

# IRIS MONTERO SOBREVILLA

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies, Brown University, July 2021-  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies, Brown University, July 2018-June 2021  
Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Cogut Institute for the Humanities,  
Brown University, July 2015-June 2018

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, UK, January 2016  
M.A. (with distinction) in Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Warwick, UK, January 2001  
B.A. (with honors) in International Relations, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores  
de Monterrey (ITESM), Mexico, 1997

## BOOK

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*What the Hummingbird Knows: A Natural History*, manuscript in preparation.

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

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- “Paper Mirrors? Axolotl’s Scientific Itineraries in Literature and Art, and the Potential for Radical Human-More-than-human Empathy,” *Global Environment*, special issue on Animal Histories, forthcoming, September 2023.
- “Darwin’s Hummingbird” in *New World Objects of Knowledge: A Cabinet of Curiosities*, edited by Mark Thurner and Juan Pimentel, University of London Press, 2021, 267-270.
- “The Disguise of the Hummingbird: On the Natural History of Huitzilopochtli in the *Florentine Codex*,” *Ethnohistory* 67, no. 3, (2020): 429-453.
- “Indigenous Naturalists” in *Worlds of Natural History*, eds. Helen Curry, Emma Spary, James Secord and Nick Jardine, Cambridge University Press, 2018, 112-130.
- “The Slow Science of Swift Nature: Hummingbirds and Humans in New Spain” in *Global Scientific Practice in the Age of Revolutions, 1750-1850*, eds. Patrick Manning and Daniel Rood, Pittsburgh University Press, 2016, 127-146.
- (with M. Aranda et al.) “The History of Atlantic Science: Collective Reflections from the 2009 Harvard Seminar on Atlantic History,” *Atlantic Studies* 7, no. 4 (2010): 493-509.

## SELECTED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Winner of the 2021 Robert F. Heizer Award for Best Article in the field of Ethnohistory, American Society for Ethnohistory, for “The Disguise of the Hummingbird.”  
Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, History of Science section, Fall 2021.  
Honorable mention for the 2021 Best Academic Essay Prize in Colonial Latin American and Caribbean Studies by a young scholar, Latin American Studies Association, for “The Disguise of the Hummingbird.”  
Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative Faculty Grant to develop and launch a Nahuatl Program at Brown with pedagogue Eduardo de la Cruz, Brown, 2020 (\$10,200).  
Honorable mention, 2017 DHST Young Scholars Prize for Best Dissertation in any topic, region or period, International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology.

## SELECTED INVITED LECTURES

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“From Egyptian Gold to Chichimeca Silver: Extractive Theory and Praxis in Sixteenth Century Mexico,” *History and Sociology of Science Workshop*, University of Pennsylvania, 25 October, 2021.  
“Into the Archive of Trans-species Migration in Greater Mexico,” *Heeding the Messenger: Songbirds and the Scale of Climate Change* symposium, University of Toronto, November 6, 2020.  
“Pliny in Tlatelolco: Natural History Between Two Worlds,” seminar presentation at the *National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center*, Annapolis, Maryland, 19 November 2019.  
“Nonhuman Stories and the Shape of History in Mexico,” lecture at *Mexico 500+: Indigenous and Global Cultures in Colonial Mesoamerica*, Stony Brook University, 2 October 2019.  
“Monetizing the Great Chain of Being in Valadés’ *Rhetorica christiana* (Perugia, 1579)” in *Latin America as Laboratory Workshop*, History of Science, Harvard University, May 2-3 2019.  
“The Talking Hummingbird: Migration Narratives and Human-Non Human Interaction in the Americas,” Keynote lecture, *Mesoamerican Indigenous Literatures and Cultures Conference*, University of California-Merced, 3 November 2017.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

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“*In xopan, in tonalco*: Seasonality and Reciprocity in Nahua Poetry and Natural History,” *Modern Language Association Meeting*, 7 January, 2021, as part of the panel “Babel: Multilingual Poetry in the Colonial Americas,” selected by Judith Butler within the presidential theme, Persistence.  
“Spanish, British and Nuu-chah-nulth Readings of Nootka Sound, 1774-1793,” *Modern Language Association*, Seattle, 11 January 2020.  
“Silver Roots: Monetizing the *Scala Naturae* in Valadés’ *Rhetorica Christiana* (1579),” *Sixteenth Century Society and Conference*, St Louis, Missouri, 18 October 2019.  
“The Breath of the Green Stone: (Non) Extractive Ideologies in the *Florentine Codex*,” *American Society for Ethnohistory*, Pennsylvania State University, 26 September, 2019.  
“The ‘Science’ of Birds in the *Florentine Codex*,” *American Society of Ethnohistory Annual Conference*, Las Vegas, Nevada, 7 November, 2015.

## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

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Spanish (native), English (near-native), French and Portuguese (proficient), Italian (reading proficiency), Nahuatl (intermediate translation), Latin (intermediate translation).