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PhD in Social Anthropology. His academic interests focus on the analysis of practices of memory-building and on the study of processes of naturalization of violent logics within the frame of armed conflicts.

He was granted a research fellowship within the Marie Curie Actions “Networks for Initial Training”, financed by the European Commission. He was a research member and co-editor of the Colombian National Report on Antipersonnel Mines, produced by the National Centre of Historical Memory (CNMH) and the *Prolongar* Foundation. He is currently leading the Research Group on Conflict and Peace Studies of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences at the University of Medellín (Colombia).

Research Project

Commemoration and Remembrance: Memory-Building Processes and State Legitimacy in Colombia.

The effort to build memory up has been institutionalized in Colombia since 2006 through the work of the National Centre for Historical Memory and the construction of museums and memorials. Nowadays, the country is facing the most recent episode of such a process as a product of the agreement reached by the Colombian State and the FARC (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*). In spite of this institutional effort, also communitarian initiatives have been undertaken.

The research stems from this institutional rise of memory-building in Colombia. The topics intended to be examined depart from it in order to analyse the relation between the institutional efforts in the process of memory building (to be called “distant memories” - in the context of the research -) and the ways in which locals shape their own memory (“close memories”). The main objective is to analyse the relation and tensions between national acts of commemoration and local processes of remembrance.

The research has been carried out through a longitudinal case study in a rural community affected by the armed conflict (*Nueva Venecia*, in the Colombian Caribbean), where the State has made different institutional acts of memory building. Upon this empirical background, this research carries out an analysis about the production of an institutionalized collective memory in Colombia as a tool to build up an image of a State aiming to set itself up as the legitimate representative of the national victims in a context of “post-conflict”.