

Ricardo Pérez (He / Him)

Langton Close, London, WC1X 0HD | ricardo.perez.23@ucl.ac.uk | (+44) 7444 242036

PROFILE

Proactive and innovative urban researcher and practitioner with a strong foundation in stakeholder engagement and interdisciplinary collaborations within the development sector. With a keen interest in advancing sustainable principles and nature-based solutions, I have successfully led projects focused on creating resilient urban environments. My experience includes working with diverse teams to deliver comprehensive analyses, applying qualitative and quantitative research to understand complex socio-spatial problems and working with clients to find strategic pathways to achieve sustainability and governance goals. I am eager to work as a doctoral researcher on the “Decision support methods to foster regenerative construction solutions and increase resilience of vulnerable and underserved communities” project in ETH Zurich.

EDUCATION

University College London, Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment MSc Building and Urban Design in Development	London Expected September 2024
Universidad EAFIT BA Political Science, minor in project management Valedictorian, degree with honours. GPA 4.69/5.00	Medellín, Colombia December 2022

PUBLICATIONS

-
- Trujillo, J. P., López, N., Pérez-Restrepo, R., & Silva, S. (2022). “Bobo el que no confía” ¿Cómo construir cultura de la legalidad a través de la confianza y las normas sociales?. *EUNOMÍA. Revista En Cultura De La Legalidad*, (23), 14-29. doi.org/10.20318/eunomia.2022.7104
 - Cano, C., Escobar, J., Pérez, R. y Silva, S. (2021). Proyectos valiosos: emociones políticas en la pandemia. *Ciencia Política*, 16(31), 157–179. doi.org/10.15446/cp.v16n31.98331
 - Chinkousky, M. A.; Pérez, R; and Silva, S. (2021) “Si los demás se distancian: acción colectiva, confianza y normas sociales para el cuidado en tiempos de la COVID-19. Análisis del primer año de la pandemia.” *Gobernar: The Journal of Latin American Public Policy and Governance*: 5(9), 63-76. orb.binghamton.edu/gobernar/vol5/iss9/6/

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Green gentrification in large urban river renaturalisation projects <i>University College London</i>	London May 2024 - Present
Master's dissertation project, supervised by Dr. Emmanuel Osuteye. Developed in-depth knowledge of environmental justice and green gentrification. I am conducting a Most Different Systems Design comparative analysis of Parques del Rio and Madrid Rio projects.	
Culture of Legality and Norm Compliance <i>Universidad de Antioquia. Funded budget: GBP 3000</i>	Medellín August - November 2021
Project supervised by Santiago Silva, MSc. Developed in-depth knowledge of literature searching on norm-compliance and citizen culture [cultura ciudadana].	
Valuable projects: Political emotions in the pandemic <i>Universidad EAFIT</i>	Medellín September - December 2020
Project funded by the Culture Department of the city and supervised by Santiago Silva, MSc. Gained experience in qualitative research, specifically in discourse analysis. Analysed around 350 news articles published during the first quarter of the pandemic.	

PROJECTS

Chadwick Trust Postgraduate Travel Allowance

University College London

Copenhagen

March 2023 - Ongoing

Funded budget: GBP 2000

Critically evaluated how community engagement can serve as a catalyst of the benefits produced in the improvement of urban spaces through nature-based infrastructure. It was funded by the Chadwick Trust Postgraduate Travel Allowance, of which I was named Jeroen Jenkins Fellow. Preliminary results showed a social and perceptual divide of the residents of both sides of Emdrup street. Design and programmatic strategies were proposed to Arup to address this divide in their Living Lab.

Barrios Vivos (Living Neighbourhoods)

S2Cities Programme, Fundación MiSangre + Global Infrastructure Basel

Envigado, Colombia

July 2023 - May 2024

Funded budget: GBP 6000

Co-created two small-scale pocket parks within vulnerable neighbourhoods of Envigado. The spaces were built following nature-guided design criteria, introducing host species, replacing hard surfaces and prioritising green areas. Both design and construction were done with the community through workshops ('talleres de imaginarios'). The project also showcases how the tension between elders and young people can be addressed via participation and culture.

More can be seen in: <https://www.laotraciudad.org/>

MSc BUDD Overseas Practice Engagement 2024

University College London

Sao Paulo

April 2024

Central component of the MSc BUDD. It is a process of knowledge co-production between students, partners, urban dwellers and their organisations. Through engaging with partners and the built environment, the project reflected on how ocupações help us reinterpret our relations with each other and the Earth.

Project report can be seen in: [Poetics of Reparative Belonging Report](#)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LaOtraCiudad youth collective

Founder & Executive Director

Medellin, Colombia

October 2021 - Present

- Created a platform to promote youth activism and formation in urban related topics.
- Won two public competitions to develop a pilot (Barrios Vivos) of public space co-production.

Alejandro Echeverri + Valencia Arquitectos

Project Coordinator

Medellín, Colombia

May 2023 - August 2023

- Developed detailed fieldwork and visual assessment of the university's campuses, analysing sustainability and design flaws and potentials of infrastructure and public spaces.
- Engaged with stakeholders to understand their vision on the institution's future.
- Prepared a report on the campus challenges and opportunities, and proposed the conceptual framework and timeline to serve as tender books for the development of its Master Plan.

Office of Alejandro Echeverri (former Chief Architect of Medellín)

Personal Assistant

Medellín, Colombia

July 2022 - September 2023

- Designed summer courses and international visits on Medellín's urban transformation.

Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (urbam), Universidad EAFIT

Intern, Academic and Project Areas

Medellín, Colombia

February 2022 - December 2022

- Devised the governance structure for the University's Master Plan implementation.
- Coordinated two international visits, as well as more than 20 conferences and workshops.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Chadwick Trust Postgraduate Travel Allowance - Jeroe Jenkins Fellow London
Fellowship March 2024

- Granted £2.000 to conduct fieldwork research in Copenhagen, to evaluate how community-engagement can serve as a catalyst of the benefits produced in the improvement of urban spaces through nature-based infrastructure.

Norman Foster Foundation Sustainability Workshop Madrid
Scholarship October 2023

- Selected between 300 applicants as one of ten scholars to participate in a workshop with leading urban thinkers.
- Designed the brief of a nature-guided rewilding strategy for Parque del Retiro in Madrid.

COLFUTURO Scholarship-Loan Medellín
Scholarship March 2023

- Received USD 50.000 from the Colombian government to pursue my master's degree.

Degree with honours Medellín, Colombia
Merit December 2022

- Awarded as the best GPA of the School of Finance, Economy and Government (54 graduates).

Honorary mention in the category distinguished research Medellín, Colombia
Merit December 2022

- On the basis of quality of the research "Culture of Legality and Norm Compliance".

Honours license plate Medellín, Colombia
Merit Twice received: 2019-2, 2020-1

- Awarded as the best GPA in the Political Science department for that academic term.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Skills: time management, interdisciplinary teamwork, digital literacy, critical thinking

Technical: MS Office (Proficient), Adobe Suite (Proficient), R (Intermediate), Q-GIS (Basic)

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Proficient), Italian (Conversational), German (Basic).

Interests: Nature-based solutions, climate risk reduction, community engagement

REFERENCES

academic

Emmanuel Osuteye, Ph. D.
Dissertation Supervisor
University College London
e.osuteye@ucl.ac.uk

Laia G. García, Ph. D.
Graduate Teaching Assistant
University College London
laia.fernandez@ucl.ac.uk

professional

Peter Vangsbo
Associate Director
Arup Dansk
peter.vangsbo@arup.com

Alejandro Echeverri
Distiguished Professor
Tecnológico de Monterrey
aecheverri@tec.mx