

# ANTHONY DEST

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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SPELMAN COLLEGE, August 2019-Present  
Instructor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology

## EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY of TEXAS at AUSTIN, Austin, TX, 9/2013-5/2019

MA/PhD: Latin American Studies

Dissertation: *After the War: Violence and Resistance in Colombia*

Committee: Charles Hale (chair), Christen Smith, Juliet Hooker, Edmund Gordon,  
Tianna Paschel, Lina del Castillo

Secondary Fields: Anthropology, African & African Diaspora Studies, Peace & Conflict Studies

UNIVERSIDAD de los ANDES, Bogotá, Colombia, 1/2009 – 12/2009

Graduate Certificate: Armed Conflict & Peace

Department: Political Science

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA, Chapel Hill, NC, 9/2004 – 5/2008

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science, Latin American Studies

Honors Thesis: *The ELN: Between Politics and Profit*

Committee: Jonathan Hartlyn (chair), Lars Schoultz, Evelyn Huber

Semester Abroad: Universidad de la Habana, Cuba, Spring 2006

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Spring 2019

National Science Foundation (NSF), Graduate Research Fellowship, 2013-14; 2015-16; 2017-18

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), International Dissertation Research Fellow, 2016-17

Inter-American Foundation (IAF), Grassroots Development Dissertation Fellow, 2016-17

University of Texas at Austin, Social Justice Institute, Activist Research Grant, Summer 2016

NSF/USAID, Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) Fellow, Summer 2014

University of Texas at Austin, LLILAS, Lozano Long Summer Research Grant, 2014, 2015

University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School Recruitment Fellowship (Declined), 2013

Fulbright Scholar, U.S. Student Grant, 2009

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Institute for the Study of the Americas, Julia Crane  
Award for Summer Research, 2007

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## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION

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- 2016 “Recuerden que ustedes son minoría?: Multiculturalismo y exclusion” in *Des/DIBUJANDO EL PAIS/aje. Aportes para la paz con los pueblos afrodescendientes e indígenas: Territorio, Autonomía y Buen Vivir* by Sheila Gruner et. al.

## INVITED TALKS

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- Feb. 2019 Emory University, South Asia Research Group, “The Emergence of Campesinx Identity Politics”
- Oct. 2018 Emory University, South Asia Research Group, “Alfonso Cano’s Grave: The FARC in Northern Cauca”
- July 2018 Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), “Analyzing what the 2018 Elections Mean for Colombia’s Pacific Coast”
- May 2018 Harvard University, ALARI Mamolen Dissertation Fellow Workshop, “The Revenge of the System?: Coca, Colonization, and the Colombian Racial Formation”
- March 2018 University of Chicago, Harris Public Policy, “Will Peace Accords Bring Peace to the Pacific? Human Rights in Afro-Colombian Communities”
- Feb. 2017 Inter-American Foundation (IAF), Mid-Year Conference, “Without Consent: The Politics and Conditions of Interethnic Solidarity in Colombia”
- Oct. 2016 WOLA, “White Flags and Green Leaves: Territory, Coca, and Conflict in Post-Plebiscite Cauca”

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

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### Discussant

- May 2019 LASA, “Beyond Security: Discursive Formations and Embodied Violence in the Americas”

### Panels Organized

- Sept. 2019 Black Communities Conference: A Conference for Collaboration, UNC Chapel Hill, “Building Diasporic Solidarity in Colombia, Brazil, and Beyond”
- May 2019 Latin American Studies Association (LASA), “The Role of Illicit Economies in Transforming Latin America’s Rural Spaces,” Chairs: Dr. Kendra McSweeney, Dr. Charles Hale
- Nov. 2018 American Anthropology Association (AAA), “Towards a Radical Peace: The Failures of Liberal Peacemaking,” Chair: Dr. Kimberly Theidon

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## Papers Presented

- Nov. 2019 AAA, “The Stakes of Liberating Mother Earth: State Violence and the Dialectics of Resistance”
- May 2019 LASA, “‘The Revenge of the System’: Coca and Colonization in Colombia”
- Nov. 2018 AAA, “Alfonso Cano’s Grave: Struggling for Peace in Post-Peace Accord Colombia”
- Nov. 2015 AAA, Executive Status Panel, “Don’t Forget that You are a Minority’: Late Multiculturalism and Violent Exclusion in Colombia”
- Nov. 2015 University of Texas at Austin, LLILAS-Benson Library Symposium on Post-Custodial Archival Development and Digital Fellowship, “Archiving Violence during Wartime with the Black Communities Process of Colombia”
- Feb. 2015 University of Texas at Austin, Department of African & African Diaspora Studies, “Disappearances, Death Threats, and Development: Anti-Black State Formation in Colombia”
- Feb. 2015 Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association (ILASSA) Conference, “Buried Alive: Racial Capitalism and Necropolitics in Buenaventura”

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Spelman College:

*Course:* Race and Identity in Latin America  
*Role:* Instructor  
*Semester:* Fall 2019

*Course:* Introduction to Anthropology  
*Role:* Instructor  
*Semester:* Fall 2019

### University of Texas at Austin:

*Course:* Activist Research Methods, Dr. Charles Hale  
*Role:* Teaching Assistant  
*Semester:* Spring 2015

*Course:* Graduate Level Pro-Seminar for Latin American Studies, Dr. Daniel Fridman  
*Role:* Writing Tutor  
*Semester:* Fall 2014

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## HONORS & AWARDS

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SSRC IDRF, Best Photographic Essay, 2017

University of Texas at Austin, LLILAS, Community Engagement Award, 2015

University of Texas at Austin, Office of Graduate Studies, Professional Development Award, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Institute for the Study of the Americas, Federico G. Gil Award, Best Thesis on a Latin American Topic, 2008

## RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**89.3 WRFG “Beyond Borders: Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean”, 2017-present –**  
Co-Host: “Beyond Borders” is a weekly two-hour radio program based in Atlanta, Georgia that covers current events in Latin America and the Caribbean. We invite experts, activists, and community members to provide testimony and analysis.

**Colombia Land Rights Monitor, 2012-present – Founder and Lead Researcher:** Hosted a September 2017 delegation that included U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern, Legislative Director Cindy Buhl, and staff from the Washington Office on Latin America to monitor the implementation of the Peace Accords between the Colombian government and the FARC. Published “Elusive Justice: The Struggle for Land and Life in Curvaradó and Jiguamiandó,” whose conclusions were included in a 2013 letter from twelve U.S. Congressional Representatives to President Santos demanding that the government take concrete steps to return the land to displaced Afro-Colombians.

**Afro-Colombian Solidarity Network (ACSN), 2010-present – Coordinating Committee Member:** co-developed an international solidarity campaign for the Black Women’s Movement for the Care of Life and the Ancestral Territories in 2014, and frequent author and contributor to policy briefs and statements.

**Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), 2010-2012 – Program Assistant for Colombia, Andean Region, and Drug Policy:** Advocated in defense of human rights and social justice in collaboration with social movements in Latin America before the U.S. Congress, Department of State, USAID, and other governments. Wrote policy briefs, coalition letters, and analyses on human rights issues in Colombia, including “Workers without Rights: Labor Activists in Valle del Cauca’s Sugar Sector under Fire.” “Workers without Rights” was distributed in a “Dear Colleague Letter” in the U.S. House of Representatives and helped lead to the creation of the Labor Action Committee in the U.S. Congress.

## LANGUAGES

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English (native)

Spanish (native)

Portuguese (intermediate reading/listening comprehension)