Mellon University (2026). University-wide award presented annually by the Provost to one graduate student in recognition of outstanding teaching effectiveness, inclusive teaching practices, and a strong commitment to student learning.

www.cmu.edu/news/stories/archives/2026/april/cmu-recognizes-educational-leaders-a-cross-campus#garcia

Spring 2024 & 2025

Design Service Award. School of Design. Carnegie Mellon University.

The Design Service Award is open to an Undergraduate senior, a Master's student, and a PhD who has shown outstanding leadership and service to the School of Design. Students nominated for this award will have consistently demonstrated qualities of

compassion and service through one or more volunteer activities during their time at the School of Design.

Mar. 2021
Graduate

IUPUI Elite 50. Division of Student Affairs, the IUPUI Graduate Office, and the and Professional Student Government. <https://bit.ly/31VyeyE> / [School's Article](#)
Each year, IUPUI honors 50 graduate and professional students who demonstrate excellence beyond the classroom in areas such as campus leadership, scholarly work, and community engagement.

Sep. 2019 - May. 2021

Herron Graduate Fellowship and Full Graduate Studies Scholarship. Herron School of Art and Design. Indiana University, Indianapolis.

Jun. 2018

Fulbright Foreign Student Program Scholar.

Feb. 2017

Matilde Hidalgo Award. Best Innovation of the Year.
The Matilde Hidalgo award is presented to individuals or institutions that contribute to the advancement of higher education, science, technology, and innovation in the country.
Project: *Kullk Posters, a system of financial inclusion in rural areas.* Ecuadorian Government through Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación

2017. – Jul. 2018

Bank of Ideas funding for \$30.000. goo.gl/jGFaKv
Project: *Kullk Posters, sistema de inclusión financiera en la ruralidad (Kullk Posters, system of financial inclusion in rurality).* Ecuadorian Government through Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (Senescyt).

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Pluriversal Design SIG. Design Research Society
<https://members.thedrs.org/spaces/21477083/page>

The DPN is an international community of researchers and practitioners working at the intersection of design, policy, and innovation. As a member, I contribute to a collective effort to integrate academic research with applied practice in areas such as public sector innovation, human-centered policy design, and social impact. The network advances systemic, cross-disciplinary approaches to societal challenges, supports peer feedback and knowledge exchange, and fosters critical engagement with institutional structures shaping design and policy work.

Designing Policy Network (DPN)
www.designingpolicynetwork.com

The DPN is an international community of researchers and practitioners working at the intersection of design, policy, and innovation. As a member, I contribute to a collective effort to integrate academic research with applied practice in areas such as public

sector innovation, human-centered policy design, and social impact. The network advances systemic, cross-disciplinary approaches to societal challenges, supports peer feedback and knowledge exchange, and fosters critical engagement with institutional structures shaping design and policy work.

Learning x Public Design International Network

publicdesign.network

The network is a multidisciplinary global network of scholars, practitioners, and educators dedicated to advancing inclusive and situated approaches to Public Design. The network focuses on how teaching and learning occur in public design practice, exploring how individuals become public designers, how institutions build design capabilities, and how knowledge is shared across sectors. As a member, I engage in cross-sectoral exchange, contribute to building the field of Public Design, and participate in reflective conversations on aligning education, practice, and community engagement.

Design for Policy and Governance Special Interest Group (PoGoSIG)

designresearchsociety.org/cpages/pogosig

Reading Group Co-Organizer (2024–present): I co-organize and host the international PoGoSIG Reading Group, a monthly discussion forum that brings together scholars and practitioners to critically engage with emerging literature and themes in the field. The reading group fosters cross-disciplinary exchange and supports early-career researchers in building community and advancing their work.