

Fernando Franco Castro Escobar

Podcast | [LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)
f.f.castro.escobar@keele.ac.uk

EDUCATION

- 2023- **Ph.D. American Studies (Student)**, Keele University (UK)
- 2021-23 **M.A. Peace and Justice**, University of San Diego (USA)
GPA: 3.92 | [Portfolio](#)
- 2021 **M.A. Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies**, Lancaster University (UK)
Distinction | *Qualitative Research: Relative Deprivation and Modern Slavery*
- 2018 **B.A. Political Science**, Universidad de las Américas Puebla (Mexico)
- 2018 **B.A. International Relations**, Universidad de las Américas Puebla (Mexico)
- 2016-17 Study Abroad, University of New Mexico (USA) & Keimyung University (South Korea)

EXPERIENCE

- 2021-2023 **University of San Diego**
Graduate Assistant | [Office of Ethical Development and Restorative Practices](#)
Coordinated a Restorative Justice program addressing the impact of alcohol use on underage students. Recruited and provided training to 65 facilitators while serving as a member of the *Restorative Justice Strategic Committee*. Provided year-long guidance to 15 undergraduate students, members of the *Student Conduct Leadership Team*. Oversaw the implementation of multiple peer-review boards, critical issues board, and administrative hearings.
- Podcast Founder and Producer** | **Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies**
Directed the production of 14 episodes of the [Is The World On Fire?](#) podcast as Co-founder of the show. In less than a year, the show was played in more than 30 countries, more than 1,000 times, and streamed on seven different platforms. The show hosted guests such as Kim Stanley Robinson and Etleva Bejko, and explored subjects related to peacebuilding, social innovation, research and other areas of expertise for practitioners wrestling against the challenges faced by our world today. The show was rated in the top 15% most shared globally by Spotify in 2022.
- Practice Fellow** | **Cross-Border Initiatives at Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice:**
Successfully coordinated the 2021-2022 [Kroc Border Fellows](#) program, including the administration of grants to 7 Border Fellows and awards to 10 Border Allies. This program provides funding to initiatives that prevent and reduce existing cycles of violence at the US-Mex border region. Developed a *Monitoring & Evaluation* strategy for the second iteration of the program in 2022, garnering a grant of \$30,400 (USD). Launched a call for applications, selecting 7 fellows out of a pool of almost 300 applicants. Participated in the search committee for a new program director
- 2021 **Digital Content Ambassador** | **Lancaster University:**
Founded and directed [The Road to Lancaster Podcast](#), producing six episodes featuring students of different programs. The project aimed at attracting prospective international students by sharing real experiences from postgraduate students in the department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion.
- 2019 **Volunteer** | **Amnesty International, Regional Offices in Mexico City:**
Assisted in the planning and development of the 2019-2020 research campaign. Conducted research about the use of force by the National Guard in Mexico while monitoring government activities. Partnered with other organizations and key

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stakeholders. Explored and defined potential audiences (readers, sponsors and donors) for the publication of future reports, using social media analyses.

- 2019 **Desk Orientation Receptionist | New Mexico Immigrant Law Center:**
Provided legal orientation about procedures related to acquiring US residency or citizenship. Assisted lawyers and case-workers overseeing deportations, DACA, asylum seekers, and refugee status. Translated official documents (Spanish-English) for legal purposes.
- 2017 **Research Assistant | Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights:**
Contributed to ongoing research projects on internally displaced persons in Mexico. Drafted preliminary reports. Wrote legal and historical reference documents.
- 2017 **Intern | Poblano Institute of Migrant Assistance:**
Provided legal orientation and assistance to migrants and their families in relation to procedures regarding passports, american visas, repatriations and consular documents. Managed databases and provided desk support for residents with the intention to migrate to the United States.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 **Castro Escobar, Fernando Franco.** “[Reflections around Trafficking in Persons: its background, severity, and challenges.](#)” Ser-Migrante Magazine, pp, 15-22. United Nations International Organization for Migration.
- 2016 Collaborated in: **Le Clercq, JA & Rodríguez Sánchez Lara, G.,** “[Global Impunity Index - Mexico \(2016\).](#)” UDLAP. CESIJ. ISBN: in process.
- 2015 Collaborated in: **Le Clercq, JA & Rodríguez Sánchez Lara, G.,** “[Global Impunity Index \(2015\).](#)” UDLAP. CESIJ. ISBN: 978-607-7690-45-0

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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|-----------|---|----------------|
| 2024 | Turing Scheme Grant Grant for a 12-week research placement conducting fieldwork in Japan | £2,375 (GBP) |
| 2023-2027 | David Bruce Centre & Research Centre for Social, Political & Global Studies Fully Funded Studentship 3-year doctoral stipend (UKRI-equivalent) and 100% research tuition costs covered. | £103,992 (GBP) |
| 2023 | Keele University’s Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Grant Research funding applied towards Oral History methodological training provided by the Oral History Society and the British Library. | £187 (GBP) |
| 2023 | David Bruce Centre for American Studies Grant Research funding applied towards fieldwork in Canada. | £671 (GBP) |
| 2021-2023 | Fulbright-García Robles Scholarship awarded for fulbright studies at University of San Diego (United States). | \$50,000 (USD) |

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2021-2023	Dean's Graduate Merit Scholarship 100% discount applied towards postgraduate tuition fees at the University of San Diego.	\$45,892 (USD)
2023	Excellence in Writing Award: Long-Form Piece Awarded to the essay entitled " <i>A Discursive Struggle to Recategorize the Past: Drawing Lines of Continuity Between the Non-Paradigmatic and Paradigmatic Transitions in Mexico</i> "	N.A.
2023	Patricia Márquez Social Innovator Award: Is The World On Fire? Podcast Awarded to co-founder students in recognition and support of creative and innovative endeavors across boundaries and disciplines.	N.A.
2022	University of San Diego's Student Opportunity Grant Training to conduct Twitter Volume analysis on the #MeToo, using a <i>Brandwatch</i> license.	\$150 (USD)
2021	The Lancaster Gold Award Assessed employability award that recognises individual achievements, and endorses key employability skills developed through extracurricular activities at Lancaster University.	N.A.
2020-2021	Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) Total amount awarded as scholarship to study at Lancaster University (United Kingdom).	\$12,160 (GBP)
2019	Jóvenes de Excelencia Scholarship Awarded to train, guide and financially support outstanding students with clear academic goals in Mexico.	\$20,000 (MXN)
2012-2018	Universidad de las Américas Puebla Scholarship Applied towards tuition during undergraduate studies.	\$575,424 (MXN)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024	Engagement Poster Presenter Keele Research Conference Poster title: " <i>Why and How do Youth Remember?</i> "
2023	Oral Presenter Staffordshire and Keele University Postgraduate Research Seminar " <i>Youth Organizing at the Dawn of a Post-Hibakusha Nuclear Disarmament Movement</i> "
2023	Panelist 3rd Youth Nuclear Peace Summit at Canadian Museum for Human Rights " <i>Freeing the world from Nuclear Weapons</i> "
2023	Guest Speaker International Week at the Universidad de las Américas Puebla " <i>Sharing what I have learned as a Fulbright-Garcia Robles grantee with you</i> "
2023	Panelist Distinguished Lecture Series at Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Discussion with science fiction author of <i>The Ministry for the Future</i> , Kim Stanley Robinson, on social and political change to address climate change.

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- 2021 **Oral Presenter | XVIII Symposium of Mexican Studies and Students in the UK**
“*Humour and Peacebuilding: The Use of Humour as an (1) Informative Mobilizer, (2) Healing Aid, and (3) Process Tool in Contemporary Mexico.*” 1-2 July, University of Nottingham.
- 2021 **Oral Presenter | 8th Annual Nottingham Postgraduate Conference in Politics and International Relations**
“*Necropolitics in the 21st Century.*” 18 June, University of Nottingham.

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATES, COURSEWORK AND SKILLS

- 2023 Certificate of Trauma Awareness, Resilience, and Restorative Approaches Across the Professions | University of San Diego
- 2022-2025 Human Subjects Research - Social and Behavioral Research Certificate | Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)
- 2022 Foundations Certificate about Consumer Research Skills | Brandwatch
- 2022 Introduction to Data Science: Statistics Programming With R | UNAM
Proven understanding of core functions, libraries, visualizations, and coding for Statistical Data Science in R.
- 2022 Online Training: An Introduction to Peer Review | Web of Science
- 2020 The Science of Well-being | Yale University
Covered basic principles of Positive Psychology, the main misconceptions about achieving happiness and effective tools to help increase it.
- 2020 Moralities of Everyday Life | Yale University
Introduction to the core philosophical currents that have addressed morality in human history, analyzing its political and social consequences in our lives.
- 2020 Children's Human Rights - An Interdisciplinary Introduction | Université de Genève
An exploration of the main schools of thought and contemporary issues in relation to children's rights.

VOLUNTEERING, INITIATIVES AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

- 2024 **Youth Leader | United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs**
Selected as one of the 100 Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons participants out of over 2000 applicants from over 150 countries across the globe.
- 2024 **Selected Participant | Early Career Network & Political Studies Association (UK)**
Paper accepted in “*Young people's politics: From paper to publication workshop- A vision for young people's futures*” at Nottingham Trent University.
- 2022 **Peace Ambassador | Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**
Collaborated with the graphic designer Adrián G. Díaz to produce a visual guide to the concept of “*Positive Peace*”. The [visual guide](#) was first presented online at the IEP's Ambassador Programme and then workshopped at the University of San Diego's Kroc School, as part of the incoming cohort of students' Orientation Week program.

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- 2021 **Fundraiser | Border Angels**
Fundraised \$810 (USD) for the *Shelters Aid Program* in Tijuana. The fundraiser included activities such as: merchandise for sale, developing an online donation platform, and undertaking a social media campaign. The event concluded with a guest speaker—expert on immigration and asylum—at the Kroc School of Peace Studies.
- 2021 **Museum Installation | Hostile Terrain 94 - Museum of Us San Diego**
Participated in the creation of an installation with an interactive map composed of over 3,200 handwritten, geolocated toe tags that represent migrants who have died trying to cross the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. The installation's aim is to raise awareness about the realities of the U.S.–Mexico Border.
- 2017 **Cultural Ambassador | Global Supporters of Daegu City Brand**
Appointed by the Mayor of Daegu Metropolitan City, Youngjin Kwon, to engage in multicultural activities in South Korea.
- 2015 **Secretary General | 28th Latin American Model of United Nations**
Oversaw the participation of more than 350 participants, including faculty staff, international students, delegates, guest speakers, sponsors, observers, and other attendees.