

Social Sciences Department
Annual Report 2023-2024

Dr. Edwin J. Asencio Pagán
June 25, 2024

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I. General Information of the Dean's Office and Associated Units

a. Mission and Vision

a. Organizational Structure

i. Organizational Chart of the Dean's Office

ii. Organizational Chat of associated units under the Dean's Office

II. Report on Initiatives, Activities, and Achievements in Accordance with the Strategic Plan

a. Executive Summary

- During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Department of Social Sciences met the programmatic objectives in accordance with the department's strategic plan: institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment, be at the vanguard of higher education in Puerto Rico, guaranteeing that our students receive the best education, increase and diversify the sources of income of the institution, implement agile and efficient administrative processes, strengthen research and competitive creative work of the faculty, impact Puerto Rican society and strengthen the sense of belonging and "Collegiate Pride". Next, we present the achievements of the faculty with the support of the administrative staff of the Department of Social Sciences.

- Mission and Vision of the Social Science

Offer a solid academic preparation in the Social Sciences that is characterized by theoretical and methodological diversity, and by inter and multidisciplinary work. Promote the training of competent leaders and professionals, with the capacity for critical thinking and mastery of their discipline, with ethical values sensitive to working with human and socio-cultural diversity, and committed to the well-being of society. Promote research and interest in continuous learning in its faculty and students.

The vision of the Department of Social Sciences is to be at the forefront in the development and application of knowledge in the Social Sciences and in the training of competent professionals committed to finding solutions to the social challenges of Puerto Rico and society global.

b. Objective 1: To institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment

1. The Department has four academic programs:
 - Politic Science
 - General Social Sciences
 - History
 - Sociology

To facilitate the strategic planning of the academic offer and continuous curricular review, the faculty is assigned to one of the academic programs and these in turn select a coordinator to facilitate the planning of the academic offer of each program. However, there are faculty members who offer courses in more than one program. During this year, the program

coordinators together with the director of the Department coordinated the course programming of all the programs.

In the same way, our students maintain a database of the Social Sciences program. Its purpose is to generate information that helps us to describe the effectiveness of the Programs, to identify areas that need attention, and to develop strategies to improve the teaching and learning process in them.

2. The Department has five (5) permanent Committees: Personnel Committee, Curriculum Committee, Appraisal Committee, Strategic Plan Committee and the Committee for the Allocation of Research Spaces. In this way, it is possible to work on strategic planning in the areas of curriculum, evaluation of Professor, the allocation of research spaces in the centers attached to the Department and the departmental plan for continuous assessment.

c. Objective 2: To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students

1. The Department has three Curricular Sequences:
 - International Relations - This sequence is particularly important in a globalized world that requires movement of personnel beyond national borders, so it is a benefit that students understand the international system.
 - Human Well-being - Human well-being refers to the activities designed by state or civil society organizations with the purpose of satisfying the basic needs of people and communities in areas such as health, education, housing, and employment, among others. The objective of the action is usually of a community nature, serving groups of people, geographical or functional communities, cities or nations. To this end, it is intended that they acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in the identification of problems, effective communication and conflict management to apply them in the work carried out in government agencies, as well as in civil society organizations.
 - Sociology and Environmental Public Policy - promotes the analysis of environmental issues, combining scientific-natural, technical and social aspects of the relationship between human beings and their environment from an integrating perspective.

2. The creation of the minor concentration in Criminology was submitted.

This sequence intends to promote the study of criminal behavior, the factors that provoke it, its manifestations, the social reaction; strategies for the prevention and control of criminal conduct. Therefore, the courses are aligned with the sociological focus of the Sociology Program. What allows a theoretical approach, based on the scientific foundations exposed by sociologists and criminologists. In turn, the academic offering as designed shows a specific and interdisciplinary approach, which facilitates in students the understanding and analysis related to criminal behavior.

The minor concentration in criminology seeks to promote and develop critical analysis of the social factors that affect criminal behavior in order to develop recommendations for public policies in the area of security; as well as, also achieve recognition of the figure of the victim in the legal process. The criminological study affects the study and description of criminal phenomena that directly and indirectly affect the individual and collective levels. Concern about the increase in criminal activity entails analyzing different social and individual factors such as poverty, social inequality, racial segregation, institutional violence, interpersonal violence, psychological aspects, among others. For this purpose, it is intended to study and investigate criminological phenomena and other manifestations of socially deviant behavior, requiring the need to train students with the expectation of understanding the phenomenon of criminal actions.

The minor concentration in Criminology proposes that students can develop their analysis skills and reading comprehension in the field of Criminology. That inspires the student to continue graduate studies and develop in students the capacity for scientific analysis of the factors that promote criminal behavior.

3. The Department of Social Sciences obtained several programs used by researchers and student-researchers of the Department, including those linked to the Center for Applied Social Research (CISA) and the Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies (CIEL), as well as by those professors who teach social research methods course and research seminars. They are also used for online research and collaboration. The methods and social research courses of the Department of Social Sciences benefit from these programs, as professors integrate them into their courses to provide their students with practical experience with these innovative and versatile programs. The skills acquired are very useful both in graduate school and in the job market.
 - IBM SPSS
 - Qualtrics.XM
 - ATLAS.ti
 - End Note
 - N Vivo

4. Consistently during the academic year, participatory-action-research experiences continue to be offered to students at the University Institute for the Development of Communities linked to the courses CISO 3121 and

3122, SOCI 4095, CISO 4116, CISO 4117 and CISO 4118 under the INTD coding 3995 for which they receive credit.

5. During this 2022-2023 academic year, sixty-one (61) students from our Department were recognized on the Honor Roll.
6. Salvador Brau Award for academic excellence from the RUM Department of Social Sciences, for the student ADLÍN E. MELECIO TORRES, from the Sociology Program. Degree collation June 2024



7. Congratulations! also for the student FRANNETTE OCASIO OQUENDO, from the History Program, for the Army ROTC Award, from the Department of Military Sciences. Degree collation June 2024



8. During the 2023-2024 academic year, there were several students from the Department participating in internships. Students learn about Legislative Processes where they acquire knowledge in the theoretical and practical elements of legislative processes, and their interaction with the Executive and Judicial Branches, among other internships.

- **William Santiago Ramirez**
Internship Name: Luis A Ferré
Period Covered: June 2024
Fortaleza
Study program: Political Science.



- **Claudia Ramirez Rodríguez**
Internship Name: Luis A Ferré

Period Covered: June 2024
Fortaleza
Study program: Political Science.



- **José G. Rullán Enriquez**
Internship Name: "Shadowing" Law summer
Period Covered: May 29 – July 31, 2024
Study program: Political Science.



- **Bryan J. Meléndez García**
It is at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in the political science department, where I work under the supervision of Professor Ariel White in the Global Diversity Lab (GDL). My personal project is in preparation for my dissertation, in which I am exploring comparative politics in Latin America and Puerto Rico, especially constitutional changes, human rights protection, and

regionalization. In addition, I am helping with the teacher's project that deals with the right to vote for incarcerated people. Study program: Political Science.



- **Dylan José Álvarez-Ramos**
 Internship Name: "Summer Pre-Law Academy" (SPLA), Boston University School of Law
 Undergraduate Student Political Science | Sociology and Environmental Public Policy
 Councilor for Arts



- **Natalia R. Rodríguez Otero**
 Internship Name: National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Site: The Socio-Ecological Role of Greenways in Urban Systems
 Period Covered May 2024 - July 2024. Study program: Political Science



- **Marla M. Rau Águila**

Internship Name: Congressional Cordova y Fernós

Period Covered: January to May 2024

Performance: policy intern at the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators. She will be participating in the Student Internship Program at the U.S. Department of State. This internship will be from July 14 to September 21, 2024 in Washington D.C., and I will work with the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (EUR). Study program: Political Science



- **Olearys Crespo Zeno**

Internship Name: Summer Consulting Intern

Period Covered: June and July 2024

Institution that promotes it: Cobalto, Puerto Rico

Study Program: Political Science and International Relations



- **Mónica Rodríguez Hernández**

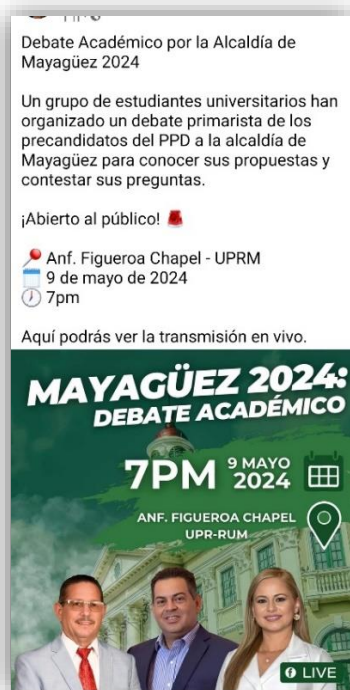
Period Covered: June and July 2024

Internship Name: Office of the Inspector General

Study Program: Political Science



9. On May 9, the Department of Social Sciences promoted the debate between the candidates for mayor, for the Popular Democratic Party in the Municipality of Mayagüez. The challenges were significant knowing the tone and dynamics that are exposed in the campaigns held in the municipality. I must recognize Engineer Jorge Ramos, Representative Jocelyn Rodríguez, and Mr. René Marrero, who demonstrated high behavior, respect and promoted an environment in accordance with established standards. It is essential to highlight, recognize and value the significant work that our students of the Public Administration course taught by Dr. Edwin Asencio Pagán did. The young people spent long days of work collecting relevant information, developing first-rate logistics, maintaining ethical issues throughout the activity and using execution with distinction. The activity had significant exposure from the media in the western area, which have the greatest coverage in the region. We managed to demonstrate the intellectual capacity that our students show; which is a reflection of the teaching staff we have in our Department. We continue to create spaces where issues of public interest that affect citizens and the university community are deliberated. We also managed to reach a significant audience through the media, where there were hundreds of people connected to social networks. We managed to highlight the relevance that the University of Puerto Rico, the Department of Social Sciences and the Political Science Program have in teaching. Our students developed an event for more than two and a half hours in a quality format, where they presented questions in a difficult context. I reiterate my recognition of the commitment.



REGIONALES 07
16 al 22 de mayo de 2024 | PERIÓDICO VISION

ESTUDIANTES DEL RUM ORGANIZAN DEBATE CON ASPIRANTES POPULARES A LA ALCALDÍA DE MAYAGÜEZ

SHEILA G. MATOS RAMOS
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El Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (RUM) sirvió de escenario del Debate Académico 2024, donde Jorge Ramos Ruiz, Jocelyne Rodríguez Negrón y René Marrero Rosado, precandidatos a la alcaldía de la ciudad por el Partido Popular Democrático (PPD), respondieron a preguntas formuladas por los estudiantes de Administración Pública centradas en temas de gran relevancia para la comunidad.

"Realmente fue mucho trabajo, pero pudimos hacer un buen papel. Por esta razón, haber formado parte de esta experiencia me llena de mucha emoción", expresó Alina Martínez González, una de las panelistas del Debate Académico 2024 del RUM, quien compartió su satisfacción por la oportunidad, destacando que fue una experiencia formativa y desafiante.

"Aunque el equipo tenía una amplia variedad de preguntas cubriendo diversos temas como: seguridad pública, recreación, deportes, bellas artes, recursos naturales, salud y la inclusión de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en su plan de gobierno, entre otros, el tiempo fue un desafío significativo, ya que lamentablemente, estaba limitado", explicó Odalis Cuevas, otra de las panelistas quien señaló que la elaboración de las preguntas dirigidas a los candidatos fue una tarea exigente que requirió varios días de esfuerzo por el grupo de estudiantes.

Victor Cucuta, quien fungió de moderador destacó su satisfacción con la forma en que fluyó la dinámica, ya que los candidatos, según su criterio, brindaron respuestas enfocadas y constructivas, evitando los ataques políticos y centrando la atención en las propuestas concretas.

"Los candidatos fueron ganando confianza a medida que el evento avanzaba, proporcionando contestaciones que eran necesarias para el electorado de Mayagüez", señaló.

Daniel Fernández, coordinador general del debate, mencionó que el desarrollo del mismo fue parte de su proyecto final del curso de Administración Pública. "Fue una experiencia maravillosa ver el compartir de ideas y la habilidad de formular preguntas que permitieron que los estudiantes que no son residentes de Mayagüez se familiarizaran con las realidades del municipio", explicó.

Por su parte, Kenneth Collado Morales, encargado de la transmisión y estudiante de producción de radio y televisión, destacó que la transmisión del evento contó con más de siete cámaras. "Fue una transmisión espectacular donde nosotros, los jóvenes, pudimos desarrollarnos en las áreas que estudiamos. Esto es un ejemplo de que podemos y seguiremos trabajando por el futuro de Puerto Rico", dijo.

Mientras que, Jeremy Villoch Garza, otro de los panelistas, opinó que algunas preguntas pudieron haberse tratado mejor por los candidatos, pero consideró que la sesión fue provechosa y contribuyó a que la gente de Mayagüez comprendiera mejor a los tres, aunque las respuestas pudieron haber sido más detalladas.

Al finalizar el encuentro, el aspirante a la alcaldía de Mayagüez, René Marrero, felicitó a los estudiantes por el trabajo realizado y agradeció al RUM por la oportunidad de servir como plataforma para que la gente esté mejor orientada. "Me siento muy satisfecho, ya que entiendo que hice mi parte con relación a ofrecer las propuestas y lo que quiero hacer por esta gran ciudad a la que amo", declaró.

Para concluir, la candidata Jocelyne Rodríguez reaccionó positivamente al debate, expresando que se sintió sumamente cómoda gracias a la responsabilidad con la que los estudiantes manejaron el evento. Destacó que la proyección de los alumnos fue "incalculable" y se mostró satisfecha por haber podido exponer sus ideas en beneficio de la ciudad de Mayagüez.



DE IZQUIERDA A DERECHA: KENNETH COLLADO MORALES, ENCARGADO DE LA TRANSMISIÓN; JEREMY VILLOCH GARZA, ALINA MARTÍNEZ GONZÁLEZ, ODALIS CUEVAS, PANELISTAS Y VÍCTOR CUCUTA, QUIEN FUNGIÓ DE MODERADOR.

10. The Caribbean Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS) recognized Professor Luisa R. Seijo Maldonado, professor of the Department of Social Sciences at the Mayagüez University Campus (RUM), during its annual convention, for her long career fighting for the communities and training the youth of Puerto Rico. The AAAS recognizes and dedicates this convention to Professor Luisa Seijo Maldonado for her tireless fight for social causes and women's rights in Puerto Rico. Certainly, she is an inspiration to communities, especially the young people she has been impacting throughout her career. Seijo Maldonado, who has a history of more than 50 years working with communities and fighting for social causes, has founded eight organizations on the island. Among these, the Siempre Vivas project and the University Institute for the Development of Communities of the RUM, which she currently directs. From her role as an educator, she has promoted the training of facilitators for women's support groups and the creation of participatory action research projects in communities from the perspective of learning and service.



d. Objective 3: To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue

1. A joint Master's and Doctorate program in Applied Social Sciences is being planned. This graduated program would be offered online and in the evening. The program would be made up of 51 credits, practice and dissertation. The program can be completed in a minimum of 4 years and a maximum of 6 years.

e. Objective 4: To implement efficient and expedient administrative procedures

1. In order to streamline administrative processes and provide updated information about the Department throughout the year, the Department's WEB page continued to be updated on the WordPress platform: <https://www.uprm.edu/cienciassociales/>.

f. Objective 5: To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors

- **Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies / Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios del Litoral (CIEL)**
 - Institutionalize a culture of strategic planning and assessment
 - CIEL is currently reviewing its structure to incorporate new faculty and collaborators.
 - To lead higher education throughout Puerto Rico while guaranteeing the best education for our students
 - The mission of CIEL is embedded in the curricular sequence of Sociology and Environmental Public Policy, at the Social Sciences Department.

- CIEL incorporates students from many fields into research endeavors. We provide mentorship and training and, as stated in this report, provide them with opportunities to collaborate as research assistants and co-authors of key publications.
- Our center is a venue for the presentation and discussion of important environmental processes and key publications by scholars in the field. To increase and diversify the Institution's sources of revenue
 - Our unit has research funded by local and federal agencies. (USDA Forest Service and Sea Grant)
 - Publications for the public are also funded by agencies and programs (USDA Forest Service, Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades, Sea Grant)
 - There are two proposals in review, for research and extension through NOAA-Sea Grant.
- To strengthen research and competitive creative endeavors
 - Our projects are on the leading edge of research related to the socioecological systems in the coasts and in the forests.
 - CIEL's digital platforms offer the public and the research community with key information on the historical changes in the coastline, and archival databases on social processes.
 - Our scientific publications and presentations contribute to our knowledge of ecosystems and sustainability.
 - Through our research projects, for example, on disasters and forests, we also promote the development of creative endeavors projects, where we incorporate students from the humanities and social sciences, among others.
 - Students are incorporated in the process of publishing.
- To impact our Puerto Rican society
 - CIEL's research impacts society by providing information on the uses of natural resources and the avenues for their use and conservation, as well as on topics such as vulnerability and disaster management.
 - Most of our publications are directed to the public, and they aim to increase awareness of natural hazards, climate change, landscape change, resource management, and sustainability.

TANIA DEL MAR LÓPEZ MARRERO

El Yunque Ecosystem Services and Drivers of Ecosystem Change, A Participatory Research Approach: Ten Years Later (Investigación subvencionada por el USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Agreement Number: 17-CS-11330144-063)

- The collaborative agreement ended at the end of 2023. The final progress and financial reports were submitted to the agency (USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station).
- The following papers have been published as part of the research project:
 - López-Marrero, T.; Hermansen-Báez, L.A. 2024. *Expansion of Urban Land Cover around El Yunque National Forest: 1998 to 2023*. [Fact sheet]. Gainesville, FL: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.
 - López Marrero, T.; Heartsill Scalley, T. 2024. *Tropical storms and ecological research in the Luquillo Experimental Forest: A bibliography*. [Bibliography]. Gainesville, FL: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 136 p.
 - López Marrero, T.; Ramos Echevarría, M.; Hermansen-Báez, L.A. 2023. *Natural Resources and Shared Management: Opportunities and Challenges*. [Fact sheet]. Gainesville, FL: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.
 - Echevarría Ramos, M.; Talavera Arboniés, M.; Melecio Torres, A.; López Marrero, T. (2023). *Manejo de recursos naturales y gestión compartida: Una bibliografía anotada*. [Bibliografía anotada]. Gainesville, FL: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 58 p.
- We are in the process of editing and layout of 5 additional publications. They are expected to be published during the semester from August to December 2024.
- A project website is being developed, which is expected to be published during the semester from August to December 2024.
- A presentation of the project results and a workshop with El Yunque National Forest staff are being coordinated. This will take place during the semester from August to December 2024, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico.

Trees in urban spaces: History, meanings and uses (Research funded by the USDA Forests Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, Award Number: 21- CA-11120107-016).

- The edition of nine (9) stories about trees in urban environments written by undergraduate students from different disciplines (Sociology, Comparative Literature, Art Theory, Biology, Microbiology, Civil Engineering, Software Engineering, and Geology) was completed; the illustration was in charge of an undergraduate student of Art Theory, Albert Cruz Toro. The edition was in charge of the undergraduate student of Comparative Literature, Karelis Negrón Tudó and Tania López Marrero (project coordinator). The publication entitled *Every Tree Has Its Story* will be laid out and published during the academic semester from August to December 2024.
- The writing of the text and the development of the illustrations for the publication *Arboretum: A Diary of Urban Nature*, co-authored by Albert Cruz Toro (undergraduate student of Art Theory) and Tania López Marrero (project coordinator), was completed. During the academic semester from

August to December 2024, the document will be edited and laid out for publication.

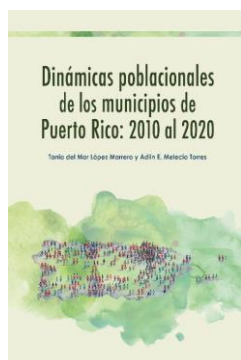
- Data on trees in urban spaces were collected in the third and last place of study (the urban area of Mayagüez, associated with the configuration of linear urban forest). With this, the project's data collection was completed; now, it will move on to data coding and analysis (academic semester August to December 2024).

Other research and creative work projects:



Project 1867: Disasters and Memory in Puerto Rico (www.proyecto1897.com)

The book **Disastrous Tales** (Cuentos desastrosos), a compilation of seven (7) stories written by undergraduate students of the Department of Comparative Literature of the UPRM, was published. The stories narrate events and experiences that took place in the Puerto Rican archipelago: hurricanes, earthquakes, and pandemic. Through realistic, autobiographical and historical stories with magical elements, the authors address the colonial, political, economic, social and human context in which disasters occur and that largely cause their outcomes. A collaboration was established with Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades Puerto Rico, who provided funds for the edition and printing of the book.



Population Dynamics of Puerto Rico's Municipalities: 2010 to 2020 provides data and information about population and vital statistics at the municipal level over the past decade through maps and municipal profiles. The work is the result is co-authored by Tania López Marrero and Adlín Melecio Torres (undergraduate student of the Sociology Program). The publication is part of the series on population dynamics in Puerto Rico and updates the information presented in two previous works:

Population Dynamics of the Coastal Municipalities of Puerto Rico: 1980 to 2015 and Population Dynamics of the Interior Municipalities of Puerto Rico: 1980 to 2017. It arises from a collaboration between CIEL and the Sea Grant Program of the University of Puerto Rico.

Publications (in development):

López Marrero, T., Melecio Torres, A. & Heartsill Scalley, T. ¡Esa agua no me gusta! *Water consumption patterns among students at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus*. Artículo a ser sometido a la revista académica *Sustainability*.

López Marrero T., Melecio Torres, A. Cruz Toro, A. and Berríos C. Booklet 'Climate change and society'. In collaboration with the Sea Grant Program.

Presentations:

Guest panelist: '*Fostering effective and inclusive collaborations in the LUQ-LTER*'. Conferencia anual del Luquillo Long-Term Ecological Research Program (LUQ- LTER). May 30, 2024. Universidad de Puerto Rico-Río Piedras.

Speaker, presentation 'Natural resource management and shared management: From theory to practice'. Seminar on the curricular sequence in Natural Resources, Department of Agro-environmental Sciences. November 30, 2023. University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez.

Guest panelist, presentation of the book *La piedra es una sombra que da vida: Prosa selecta (2017-2022)*, authored by Beatriz Lenín Figueroa. November 16, 2023. University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez.

Activities:

Coordinated by Drs. Tania López Marrero and Melody Fonseca Santos (Political Science program), the book's presentation and discussion 'The right to the common: Common goods, property and climate justice'. The activity included the participation of Dr. Érika Fontánez Torres (author of the book), Dr. José Anazagasty Rodríguez (UPRM-Sociology, commentator), Dr. Ángel Viera Tirado (UPRM-Political Science, commentator), and the Dr. Manuel Valdés Pizzini (UPRM-CIEL, greeting and welcome). It was held on April 24, 2024, at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez as part of the activities of the Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies (CIEL), the course on social aspects of climate change, and the curricular sequences in Sociology and Environmental Public Policy and International Relations, from the Department of Social Sciences.

Dr. Tania López Marrero coordinated, together with the Hemispheric Center for Cooperation in Research in Engineering and Applied Science (CoHemis), the presentation of the publication and discussion 'Population dynamics in Puerto Rico: 2010 to 2020'. The activity included the participation of the undergraduate Sociology student Adlín Melecio Torres (co-author and presenter), Dr. Tania del Mar López Marrero (co-author and presenter), Dr. Nancy Villanueva Colón (UPR-Bayamón, commentator), Dr. Ivonne Díaz Rodríguez (UPR-Mayagüez, commentator) and Dr. Marcel Castro Sitiriche (UPR-Mayagüez, commentator). It was held on April 11, 2024, at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez as part of the activities of CIEL and CoHemis. It was co-sponsored by the Sea Grant Program of the University of Puerto Rico.

Coordinated, together with the Hemispheric Center for Cooperation in Research in Engineering and Applied Science (CoHemis), the discussion 'The fight against coal: 30 years after the stoppage of the coal plant in Mayagüez'. The activity included the participation of Dr. Julia S. Mignucci Sánchez (Mayagüezanos por la Salud y el Ambiente) and Mr. Jorge Fernández Porto (Industrial Mission of Puerto Rico). It was held on November 9, 2023, at the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez as part of the CIEL, CoHemis and the

Environmental Sociology course. It was co-sponsored by the Sea Grant Program of the University of Puerto Rico.

Facilitated the workshop 'Using Google Forms for Online Questionnaires'. The workshop was held on November 28, 2023, at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and included the participation of undergraduate students from different disciplines.

Research proposal and creative work:

The proposal titled 'Climate change and resilience in Puerto Rico: Capturing, preserving, and disseminating community knowledge and coping strategies after disasters' was submitted, as part of the call for proposals from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The proposal, for an amount of \$150,000, was submitted by Dr. Melody Fonseca Santos (Political Science program) as Principal Investigator; She served as Co-PI in it.

Others:

Mentor to the following undergraduate students, who worked as research assistants and creative work in different projects: Adlín Melecio Torres (Sociology), Albert Louis Cruz Toro (Art Theory), Karelis Negrón Tudó (Comparative Literature), Camilla Molina Jiménez (Biology), Alanis Rodríguez García (Psychology).

Member of Paola Rodríguez García's graduate committee (Research proposal titled Examining The Integration of Social And Educational Justice Initiatives In A Stem Focused Project. MA in English Education, in progress).

Member of the graduate committee of Iremar Fernández Vázquez (MSc, Marine Sciences. Thesis titled Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Recreational Boating Use and Associated Impact on Seagrass Meadows in La Parguera, Puerto Rico; thesis completed and approved in December 2023).

Member of the Editorial Boards of the following academic journals: Disaster Prevention and Management and Caribbean Studies (UPR-Río Piedras).

Served as an evaluator (peer review) of an article for Disaster Prevention and Management magazine.

MANUEL VALDÉS PIZZINI

Digital projects:

Antropikos, reflexiones antropológicas de Manuel Valdés Pizzini.
<https://antropikos.com/>

Artículos sobre antropología, etnografía e historia de la costa.

De cara al mar, the project addresses the aquatic environment (wetlands, estuaries, the coast, the sea and the ocean) from an anthropological and historical perspective over the long duration of time. Our argument is simple: Puerto Rico has a long, complex and rich coastal social history, where people have faced the sea, to a certain extent; but it is a story about which very little is known. The objective of this project is to: document and appreciate this coastal and marine history. <https://www.decaralmar.org/>

Presentations:

The transfiguration of the coastline: notes for the history of the landscape and coastal settlements in Puerto Rico since the 16th century. At the General Assembly of the Caribbean Coastal and Ocean Observing System (CARICOOS), Club Náutico de San Juan, May 26, 2023.

Presentation to new students, about the Social Sciences research centers (CISA, CIEL), their trajectory and opportunities for the student body. August 4, 2023.

Presentation to middle school students on Anthropology's approach to coastal studies and its people. Montessori School of La Parguera. Professor Carla González. Thursday September 21, 2023.

Wading through Puerto-Rican seascapes: a handful of ethnohistorical notes. Presentation to graduate students of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, The City College of New York, CUNY. Professors Nandini Bagshee and Pedro Cruz. Thursday, September 28, 2023, via Zoom.

Presentation to students of Marine Ecology, UPR-Humacao, Professor Deborah Parrilla. BIOL 4635_Marine Resources seminar. The dilemma of the so-called "fishing villages": notes for a critical analysis. Friday October 6, 2023.



Hic sunt dracones / Here there are dragons: Multimedia Exhibition on the Basque fleets in St. Pierre and Miquelon (Newfoundland) and its tangents with Puerto Rico Mikel Otxoteko PhD, Artist In September and October 2023, the San Telmo Museum of Donostia (San Sebastián), in the Basque Country, presented the multimedia exhibition (videos, photographs, the written word) about the filming of films in Super-8 cameras in the seventies, by Margarita Olazabal (mother of Mikel Otxoteko), At that time she was a nurse for the Basque and Galician fleets that went to fish for cod on the banks of Newfoundland and landed on the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Otxoteko has rescued and curated these tapes and has built an exhibition linking these activities with the consumption of cod in Puerto Rico. Sea Grant and the Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies (CIEL), through Manuel Valdés Pizzini, collaborated with the materials for this staging. During the month of April 2023, we collaborated with Otxoteko and Efra Figueroa in the search for photographic, film, historical and ethnographic material for the exhibition held at the end of 2023.



School of Ethnography, Community and Environment, of the Social Action Research program (Inas) and the Transdisciplinary Institute of Research-Social Action (Itias) of UPR-Humacao). Three-day workshop for Environmental Sciences students, anchored in the processes of the municipality of Guánica. May 17-20, 2024. I participated as resources in the conversations, comments on the presentations of Anthropology colleagues, field visits, and the students' projects. I presented the workshop: The Guánica Dry Forest: warnings about incidental ethnography.

Publications:

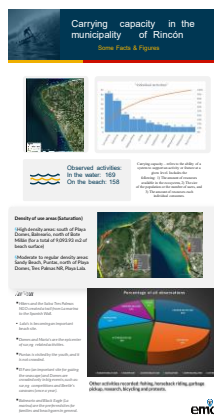
La vida en el archivo (Life in the archive, In *Antropikos*, October 30, 2023. <https://antropikos.com/2023/10/30/la-vida-en-el-archivo/>

Hace falta gente para la obra (relato “ficticio”). (There is a need of people for constriction – a fictional narrative). In *Antropikos*, February 28, 2024. <https://antropikos.com/2024/02/28/hace-falta-gente-para-la-obra-un-relato-ficticio/>

Collaborations:

United States Geologic Survey: Design and implementation of in-depth interviews with key actors (stakeholders) to evaluate the way in which they use the tools and sources of information on coastal hazards in Puerto Rico, and the USGS Coastal Change Hazards Portal designed by Legna Tores García PhD, USGS, St. Peterburg, FLA.

<https://marine.usgs.gov/coastalchangehazardsportal/>



Project for the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico, directed by William Hernández PhD (Environmental Mapping Consultants) on the carrying capacity of coastal areas (Guánica-Parguera, Rincón, Ocean Park-Isla Verde and Las Croabas. Collaboration in the design of field activities, collection of ethnographic and use data of the areas, writing of reports and design of infographics Reference: Environmental Mapping Consultants LLC 2024. Evaluation of Coastal Areas High Demands for Outdoors Recreational Use in Puerto Rico Coastal Zone. Project Report Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management and Climate Change Office of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DRNA).

- CISA - Center for Applied Social Research

The Center for Applied Social Research (CASR) is affiliated to the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus. Founded in 1989, CASR has an operations center in the Center of Research and Development (CRD) on campus. Through a diversity of theoretical approaches and a plurality of research techniques from various social sciences, CASR deals with various social problems and challenges to develop practical solutions to these while responding to the community in general as well as to the needs of the public and private sectors. CASR is an academic organization dedicated to social research, used not only to improve our understanding of human social action and various social problems and challenges but also to develop practical solutions to these problems and challenges. The Center carries out interdisciplinary applied social research to inform and promote academic studies, public policy, planning, social services and community action. Investigations conducted at the CASR involve the collaboration of researchers and students of various disciplines: anthropology, political science, psychology, sociology, history, and social work, among others. From an interdisciplinary perspective CASR researchers develop multifaceted and complex social research to improve our understanding of human social action and develop practical solutions to various social problems and challenges. CASR promotes interdisciplinary social research and collaboration among researchers through various working groups, coordination of research projects with other research institutes, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. CASR also promotes public and academic debates with respect to various social problems, social services, public policy and planning. It also promotes public and academic debates about theoretical and methodological issues relevant to applied social research. CASR organizes and sponsors talks, presentations, and symposia that encourage reflection and debate on campus and the community in general. CASR, committed to the teaching and learning of applied social research, also promotes workshops and other educational activities for the benefit of researchers, students, educators and the community in general.

Finally, CASR offers students the opportunity to apply the concepts and methods learned in their university courses to social reality, this through participating in various research projects conducted at the Center. CASR is one of the most important research “workshops” for college students. The interdisciplinary perspective that permeates our projects expose faculty and students to processes of analysis, and to a diversity of social and cultural situations. As part of this effort, the Center is co-sponsors the Symposium of Research in the Social Sciences: The Contribution of Undergraduate Students to Applied Social Research, together with the Department of Social Sciences and various student organizations.

- The Center for Applied Social Research (CISA), the Departments of Social Sciences and Psychology, and the student associations of both departments of the UPR-Mayagüez held the XXIX Research Symposium in the Social Sciences: “The Contribution of the Undergraduate Student /a to Applied Social Research”, in the Figueroa Chapel amphitheater of the Mayagüez University Campus on Thursday, May 2, 2024 from 8:00

am to 5:00 pm. More than 40 students presented their research work, orally or through posters in various areas of applied social research. This year, the students of the Student Associations of the Departments of Social Sciences and Psychology of the UPR-Mayagüez dedicated the symposium to Dr. Ingrid Rodríguez Ramos for her commitment to the training of undergraduate students. In research and service. XXIX Research Symposium in the Social Sciences: A Success – Center for Applied Social Research (uprm.edu) we continue to promote a culture of undergraduate research.





g. Objective 6: To impact our Puerto Rican society

1. The faculty of the UPRM Department of Social Sciences is proud to our graduate of the Political Science Program, Lcdo. Orlandy Cabrera Valentín, who was recognized for his performance as Assistant Attorney General of the Year. I must highlight that Atty. Cabrera was always a distinguished student for his academic performance, his work ethic, his social commitment and vocation to serve the country. Abundant blessings Lcdo. Cabrera, I am proud of the achievement he has achieved. I invite you to continue demonstrating his commitment to the country.



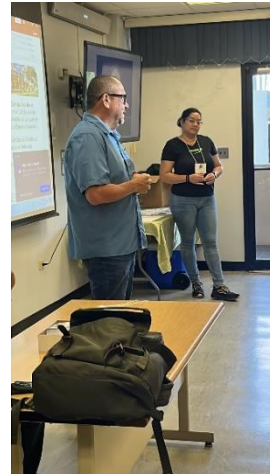
2. During June 5, 6 and 7, 2024, the Department of Social Sciences carried out its summer camp called: Multiverse of opportunities in the Social Sciences. There was the collaboration of Professors, the Association of Political Science Students and Administrative Staff of our department. The common denominator of all those who collaborated in this day of hard work was their high level of commitment to what our Department represents. The agenda of our event met its objectives, among which I must highlight the following:

- Make the Department of Social Sciences visible among the students who attended.
- Offer a suitable orientation for high school students.
- Identify short- and long-term recruitment strategies that we must consider to achieve greater student recruitment.
- Promote each of the academic programs and curricular sequences.
- Present in detail our research centers CIEL, CISA, SIEMPRE VIVAS Project. We carry out activities in each of the centers that respond to our research centers. It allowed us to make research visible, contributions to the scientific community, to our communities and vulnerable populations.
- The role of the Association of Political Science Students was very important since the importance of their contributions was reflected with their testimonies. They were motivating entities in the aspirations of those who appeared.
- Efficient and assertive strategies were identified to enter the private and public school sectors of the educational regions of the country.

The Department of Social Sciences definitely has a wealth of colleagues committed to the country's education. We introduce students to our Department's Academic Programs and research opportunities. We compile

very valuable information for the next year to obtain better results and aspire to a greater recruitment of students.





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VIDEO-2024-06-28-11-08-24.mp4



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Very grateful and pleased for the support that our summer camp called: Multiverse of society had. Dr. William Hernández, assistant to the Rector, Dr. Hernán Santos, Dean of Arts and Sciences, was welcomed. He started with a very good description of the academic programs and their relevance. We had a presentation of the academic activities carried out through teaching, employment opportunities, research opportunities; United Nations simulation and their importance were discussed. There were several activities, conferences and tours on campus familiarizing them with the processes of their student life. We visited the registrar's offices, buildings where courses are taught, admissions, CTI, Dean of Students, Finance, Medical Services, library, among others. We have participation in conferences by Dr. Gustavo Cortina, Associate Director, Dr. Tania López, Dr. Melody Fonseca, Dr. Ramonita Vega, Dr. Ingrid Rodriguez, Dr. Reinaldo Rosado, Dr. Michael González, Dr. Waldemar Arroyo and Dr. Luisa Seijo Maldonado for their collaboration and access to the Institute for the Development of Communities, SIEMPREVIVAS Program. Dr. José Anazagasty, Director of the Center for Applied Social Research. We finish with a delivery of certificates to all participants and ask them to complete an evaluation form. We had a visit from our mascot Jame, the students were able to take pictures with him. We thank the staff of the Campus Alumni Office for their collaboration. Also to the staff of the Campus' Sociocultural Activities Office. We had dynamics on global warming, the students took temperatures in different scenarios on the Campus and we concluded with the activity on Alternative Data Collection Techniques.

h. Objective 7: To strengthen school spirit, pride, and identity

1. Honoris Causa Doctor recognition, Luisa Seijo Maldonado

Dr. Luisa Seijo Maldonado has been recognized with the degree of Honoris Causa Doctorate. Our colleague is a bulwark in our institution, as demonstrated by her performance throughout her academic and administrative career in the Siempre Vivas Programs and the University Institute for the Development of Communities. We cannot overlook her commitment, her fervor, her sensitivity, her vocation for service, her dedication, her academic contributions, her activism and her community transformation. We must also highlight the hundreds of students and teachers that she has managed to inspire through her continuous fight for service to those who are vulnerable. When Luisa Seijo Maldonado's name is mentioned, she is associated with commitment and consistency in exemplifying her vocation. She is a colleague, friend and passionate about her convictions, this achievement is well deserved.



2. During the year, several meetings were held with students to strengthen the sense of belonging and College Pride. Likewise, during the academic year, meetings were held with the students of each of the Department's programs: Political Science, Social Sciences, History and Sociology.