

# Sebastian Cobarrubias

Assistant Professor  
Department of Global, International and Area Studies  
*University of North Carolina at Charlotte*  
[scobarru@uncc.edu](mailto:scobarru@uncc.edu)

## EDUCATION

- PhD *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Geography, 2003-2009*  
Dissertation "Mapping Machines: Activist Cartographies of the Border and Labor Lands of Europe"
- MA *McGill University, Political Science, 1998-2000*  
Thesis "On Sub-State Nationalisms: The Basque Nationalist Movement in France"
- BA *Seton Hall University, Political Science Major, Spanish Minor, 1994-1998*  
Magna Cum Laude and Best Senior Thesis Award "Vatican Diplomacy in the Israel-Palestinian Conflict"

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor **Department of Global, International and Area Studies**  
Fall 2013: *Introduction to Development Studies; Europe in the World*  
Spring 2014: *Introduction to Development Studies; Migration and Borders in a Global World*
- Post-Doctoral Fellow **National Science Foundation Project, Department of Geography, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
2010-2013 Research project: "EU Borderlands: Changing Jurisdictions and Sovereignties in the Euro-Med region"
- Lecturer **Department of Geography, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
Spring 2010: *Europe Today: Transnationalism, Globalisms and the Geographies of Pan-Europe*
- International Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
Fall 2006, Spring 2006, Fall 2005: *Social Theory and Cultural Diversity*
- Teaching Assistant **International Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
Fall 2009. *Global Issues: Geopolitics, Political Economy and Development*  
Fall 2004. *Global Issues: Geopolitics, Political Economy and Development*
- Department of Geography, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
Spring 2005. *World Regional Geography*  
Spring 2005 & Fall 2003. *People and Places: Geographies of Globalization*  
Spring 2004. *Geography of the Developing World*
- Research Assistant **Program in Cultural Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill**  
Summers 2006, 2005. Archive of alternative cartographies  
**Project on Multi-Track Diplomacy at McGill University**  
Fall 1998 Compiling Annotated Bibliography  
**School of International Relations at Seton Hall University**  
Fall 1997 Office and event administration

Professional Social Organizer	<b>Mexico Solidarity Network, National NGO (Chicago, USA)</b> 2001-2003 Public workshop design and presentation; conference organization; meeting coordination; office management; funding solicitation; mass mailings; preparation of public outreach material; press work; organizing tours, rallies and demonstrations; website management; and corporate-responsibility campaign design.
Encyclopedia editor	<b>Third World Institute, International NGO (Montevideo, Uruguay)</b> Spring 2001 Co-editor. Work included editing coordination, background research, file and archive management for the 2004-2005 version of "The World Guide" Encyclopedia.
Translator	<b>Transform</b> , regular Spanish to English translation for a critical theory journal of the <i>European Institute of Progressive Cultural Politics</i> . 2007-2008 Other translations have been published in <i>Brumaria</i> and <i>Fadaiat</i> . <b>International Wine Contest</b> (Valladolid, Spain). Spring 2003
ESL Instructor	<b>English as Second Language program</b> Seton Hall University, Fall 1995, Spring 1996, Fall 1997, Spring 1998

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Refereed Journal Articles

In preparation. "Border Dialogues between Geography and Law: An Interdisciplinary Conversation on Sovereignty, Border Policy and Immigration Law," (co-authored with Chueca, Casas and Pickles). For *Crossings: Journal of Migration and Culture*.

In preparation. "Cartographic Reconfigurations of Border Management: I-map and the ICMPD," (co-authored with Casas and Pickles). For *Revista de Derecho Migratorio y Extranjeria*.

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. (under revision) "'Border Externalization, the Mapping of Migratory Routes, and New Geographies of Mobility Management". For *Annals of the American Association of Geography*.

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. (accepted) "Autonomy of Migration and EU Externalization Policies," in *Antipode*

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. (forthcoming) "'Good Neighbors make Good Fences': Operation Seahorse and the Implementations of the EU Strategy of Migration Routes Management in North and West Africa,". In *European Urban and Regional Studies*

Collective authorship. (forthcoming). "New Keywords: Migration and Borders" entries on "Border Externalization" and "Counter-mapping". For *Cultural Studies*

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. 2013. "Re-bordering the Neighbourhood: Europe's Emerging Geographies of Non-Accession Integration," In *European Urban and Regional Studies* Vol. 20, Issue 1: 37-58

(NOTE: Awarded the Jim Lewis prize for most innovative paper published in the journal that year)

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. 2011. "Stretching Borders Beyond Sovereign Territories? Mapping EU and Spain's Border Externalization Policies," in *Geopolitica(s)* Vol. 2, N.1: 71-90

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. 2011. "An interview with Sando Mezzadra," in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* Vol. 29, Issue 4: 584-598

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2009. "Activist Cartography: Enabling Alternative Political Spaces," in *Political Geography* Vol. 28, Issue 6: 332-342

### Book Chapters

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S., Heller, C., and Pezzani, L. (forthcoming). "Clashing Cartographies, Migrating Maps" in Lisa-Marie Heimeshoff, Sabine Hess, Stefanie Kron, Helen Schwenken, Miriam Trzeciak (eds) *Grenzregime II. Globale Politiken der Kontrolle – transnationale Kämpfe der Migration*

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. 2014. "Urban Commons," in Nonini, D. (ed.) *A Handbook of Urban Anthropology*. Routledge: New York.

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. 2014. "The Commons," in Nonini, D. (ed.) *A Handbook of Urban Anthropology*. Routledge: New York.

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. 2013. "The cartographic gaze, new cartographies of the border, and the responsibility of mapping". In *Géoesthétique* Imhoff, A. and K. Quiros (eds). Co-produced by the Parc Saint Leger (art center), High School of Fine Arts of Clermont-Ferrand, the CNL (National Center of Books), and the CNAP (National Center of Contemporary Art). Paris: B42 Publishers.

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2012. "Introducción. Community Organizing: el Legado de Alinsky en la Cultura Política Estadounidense," in *Tratado para Radicales*. Pp.13-21. Traficantes de Sueños: Madrid.

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2010. "Transatlantic Translations: Categories in Struggle," in Kevin Van Meter et al (eds.) *Uses of a Whirlwind: Movement, Movements and Contemporary Radical Currents in the United States*. Pp. 227-245. AK Press: Oakland.

Cobarrubias, S. and Pickles, J. 2009. "Spacing Movements: Mapping Practices, Global Justice and Social Activism," in Barney Warf and Santa Arias (eds.) *The Spatial Turn: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Pp. 46-58. Routledge: New York.

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S., Dalton, C., Mason-Deese, L., Pickles, J., and Stallman, T. 2009. "Practices of Radical Cartography," in Edu-Factory Collective (ed.) *Towards a Global Autonomous University: Cognitive Labor, The Production of Knowledge and Exodus from the Education Factory*. Pp. 110-. Autonomedia: New York City. [Translated into Italian as: *L'Università Globale* (2009). Manifesti Libri: Milano.]

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2007a. "Drawing Escape Tunnels through Borders: Cartographic Research Experiments by European Social Movements," in Lize Mogel and Alexis Bhagat (eds.) *An Atlas of Radical Cartography*. Pp.51-66. Journal of Aesthetics and Protest Press: Los Angeles.

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2007b. "Drifting through the Knowledge Machine," in Stephen Shukhaitis, Erika Biddle and David Graeber (eds.) *Constituent Imagination: Militant Investigations, Collective Theorization*. Pp. 108-122. AK Press: Oakland. [Translated into Spanish as "A la Deriva por los Circuitos de la Máquina Cognitiva. Circuitos Feministas, Mapas en Red e Insurrecciones en la Universidad" In *Brumaria #7: Arte, Maquinas, Trabajo Inmaterial*. 2006. No. 7]

### Non-Refereed Publications

Casas, M., Cobarrubias, S., Fernandez, M., Ottavy, E., and Arnoult, L. (2013) "Introduction to FRONTEX and Joint Operation INDALO for mission by members of the European Parliament to the INDALO Operational Area" June 2013.

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2012. "The Seahorse operations: Implementing the EU strategy of Migration Routes Management in North and West Africa," in Proceedings of the *Association of Borderlands Studies Conference*, Lisbon (Portugal) September 12-15.

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2011. "Stretching EU borders? Etnografiando la deslocalización de la frontera Sur," in *Lugares, Tiempos, Memorias: La Antropología Iberica en el siglo XXI* Proceedings of *XII Congreso de Antropología de España*, University of Leon (Spain), September 6-9.

Cobarrubias, S. 2009. "Counter-Mapping," in Barney Warf (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Geography*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications

Cobarrubias, S. 2009. "Geography of Justice," in Barney Warf (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Geography*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2008. "Transatlantic Translations: A Trilogy of Insurgent Knowledges," in Team Colors Collective (eds) *In the Middle of a Whirlwind: 2008 Convention Protests, Movement and Movements*. Journal of Aesthetics and Protest Press. [Translated into German as "Orientierungssinn. Zur Methodologie Militanter Untersuchungen," in *Arranca!* 2008, n. 39]

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2008. Book Review "Madrid la Suma de Todos: Tools & Methods to Comprehend and Re-Appropriate a Global City," in *Transform Journal*, Correspondance 05 03 08

Cobarrubias, S. 2006. Book Review on "Making Space: Revisioning the World 1475-1600 by John Rennie Short," in *Social & Cultural Geography*. Volume 7, No. 4, August

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2007. "Machines: Sharing Tools for Intervention and Assembly," in *Transform Journal*, Correspondance 22 04 07

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2005. "Rebellious Research: Itinerarios por la Investigación Activista en Estados Unidos," in *Newsletter of the Action Research Network* Spring Series

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2005. "Fighting for Global Justice from the Grassroots: Root Cause and the FTAA," in *Thread Magazine* of Duke University, April

Casas, M. and Cobarrubias, S. 2005. "El Foro Social Mundial como Utopía Posible," in *Semilla Pastoral* (Spain), February

Cobarrubias, S. (contributing co-editor). 2003. *The World Guide 2003/2004: an Alternative Reference to the Countries of our Planet*. The Instituto del Tercer Mundo, Montevideo, Uruguay. Garamond Press: Aurora.

## GRANTS

- Juan de la Cierva Post-Doctoral Award, **Ministerio de Economía y Competividad** (86,400 euros [approx. \$120,000] over a period of 3 years)
- Project Award, **National Science Foundation** Grant No. BCS-1023543 (\$424,638 total grant, including direct costs and university indirect costs [48-50%]): 2010-2013
- Dissertation Writing Fellowship, **The Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill** (\$16,000): 2008-2009
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Award, **US Department of Education** (\$14,000): 2007-2008
- Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Fellowship, **National Science Foundation** (\$12,000): 2007-08
- Off-Campus Dissertation Research Award, The Graduate School, UNC-CH (\$7,000): 2006
- UCIS Travel Grant, **University Center for International Studies, UNC-CH** (\$500): 2005
- ILAS Travel Grant, **Mellon Foundation** (\$500): 2005

- Scholars for Tomorrow Fellowship, The Graduate School, UNC-CH (\$5,000): 2004
- Merit Assistant Scholarship, The Graduate School, UNC-CH(\$3,000): 2003
- New Voices Fellowship, **Ford Foundation** (\$50,000): 2001-2003  
*Competitive nation-wide award to graduate degree holders to work with non-profit organizations*

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### Academic Conference Papers

- 2014 “Fronteras mas alla de las Metropolis” Opening Address of the *Colonia Apocripha* Exhibit at the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Castilla y Leon, June 20
- 2014 “La Externalizacion de las Fronteras Europeas y la propuesta del lus Migrandi.” *Fronteras en el Siglo 21: Obstaculos o Puentes?* University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, June 9
- 2012 “The Seahorse operations, Spain and Migration Routes Management in Africa.” *Association of Borderlands Studies Conference*, Lisbon, September 12-15.
- 2012 “Counter Cartographies Collective and Counter mapping the University.” *CSIC sponsored International Workshop City as Open Interface*, Madrid, July 4-6
- 2012 “Border Externalization and the Global Approach to Migration.” African Studies Conference on Border Crossings and Migrations, *University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill*, January 18.
- 2011 “Migration Routes Management: The Latest EU Migration Control Strategy.” Congreso Internacional sobre Migraciones, *Universidad de Zaragoza*, Octubre 28.
- 2011 “Las Politicas Culturales del Regimen Fronterizo Exterior de la Union Europea.” *Congreso de la Federacion de Asociaciones de Antropologia de Espana*, Universidad de Leon, September 7.
- 2011 “The Autonomy of Migration versus Migration Management.” Post-Autonomist Theory Conference, *University of Amsterdam*, May 21
- 2011 “Estirando Fronteras.” Iberian Borders Congress, *Universidad Complutense de Madrid*, March 30
- 2010 “Geography, Universities and Cognitive Capitalism.” (Panel co-organizers with Mason-Deese et al.) *American Association of Geographers Conference*, Washington DC, April 14
- 2006 “Delete the Border! New Mapping Projects, Activist Art Movements, and the Reworking of the Euro-Border.” (with Aparicio, Casas and Pickles). *AAG Conference* in Chicago, March 8
- 2005 “Spacing Movements: Reconfigured Borders, the European Union and Questions of Citizenship.” (with John Pickles). *Institute of British Geographers/Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference*. London, August
- 2005 “Hacking Maps: Global Resistance and Cartographic Production.” *AAG national conference*. Denver-Colorado, April
- 2004 “Fighting the FTAA from the Root Cause: Counter-Summits as Spaces of Counter-Hegemonic Articulation.” Southeast Division of the *American Association of Geographers*. Biloxi-Mississippi, November
- 2000 “From Gnats to Mosquitoes and Maybe to Killer Bees? The Basque Nationalist Movement in France.” *International Political Science Association Conference*, Quebec City, August
- 2000 “A New Type of Insurrection? The Kale Borroka and the Public Part of the Intifadah.” International Sociological Association and British Sociological Association Conference on “Alternative Futures and Popular Protest.” *Manchester Metropolitan University*. November 1

### Invited Speaker

- 2014 "Presentacion del grupo Colonialismo Interno" Public Address to the *Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Santander*, July 27
- 2013 "Points of Convergence and divergence in (North) Trans-Atlantic Relations: E.U. rope and the United States" The Joseph M. Scolnick, Jr. Memorial Roundtable at *ISA South*, Charlotte, October 19
- 2013 *Mas alla del Estado de Bienestar: Comunes y el Derecho a la Educacion*. Presentation and workshop organization. Pantera Rossa Social Center, Zaragoza, May 4 and 11
- 2013 *Colonialismo Interno y PENINSULA*. Presentation and research group participants. Reina Sofia Museum of Contemporary Art, Madrid, April 16
- 2013 *Migration and Militant Research Workshop*. Guest Speaker at Concluding Workshop. Politics Department at Goldsmiths College, London January 31
- 2012 "Possible Resonances of U.S. Community Organizing Strategies in Spanish Social Movements." Pantera Rossa Social Center, Zaragoza, November 23
- 2012 "Migration Routes Management, Counter-Mapping and Decoloniality." Decolonial Days at *DOCUMENTA 13*, Kassel, July 11
- 2012 "Counter-Mapping Migration." Workshop Intervention. *Kritnet Conference* on Critical Migration and Border Studies Kassel July 13
- 2012 "Uses and Experiences of Counter Cartography." Two days seminar of Observatorio Metropolitano, *Museo Nacional de Reina Sofia*, Madrid, June 26
- 2012 "Militant Research and Counter Cartography: Itineraries and Encounters." Seminar for the School of Research Architecture, *Goldsmiths College, University of London*, February 18th
- 2012 "Re-mapping migrant routes from below: counter cartographies against migration management." *No Border Convergence*, London, February 16
- 2011 "Coherencia de Politicas Migratorias de Espana en Africa." Intervention Workshop. Grupo de Estudio Africanos, *Universidad Autonoma de Madrid*, July 4
- 2007 "Disorienting our Way through the Power-Grids of the University: Militant Interventions, Cartography and the New University." *Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona*, February 3
- 2007 "Precarity, the University and Cartographic Resistance." ESC Atelier & *Universita di Roma, La Sapienza*, April 8
- 2007 "Cartographic experiences at the University of North Carolina." *Ateneu Candela Social Center*, Terrasa (Spain) May 1.
- 2006 "A Corner of the Research Triangle: Hidden Labor & the New University." *Chicago Mess Hall Art Gallery*, March 8.
- 2006 "Producing Counter-Territories: The Intersections of Mapping and Resistance Practices." *National Conference on Organized Resistance*, Washington D.C., February 14.
- 2003 "Resistencia y Guerra en Estados Unidos despues del 11S." Plataforma Ciudadana contra la Guerra, Valladolid (Spain), February 25.
- 2003 "Movimientos Sociales en Estados Unidos ante el Umbral de la Guerra." Forum for Social Transformation at *Universidad Rural Paulo Freire*, Palencia (Spain), February 26.
- 2002 "Coalition dynamics between NGOs and Grassroots Community Organizations: The Case of the Taco Bell Boycott." The New Voices *Ford Foundation Fellows annual conference*, Washington D.C. August 23

## Selected Guest Lectures

“An Introduction to the European Neighborhood Policy,” European Studies Course in Political Science Dept., *Universidad de Zaragoza*, Spain April 2011 and May 2012

“Disorienting Campuses: Rethinking the University Economy,” Urban Geography course; People and Places course; and Global Issues course at Geography Dept, UNC-Chapel Hill, October 2009

“Development: Social and Economic history and critique,” Introduction to SouthEast Asia course, International Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill, September 2009

“Geopolitics and International Political Economy in the second half of the 20th century,” Introduction to SouthEast Asia course, International Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill, September 2009

“Insurgent Knowledges: Research & Cartography by European Social Movements,” Communications Theory Course in English Literature Dept., *Saint Louis University* in Madrid Campus, Feb 2008

“Everyday Spatial Activism and Economic Transformations in the Knowledge Economy,” Global Economy Course in Department of Economics, *Universidad de Barcelona*, May 2007

“Argentina: Causes of a Cruel Economic Crisis,” Political Theory in Department of Philosophy, *DePaul University*, Chicago. November 2002.

“Social Movements in the Context of Globalization,” Political Science and Sociology Colloquium at *Universidad Centroamericana*, San Salvador May 2000

## Public Addresses

“Inmigracion, Emigracion y Crisis en Espana,” Radio talkshow participation on Radio Mai, Zaragoza, May 7, 2013

“Research Riots: Methodological Molotovs coming from Social Movements”  
II Continental Drift Seminar at the *16 Beaver Group Art Gallery*, New York City, October 2005

“Apuntes en Precario: Pensando el Precariado desde Estados Unidos”  
the *5th World Social Forum*, Porto Alegre (Brasil), January 2005

“The FTAA and Higher Education”  
SURGE Regional Conference, *University of North Carolina*, Chapel Hill, January 2004

“Formas de Desobediencia Civil en Estados Unidos”,  
Argentina Social Forum, *Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires*, August 2002

“Plan Puebla Panama: Neo-Liberal Restructuring in Mesoamerica,”  
National Conference of United Students Against Sweatshops, *Loyola University*, Chicago, August 2001

“Movimiento Global y Movimiento Maya: posibles encuentros”  
*National Council of Mayan Education*, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, June 2000

## Art Exhibits

“*Artivismo*: Representaciones Visuales de Movimientos Sociales en EE.UU.” Curators at the Rinocero Art Gallery, Palencia (Spain), December 2003.

“Economic Collapse and Rebellion in Argentina” Multimedia Presentation at the Select Media Festival, Chicago (USA), November 2002.



## EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE ABROAD

- EGYPT American University in Cairo, Undergraduate Year on Middle East Studies. 1996-1997
- U.A.E. Research Internship in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah on border disputes between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Summer 1997
- JORDAN Seton Hall University Summer Program in Aman. Summer 1995
- ITALY Seton Hall University Winter Program in Rome. Winter 1996
- FRANCE Universite La Sorbonne, Language Course. Paris. Summer 1998
- SPAIN University of the Basque Country in San Sebastian, Language Programs. Summer 1995; Maizpide Euskaltegia, Summer 1996; Aurten Bai Euskaltegi, Summer 1997; AEK Euskaltegia, Summer 1998.

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH GROUPS & SERVICE

- *Colonialismo Interno & PENINSULA* Research Group, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (2012-)
- *The European Question: Postcolonial Perspectives on Migration, Nation and Race* Research Platform, Department of Political Science at University of Bologna (2012-)
- *Gobernanza Mundial y Union Europea*, European Studies, Universidad de Zaragoza (2011-)
- *Critical Cartographies* Working Group at UNC-CH (2005-)
- *Social Movement* Working Group at UNC-CH (2003-2009)
- UNC-CH & Duke Working Group on *Globalization, Modernity/Coloniality and the Geo-Politics of Knowledge* (2003-2009)
- *Cultures of the Economies* Working Group at UNC-CH (2004-2006)
- Vice-President of the Graduate Association of Geography Students (2006)
- Senator of the Graduate Association of Geography to the Professional Student Federation (2003-2004)

## INTERESTS

*Human and Economic Geography:* Borders and Migration, Social Movements, Globalization

*Social Theories:* Space & Power, Critical Cartographies

*Research Methods:* Hybrid & Collaborative Research Designs

*Area Studies:* Europe, North America and the Middle East

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

1. **ENGLISH** native proficiency
2. **SPANISH** native proficiency
3. **FRENCH** advanced conversational, reading and writing skills
4. **ITALIAN** advanced conversational, reading and writing skills
5. **ARABIC** intermediate conversational, reading and writing skills
6. **BASQUE** intermediate conversational, reading and writing skills

## REFERENCES

Dr. Harry Chernotsky, Department of Global, International and Area Studies, UNC-Charlotte. [hicherno@uncc.edu](mailto:hicherno@uncc.edu)

Dr. John Pickles, Department of Geography, UNC- Chapel Hill. [jpickles@email.unc.edu](mailto:jpickles@email.unc.edu)

Dr. Altha Cravey, Department of Geography, UNC- Chapel Hill. [ajcravey@email.unc.edu](mailto:ajcravey@email.unc.edu)



Dr. Arturo Escobar, Department of Anthropology, UNC-Chapel Hill. [aescobar@email.unc.edu](mailto:aescobar@email.unc.edu)

Dr. Lawrence Grossberg, Department of Communication Studies, Chair of Cultural Studies Program,  
UNC- Chapel Hill. [docrock@email.unc.edu](mailto:docrock@email.unc.edu)