
Christian Robles-Baez

(Updated: April 2025)

Stanford University – Department of History

450 Jane Stanford Way, Bldg 200, Room 113. Stanford, CA 94305

<https://history.stanford.edu/people/christian-robles-baez> | E-mail: robles-baez@stanford.edu | Mobile: +1 (332) 910-4390

EDUCATION

Present Ph.D. Candidate in History, Stanford University.

Dissertation title: “The Making of an Improbable Global Market: Coffee (1808-1850)”

Advisor: Zephyr Frank. Co-Advisor: Mark Granovetter

2022 M.A. in History, Stanford University

2018 M.A. in Economics, Universidad de los Andes – Colombia

2016 B.A. in Political Science, Universidad de los Andes – Colombia

- Minor in History
 - Minor in Economics
-

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 - Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship 2025-26

- Alfred D. Chandler Jr. Travel Grant, Business History Conference
- Alfred D. Chandler Jr. Travel Fellowship, Business History Initiative - Harvard Business School
- Dianne Woest Fellowship, The Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC)

2024 - Tinker Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2024-25, Stanford University-CLAS

- Stanford Center for Latin American Studies’ Conference Travel Grant
- Hoefer Mentoring Award in Undergraduate Writing, Stanford University
- Writing Fellow for the Research Seminar on History of Capitalism, Stanford Department of History. Professor: Destin Jenkins
- Stanford King Center on Global Development Graduate Student Fellowship (declined)

2023 - George P. Shultz Dissertation Support Fund, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)

- Tinker Graduate Field Research Grant, Stanford Center for Latin American Studies
- Stanford King Center on Global Development - Lemann Center Graduate Student Research Funding
- Stanford Center for Latin American Studies’ Research Field Grant

2022 - Stanford King Center on Global Development’s Graduate Student Research Funding

- John D. Wirth Research Fund, Stanford Department of History

2019 - Department of History Full Fellowship. Stanford University

- UC Irvine Regents’ Fellowship from the School of Humanities (declined)
- UC Irvine Graduate Dean’s Recruitment Fellowship (declined)

2015 - Full masters fellowship granted by the Centro de Español of the Universidad de Los Andes

PUBLICATIONS (REVIEWED)

2025 - *Article*: Bucheli, M; Robles-Baez, C.; Medina L.F. “The Political Economy of Commodity Cartel Formation: The Case of Coffee, 1930-1940” *Journal of Economic History* (accepted for publication, coming out in December 2025)

2024 - *Review*: Robles-Baez C. “Making Better Coffee: How Maya Farmers and Third Wave Tastemakers Create Value by Edward Fisher” *Environmental History* (vol 29) issue 1

2021 - *Book*: Urrutia, M. & Robles Baez, C. Política social para la equidad en Colombia. Historia y experiencias. (Bogotá: Ediciones Uniandes)

2020 - *Review*: Robles Baez, C. “Estructura Histórica, Social y Política de Colombia, de Fernando Guillén Martínez” *Lecturas de Economía* (92), 233-236

- 2019** - Article: Urrutia, M. & Robles Baez, C. "Mercado y gasto social. La agenda pendiente para la equidad en Colombia" *Revista Desarrollo y Sociedad* (82), 11-39

PUBLICATIONS (WORKING PAPERS)

- 2022** - Robles-Baez C. "Setting up the Coffee Empire: The United States and Brazil in the Early 19th Century". Stanford Department of History
- 2018** - Urrutia, M. & Robles Baez, C. "Las transferencias condicionadas en Colombia: una historia del programa Familias en Acción" (2001 – 2018). *Documento CEDE* (54) 1-36
- Robles Baez, C. "¿Coludir o no? Las negociaciones entre Brasil y Colombia para limitar la oferta de café en la década de 1930". *Documento CEDE* (2), 1-57

CONFERENCES OR PRESENTATIONS

- 2025** - "Paving the way for the coffee Boom: Pre-Railway Transport Developments in Brazil"
March 12—Business History Conference. Atlanta, GA
April 13—American Society for Environmental History Conference. Pittsburgh, PA
- 2024** - "Os caminhos para o boom do café: Expansão de transportes antes das ferrovias no Brasil".
December 13 — Ciclo de Debates da Regional Sudeste ABPHE-NEPHES. Universidade Federal Fluminense in Niterói, Brazil
December 5 — VIII CLADHE. Montevideo, Uruguay
- "Paving the Way for the Coffee Boom: Pre-Railway Transport Developments in Early Nineteenth Century Brazil".
November 15 — Symposium on Commodity Markets in the History of Capitalism and Economic Growth. Stanford University
November 4 — Economic Sociology Workshop. Stanford University
- "Brazil and the Origins of the Modern-Global Coffee Market". The Lemann Center. *October 29* — Stanford University
- "James Birkhead and the Origins of the Global Coffee Market 1817-1849". LASA. *June 12* — Bogotá, Colombia
- "The Game of Scales and the Origins of the Global Coffee Market". Caribbean Studies Reading Group. *May 9* — Stanford University
- "Ascensão e queda de Diogo Birkhead, comerciante americano estabelecido no Rio de Janeiro (1817-1850)". Workshop on "Second Slavery" studies. *March 27* — Online
- (With Daniel Bastos, Luiz Fernando Saraiva e Carlos Gabriel Guimarães) "As origens do capitalismo". NEPHES Second Seminar. *March 13* — Universidade Federal Fluminense in Niterói, Brazil
- "The Rise and Fall of James Birkhead, Baltimorean Merchant Established in Rio de Janeiro". Transnational History Symposium. *February 8* — Stanford University
- 2022** - "Setting up the Coffee Empire: The United States and Brazil in the Early 19th century".
April 28 — Berkeley Latin American History Workshop, Department of History — University of California at Berkeley
March 2 — U.S. History Workshop, Department of History — Stanford University
- 2019** - (With Miguel Urrutia) "Mercado y gasto social. La agenda pendiente para la equidad en Colombia". Seminario CEDE, School of Economics. *April 11* — Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá
- "To collude or not? The negotiations between Brazil and Colombia to restrict the supply of coffee in the 1930s. *April 5* — 77th MPSA Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2018** - "¿Coludir o no? Las negociaciones entre Brasil y Colombia para limitar la oferta de café en la década de 1930".
June 20 — Banco de la República de Colombia in Bogotá
April 20 — Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá
- 2017** - "¿Coludir o no? Las negociaciones entre Brasil y Colombia para limitar la oferta de café en la década de 1930". 2nd Seminar of the Latin American Economic History Network and the 22nd LACEA-LAMES Meeting. *November 10* — Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2016** - "RedesHistoria". 3rd Public History Conference. *July 8* — Bogotá, Colombia

SERVICE

- 2024** - Organizer and co-chair of the Symposium “Commodity Markets in the History of Capitalism and Economic Growth” (with Narusa Yamato) November 15, Stanford University
- Organizer and co-chair of the Symposium “Baltimore and Latin America in the Nineteenth Century” (with Matthew Randolph), February 8, Stanford University
- 2020/22** - Financial Officer, Colombian Student Association at Stanford
- 2010** - Member of the Board of the Instituto Pedagógico Nacional (High School in Bogotá) as students’ representative

LANGUAGES

- Spanish: Native speaker
- Portuguese: Fluent
- English: Fluent
- Italian: Advanced

MENTIONS IN PRESS

- 2023** - “Inflación, alimentos y vías” by Carlos Caballero Argáez in *El Tiempo* - January 13
- 2021** - “Pobres y desiguales como siempre” by Ana Lucia Duque Salazar in *Connectas* - June 10
- 2020** - “La prioridad es enfrentar la desigualdad” by Carlos Caballero in *El Tiempo* - June 5
- 2019** - “La jugada del ministro Carrasquilla” by Carlos Caballero in *El Tiempo* - June 21

OP-EDS

- 2022** - (With Mikael Wolfe) “After Gustavo Petro’s Historic Victory, the Battle to Change Colombia Is Just Beginning” for *Jacobin Magazine* - June 29
- (With Mikael Wolfe) “Gustavo Petro Is the Only Democratic Choice in Colombia’s Presidential Election” for *Jacobin Magazine* - June 24
- Translated into Spanish by Valentin Huarte for *Jacobin América Latina* as “Petro es la única alternativa democrática” and by María Eugenia Vasquez-Semadeni for *NACLA* as “Gustavo Petro es la única opción democrática en la elección presidencial de Colombia”
- (With Mikael Wolfe) “Colombia’s Left Is on the Brink of a Historic Breakthrough” for *Jacobin Magazine* - May 18

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS (UNDERGRAD LEVEL)

Winter 2024

- “Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society” Stanford University. Professors: Thomas Mullaney and Nicole Martinez

Winter 2022

- “Film and History of Latin American Revolutions” Stanford University. Professor: Mikael Wolfe

Fall 2021

- “Human Society and Environmental Change” Stanford University. Professors: Zephyr Frank and Rosamond Naylor

Spring 2021

- “Global Modern History” Stanford University. Professor: Robert Crews

Fall 2020

- “Mexican Migration to the U.S”. Stanford University. Professor: Mateo Carrillo

2018/19

- “Introduction to the Colombian Economy” Universidad de los Andes. Professor: Miguel Urrutia

COURSE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Master's level:

- 2017/19** - Governance of the world’s economy – Universidad de los Andes

Undergrad level:

- 2015** - Pre-calculus – Universidad de los Andes
- History of Science – Universidad de los Andes
- 2012/15** - Statistics 1 for Social Sciences – Universidad de los Andes
- 2014** - Differential Calculus – Universidad de los Andes

- Modern Colombia – Universidad de los Andes
- 2013**
- Statistics 2 for Social Sciences – Universidad de los Andes
 - History of Colombia – Universidad de los Andes

CURRENT ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- The Business History Conference (BHC)
- American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
- Núcleo de Pesquisa sobre História Econômica e Social (NEPHES)
- Center For Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA)

OTHER ACADEMIC POSITIONS

August 2020 – Present

- Researcher in the project “Urban discontents”. Stanford University. Director: Zephyr Frank

March 2018 – August 2019

- Research assistant at the Center for Economic and Social Development Studies (CEDE) – Universidad de los Andes

June 2016 – September 2019

- Research assistant for the project “Coffee and economic policy in Colombia”. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Director: Marcelo Bucheli

January 2016 – December 2017

- Graduated teaching assistant at the Centro de Español – Universidad de los Andes

June 2016 – June 2017

- Research assistant for the book Historia de la verdad en Occidente. Published by Fondo de Cultura Económica and Ediciones Uniandes (Bogotá). Author: Mauricio Nieto

July – December 2015

- Research assistant for the Project “The European conquest of the Atlantic in the 16th Century”. Department of History and Center for Innovation in Technology and Education – Universidad de los Andes

2014

- Academic student exchange – Universidade de Brasília (UnB), Brazil