

Rodrigo Fernós

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EDUCATION

- 2011 Ph. D. Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. Depto. de Historia.
Thesis: *"Nuestra Telefónica": La Nacionalización de la Puerto Rico Telephone Company (PRTC), 1974.* Director: Fernando Picó.
- 1997 M.A. Universidad de Minnesota, Minneapolis. Depto. de Historia de la Ciencia
Thesis: *On the Colonial Encounter of Medical Systems and the Image of Africa: Sir Hans Sloane, Edward Long, and Slaves in British Jamaica.* Director: John Eyler.
- 1990 B. A. Universidad de Texas, Austin. Depto. de Historia.
Concentration: History, Literature.
- 1986-1987 Brandeis University (Waltham, Massachusetts).
Concentration: History of ideas.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher, CCM Group (Washington DC), 2023-2025

Contract to write the history of CCM Group, with facilities in both the United States and Puerto Rico, which emerged out of Nelson Rockefeller's Latin American World War II activities and his International Basic Economy Corporation (IBEC) at mid-century.

Professor, Honors Program (UPR, Rio Piedras), 2020

Notable Achievement: The relationship between the development of modern science and its impact on Western political theory was explored, as well as its impact on the development of sovereignty during the Modern Period. The pedagogy used in the classroom was the 'problem solving' by requiring students to generate their own historical interpretations based on the materials read and discussed.

Professor, Biology Dept. (UPR, Rio Piedras), 2018

Notable Achievement: Introduced a relatively new field of study (evolutionary psychology) and conceptual analysis to the problems of ethics in science, placing these concepts in a comparative historical framework.

Professor, Honors Program (UPR, Rio Piedras), 2017-18

Notable Achievement: Recontextualized the history of Puerto Rico from the point of view of the history of science, specifically as seen in the light of natural history during the colonial period. Introduced an innovative 'problem solving approach' by requesting the students generate their own historical interpretation to the available information.

Associate Professor, Dept. of Physics, Natural Sciences Faculty, University of Puerto Rico (2015-17)

Notable Achievement: Wrote a comprehensive textbook in the history of science, using the latest studies in the field, which identified key development obstacles in their respective historical epochs.

Independent Researcher, Instituto de Estudios del Caribe, University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras, Puerto Rico) 2013-2014.

Notable Achievement: Synthesized the complex histories of science (history of chemistry) and social history (sports history) into a coherent whole, providing the latter with a richer explanation for its particular historical development.

Instructor, History Department, InterAmerican University (Cupey, Puerto Rico). 2011-2013.

Notable Achievement: Created a nuanced analysis of international relations in the Caribbean and Latin America, offering a history of science perspective to such relations. Applied pedagogical techniques obtained while at Brandeis University.

Researcher, History Department, University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras, Puerto Rico), 2008-2010.

Notable Achievement: Generated a comprehensive bibliography of nearly 1,000 citations pertaining to island histories in the Pacific Ocean that fit within a particular research criteria.

Administrator, Chula Vista properties, San Antonio Texas. 2007.

Notable Achievement: Using English and Spanish language fluency, a successful mediation and conflict resolution between owners and labor was obtained.

Instructor, History Department, University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras, Puerto Rico), 2002-2006.

Notable Achievement: Wrote a comprehensive textbook on the global history of science in Latin America, which did not exist at the time.

Medical transcriptionist, ARTEXT, (San Juan, Puerto Rico), 2003-4.

Notable Achievement: Enhanced the output efficiency of transcripts by programming Microsoft Word macros and other advanced features, including the production of comprehensive output listings on a weekly basis.

Salesman, Island Computer, (San Juan, Puerto Rico), 2002.

Notable Achievement: Worked extra hours to successfully help clients obtain lost digital data on a diverse range of medium and platforms, and quickly oriented potential clients to available products and solutions suitable to their needs and available resources.

Volunteer Work

Graphic artist, Centenary of Robinson School, Alumni Association (Santurce, PR) 2002.

Notable Achievement: Created a 20 page brochure, incorporating historical images as a contextual background to textual data, and prepared a brief description of the school's history.

Webpage designer, Various, 2001-2021.

Notable Achievement: Creation of diverse number of web pages with emerging technologies, and provided assistance to various NGOs with regard to technologies most suitable to their needs and resources.

Video digital processing, Various, 2003-2017.

Notable Achievement: Drastically expanded the diffusion and availability of isolated congress presentations, bypassing traditional physical limitations by using digital-electronic media and communications systems, while at the same time creating a high-ranking comprehensive database of said presentations.

Board of Directors, Asoc. Cond. El Monte Norte, 2005, 2017, 2022

Notable Achievement: Looked out for and protected the long-term interest of the community during a time of crisis after Hurricane Maria (September 2017), as well as sought to update infrastructural technologies oriented towards renewable energy resources and telecommunications.

Book Editor, 2017-2019

Notable Achievement Assisted in the preparation of books so that these would have a more coherent structural arrangement and thematic development.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Amistad y Progreso: Los Congresos Científicos Pan Americanos, 1898-1916. (Aventine: 2003), 280 pp.

Science Stillborn: The Rise and Impact of the Pan-American Scientific Congresses, 1898-1916. (iUniverse: 2003), 274 pp.

Medicine and International Relations in the Caribbean: Some Historical Variants. (iUniverse: 2006), 278 pp.

En Busca del fénix: La ciencia y su historia en América Latina. (AuthorHouse: 2006), 476 pp.

G. Fernós Maldonado y El Espacio para la Ciencia en Puerto Rico (Xlibris: 2013), 292 pp.

From Galileo to Boltzmann: A History of the Fragility and Resilience of Science (VirtualBookworm, 2016), 401 pp.

Biology and Ethics (VirtualBookworm, 2018), 355 pp.

Science and Sovereignty: Western Ideas about Science and Nation and their Expression in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean (VirtualBookworm, 2021), 378 pp.

Atomic Surfer: La difusión y desarrollo del surfing en Puerto Rico, vol 1. (Editorial Eray, 2021), 211 pp.

Land Masters: CCM and the Nikitine Family Legacy, Vol. 1: Andre Nikitine (Editorial CCM, 2025), 308 pp.

Academic articles

"The Social Factors Affecting the Diffusion of Parasitology to Puerto Rico and Hong Kong." *Puerto Rico Health Sciences Journal* 20, 4 (December 2001), 367-375.

Book reviews

Review of *Global Broadband Battles: Why the U.S. and Europe Lag while Asia Leads*

(Edited by Martin Fransman, Stanford University Press, 2006; 300pp.; ISBN: 0804753059; \$75.00). *Science and Public Policy* 34, 7 (August 2007), pp. 529-537.

Newspaper articles

"UPR doctor conducts research on malaria" *San Juan Star*, August 8, 2001, p 20.

"The science policy of small nations" *San Juan Star*, August 17, 2001, p. 80.

"The true language of science is english", *San Juan Star*, August 29, 2001, p. 23.

"Spirit of science lacking in P.R. museums" *San Juan Star*, September 10, 2001, p. 20.

"Supernovas & neutrinos: From tiny to vast" *San Juan Star*, September 28, 2001, p. 57.

"The Virtual Library: Sen. Margarita Ostolaza Critique" *San Juan Star*, 2002.

Cyber-editorials (partial list of 495 + articles at www.ictal.org)

"Vico's Failed Revolution: Chance, Variability, and Design in Eighteenth Century Historiography" (Oct. 15, 2005)

" 'Elementary, my dear Watson' : On Contemporary Scandals about Evolution, Cognition, and Race" (Oct. 22, 2007)

"A ciencia cierta: Susan, Omar y la meteorología en Puerto Rico" (Oct. 18, 2008)

"Raul Prebisch, ECLAC, and Economic History" (Oct 22, 2006)

"The Air Conditioner and The End of the World" (Feb. 20, 2006)

"The lack of science archives in Puerto Rico" (May 18, 2005)

" El problema de la autonomía institucional y su impacto en la política de investigación y desarrollo" (Jan. 13, 2005)

CONFERENCES

Presentations in academic conferences

Presentation of book written by Leyda Melián, *La segunda carta* (2021), Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (ICP), Zoom virtual conference, April 27, 2021.

"La medicina y la co-construcción de la identidad africana durante el siglo XVIII: el caso de Jamaica" Ponencia presentada en la conferencia "África y sus identidades " Facultad de Humanidades, Universidad de Puerto Rico, octubre de 2009.

Commentator on Panel "Experiencias en la Conservación del Patrimonio Histórico en las Ciencias de la Salud", March 26, 2009, in the conference "Iniciativas de Investigación Histórica y Desarrollo de Museos y Archivos en las Ciencias de la Salud, Recinto de Ciencias Médicas, 24 al 27 de marzo, 2009"

"Tecnología y Comunicación: Entre la línea dura y la línea suave". Lecture presented at the conference "Pensar la comunicación en un nuevo milenio en Puerto Rico: II encuentro de investigadores en comunicación", School of Communications, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, April 2008.

"Amistad y Progreso: El Primer Congreso Científico Pan Americano, 1908." Lecture given at the XXI Congreso Internacional de la Historia de la Ciencia y la Tecnología, México D.F., México, July 2001.

"Of Cultural Affinities and Social Transformations: Chilean Catholicism and French Science in the Nineteenth Century." Lecture presented at the ILASSA conference, University of Texas (Austin), March 1998.

COURSES OFFERED

- Science and Sovereignty, University of Puerto Rico (Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico)
- Biology and Ethics. (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras)
- Naturalists of the Hispanic Colonial Period. (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras)
- History of the Scientific Revolution (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras)
- World Civilization, 1500- (InterAmerican University)
- World Civilization, -1500 (InterAmerican University)
- History of International Relations between the United States and Latin America (InterAmerican University, Cupey, graduate level)
- History of the United States and Puerto Rico (InterAmerican University, Cupey, graduate level)
- History of Puerto Rico 1800-2000 (InterAmerican University)
- History of Science in Latin America. (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras)
- United States History, 1492-1865. (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras)
- United States History, 1865-Present. (University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras)

ORGANIZATIONS

INSTITUTO DE LA CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGÍA EN AMÉRICA LATINA (www.ictal.org)

Organization founded by Fernós in 2001, website established on November 2002. By 2008, the site contained more than 3,500 articles and editorials, with more than 80 videotaped conferences containing some 500 lectures. Google page rank of 6. Institutional links to the Arecibo Observatory, the Sierra Club of Puerto Rico, ACEER (Alianza Ciudadana para la Educación en Energía Renovable), the Luis Muñoz Marín Foundation, and the Society of Planification in Puerto Rico, amongst others.

ACADEMIA DE LA HISTORIA DE LA CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGÍA EN PUERTO RICO (www.ahscipr.org)

Organization founded by Fernos in 2023 for the purposes of promoting the history of science and technology in Puerto Rico. As stated on its website, *“La AHSCIPR fue formada en 2023 por un grupo de intelectuales puertorriqueños disatisfechos con el estado de situacion en Puerto Rico sobre la historia de la ciencia--un campo practicamente inexistente a traves de sus instituciones academicas y sociales. Aun hoy dia en el siglo veintiuno (XXI), todavia no existen cursos, programas y departamentos dedicados al campo.”*

WEBSITES

Archivo Gonzalo Fernós López (www.gonzalofernoslopez.com)

Digital archive of public papers of Architect/Lawyer Gonzalo Fernós López. Fernós Lopez designed the first parking building in Puerto Rico, initiated legal precedent in the Puerto Rico Supreme Court, and fought numerous environmental battles. 101 GB, 100,000 pages. 2013.

Gonzalo Fernós Maldonado and the Space for Science (www.gonzalofernosmaldonado.com)

Companion website to book *“G. Fernós Maldonado y El Espacio para la Ciencia en Puerto Rico”*, compiling the majority of of photographs, architectural designs, and interviews obtained while researching the book. Family history, professional development, structures built are some of the pieces of information found therein. 2012.

Archivo ICTAL (www.archivo.ictal.org)

Digital repository of 130+ conferences and nearly 1,000 lecturers on science, technology, and medicine related topics in Latin America nad Puerto Rico. Material dating between 2003 and 2017 is included in a wide range of audio and video formats.

Colecciones ICTAL (www.colecciones.ictal.org)

Digital repository of digitized primary sources pertaining to history of science in Latin America and Puerto Rico. Topics covered in the repository include the Pan American Scientific Congresses, the Puerto Rico Telephone Company, Bailey K. Ashford, Gonzalo Fernós López, and the Peynado and Peynado lawfirm. More than 60,000 sheets of documentation included.

Biblioteca de la Ciencia Hispánica en Estados Pequeños (biblioteca.ictal.org)

Compendium of bibliographic resources related to the scientific and technological activity in small states or islands that are or were a part of the Hispanic colonial world. B-CHEP is divided into 25 collections and 74 identifiers. Uses the OMEKA platform.

Libros ICTAL (libros.ictal.org)

Compendium of bibliographic resources related to the scientific and technological activity in Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis on books published during the prior year. Uses the Word Press platform, along with S2memberhsip and other add-ons to facilitate the user’s searches. Variuos subscription levels are available according to the user’s budget; from one day to one year.

Memberships

History of Science Society
Society for the History of Technology
American Historical Association
Sierra Club of Puerto Rico

REFERENCES

Available upon request.