

# SERGIO M. CABRALES

[sergiocabrales.com](http://sergiocabrales.com)

With a specialization in international development, social movements, and the intersection between environmental disasters and migration in Central America, I offer over a decade of experience in universities, non-profit organizations, and social projects in Latin America and the United States. I have demonstrated proficiency in social research, university teaching, and project management.

## **Education**

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology. (Expected Completion: April 2025)

Specialization in social movements, democracy, and social change.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

- Relevant Coursework: Research Design, Social Movements Organizations, Qualitative Methods, Quantitative Methods, Social Theory.
- Research Project: Authoritarian Consolidation: Loss of Democracy and Resistance in Nicaragua

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**, Master of International Development. (April 2020)

Major in Governance and International Public Management

Certificate in Latin American Social and Public Policy

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

- Relevant Coursework: Economics of Development, International History, Statistics, Policy Analysis, Latin American Politics.
- Research Project: The Catholic Church and the 2018 Wave of Protests in Nicaragua

**UNIVERSIDAD CENTROAMERICANA**, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (December 2015)

Managua, Nicaragua

- Relevant Coursework: Research Methodology, Statistical Analysis, Social Project Management, Public Policy Analysis, Social Theories.
- Research Project: Social Mobility strategies for young Nicaraguans coming from low-income families.

## **Positions held**

### **Academic Employment**

**Universidad Rafael Landívar** (Jun/2023 – Aug/2024)

Guatemala City, Guatemala

*Research coordinator and Adjunct Lecturer.*

- Coordinated a team of six interdisciplinary researchers developing timely analysis, policy briefs, and research projects on Central American sociopolitical dynamics, particularly migration, disasters, cities, interculturality, and education.
- Supervised research design and protocols, with funds awarded reaching more than 15,000 dollars (in local currency).
- Formulated and implemented advocacy, training, and research projects to increase the team's social and political impact and academic visibility.
- Taught Introduction to Sociology to 35 students at the School of Political and Social Sciences.
- Collaborated on designing a Graduate Program in the university's School of Humanities.

## **University of Pittsburgh (Aug/2020 – Aug /2024)**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### *Teaching Fellow*

- Taught courses in eight semesters to more than 200 undergraduate students.
- Courses included *Social Movements* (Summer 2024), *Society and Environment* (Summer 2023), *Political Sociology* (Spring 2023), *Classical Sociological Theory* (Fall 2022), *Societies* (Summer 2021 and Summer 2022), and *Basic Statistics* (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022).
- Mentored students in research and career projects.
- Prepared academic materials, including syllabi, students' reports, and pedagogical exercises for the Sociology department.

## **Universidad Centroamericana (Jan/2016 – Jul/2018)**

Managua Nicaragua.

### *Researcher and Adjunct Lecturer*

- Formulated, participated, and coordinated research projects in Education, Social Movements, Labor markets, Natural Resources, and Development.
- Presented research findings to international development cooperation agencies, academic journals, and conferences in the United States, Mexico, and Central America.
- Taught undergraduate classes on Research Methodology, Social Philosophy, and Thesis Mentoring for the Department of Communication at the School of Humanities to more than 300 students.
- Collaborated on redesigning the syllabus and teaching strategies in the university's Department of Communication at the School of Humanities.

## **Instituto de Educación de Universidad Centroamericana (IDEUCA) (Jan/ 2014 – Dec/ 2015)**

Managua Nicaragua

### *Research Assistant*

- Collaborated with regional research teams to compare Nicaragua's education status from 2011 to 2014 with that of other Central American countries.
- Analyzed and documented data on the characteristics of educational subsystems using qualitative methods.

### **Practitioner Employment**

## **Independent consultant (May/2020 – Aug/2024)**

United States, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

Consultancies to:

- Armed Conflict Location & Event Data ([ACLED](#)),
- National Opinion Research Center ([NORC](#)) at Chicago University,
- Social Impact ([SI](#)),
- [Navanti Group](#),
- Expediente Abierto ([EA](#)).

#### Armed Conflict Location & Event Data

- Constructed a weekly updated database of protests and political violence covering Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.
- Provided in-country opportune analysis of evolving political crises in South America and Central America.

#### NORC at Chicago University

- Conducted quantitative analysis of Nicaraguan political attitudes from 2010 to 2019 using public opinion surveys.

- Developed programmatic recommendations to foster democratic attitudes among Nicaraguans in response to the escalating authoritarianism.

#### Navanti Group

- Constructed and published an archive of political protests in Nicaragua amid deteriorating democracy (available [here](#)).
- Engaged and collaborated with Nicaraguan civil society organizations and activists to provide training on the effectiveness of peaceful collective actions and diffusion of protest claims.

#### Expediente Abierto

- Coordinated qualitative and quantitative research projects in Central America. Thematic areas included security, citizenship, democracy, the labor market, and youth.
- Advocated for democracy promotion and good governance to critical stakeholders, including journalists, NGOs, community organizations, think tanks, academics, and international institutions, using the organization's research findings.
- Planned, arranged, and led workshops, fellowships, and training founded on thorough research. Over 150 participants in at least three countries in Central America, including journalists, vulnerable groups, activists, politicians, former political prisoners, students, and researchers.
- Formulated research and social projects for potential donors, resulting in a substantial portfolio within three years.

### **Inter-American Dialogue** (Jun/2019 – Aug/2019)

Washington DC, United States.

*Research assistant* (Internship position)

- Developed databases on Foreign Language Teaching in Latin America based on surveys and documentary revisions.
- Assisted in organizing, coordinating, and executing the Program of Education's events targeting academic, political, and journalistic audiences.

### **FHI 360** (Oct/ 2016 – Dec/2016)

Washington DC, United States of America.

*Project and Research Assistant* (internship).

- Collaborated on research projects on the labor market and education in Morocco, Jamaica, and Honduras.
- Presented at academic events, providing perspectives on development and education in Central America.

### **Peer Reviewed publications**

Cabrales Domínguez, S., & López Castillo, W. (2024). Una región en riesgo: oportunidades, vacíos y desafíos para la investigación social de desastres en Centroamérica. *Anuario De Estudios Centroamericanos*, 49(00), 1–32. <https://revistas.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/anuario/article/view/60598>

Cabrales, S., & Sánchez, M. (2022). Antirepression protests in Nicaragua: An authoritarian transformation. In Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements 2e. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9780470674871.wbespm517>

Cabrales Domínguez, S. M. (2021). Managua en revuelta: la capital en la oleada de protestas de 2018. *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies/Revue canadienne des études latino-américaines et caraïbes*, 46(3), 382–399. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08263663.2021.1970339>

- Cabrales, S. (2020). La oleada de protestas del 2018 en Nicaragua: procesos, mecanismos y resultados. In A. Cortés, U. López, & L. Moncada (Eds.), *Anhelos de un nuevo horizonte. Aportes para la construcción de una Nicaragua democrática*. San José: FLACSO - Costa Rica.  
<https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=7549585>
- Sánchez, M., Calero, K., Castro, D. y Cabrales, S. (2016). Tropas salvadoreñas en Irak: implicaciones éticas según Kant. *Forum, Latin American Studies Association*. Spring 2016, Vol. XLVII, Issue 2. Páginas 7-11. <https://forum.lasaweb.org/files/vol47-issue2/Debates2.pdf>

#### **Under review:**

- Monsignor Romero at anti-repression protests in Nicaragua. *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*.
- «The years pass by, and no one is immortal.»: The Catholic Church in the authoritarian consolidation in Nicaragua 2006-2017. *Revista Eutopia de la Universidad Rafael Landívar*.

#### **Completed, not yet submitted for publication**

- *Compete, accompany, or democratize?* The Nicaraguan Catholic Church's motivations for involvement in the 2018 wave of protest.
- *Complacency and Criticism: Democratic Attitudes of Nicaraguans in the Authoritarian Consolidation 2012-2019*

#### **In preparation:**

- *Time matters:* Outcomes and dynamics of electoral mobilizations in Guatemala in 2023.
- *Living in Guatemala:* origin, transnational links and social integration of Central American and Venezuelan immigrants.

### **Non Peer Reviewed publications**

- 2023 [Analysis of Trends in Democratic Attitudes: Nicaragua Report](#). NORC at the University of Chicago. (Article originally submitted with a pseudonym for security reasons)
- 2023 [Aprender inglés: inversión necesaria para personas, empresas y el país](#). (Learning English: an essential investment for individuals, companies, and the country). Plata Con Plática
- 2022 [¿Cómo «salir adelante» siendo joven en Nicaragua?](#) (How can young people "get ahead" in Nicaragua? Plata con Plática.
- 2020 [Nicaragua en Movimiento: Análisis de las protestas 2016-2020](#). (Nicaragua in movement: protests analysis between 2016 and 2020). Funides
- 2019 [How to effectively lead an education system: Advice from Otto Granados](#). The Dialogue.
- 2019 [Monseñor Romero: un símbolo en disputa](#). (Monsignor Romero, a symbol in dispute) *Confidencial*.
- 2019 [Nicaragüenses consolidan un movimiento social nacional](#) (Nicaraguans consolidate a national social movement). *Despacho 505*
- 2019 [Terremoto sociopolítico en Nicaragua](#). (Sociopolitical Earthquake in Nicaragua). *Confidencial*.
- 2019 [Juventud universitaria, vocación revolucionaria](#). (University youth, revolutionary call). *Despacho505*.
- 2017 El Desajuste de Calificaciones en los Call Centers de Nicaragua (Qualification mismatch in Call Centers in Nicaragua). Funides.

### **Teaching Experience**

#### **University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

- Social Movements (Summer, 2024)
- Society and Environment (Summer, 2023)

Political Sociology (Spring term, 2023)  
 Classical Sociological Theory (Fall term 2022)  
 Societies (Summer term, 2021; Summer term, 2022)  
 Basic Statistics (Fall term 2021, Spring term 2022)  
**Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala City, Guatemala**  
 Introduction to Sociology (Spring, 2024)

**Universidad Centroamericana, Managua, Nicaragua.**

Research Methodology (I Quarter, 2018)  
 Social Philosophy (I, II, and III Quarter 2017)  
 Thesis Seminars (2017, 2021)

**Scholarships and Awards**

2024	\$22,780 Social Sciences Doctoral Dissertation (SSDD) Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh.
2024	\$600 Travel Award. Latin American Studies Association.
2024	\$8,800 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh.
2024	\$750 Travel Award. Central American Politics Consortium (CAPC)
2023	\$10,000 Landivarianos Research Funds Fellowship, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala.
2023	\$250 Sociology Department's Graduate Student Teaching Prize. University of Pittsburgh.
2023	\$8,055 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh.
2023	\$250 Norman P. Hummon Memorial Research Award for Outstanding Research, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.
2023	\$21,484 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh.
2022	\$7,725 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh.
2022	\$800 World History Center Summer Research Grants, University of Pittsburgh.
2022	\$20,600 Teaching Fellow Appointment, University of Pittsburgh.
2021	\$7,593 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh.
2021	\$19,820 Teaching Assistant Appointment, University of Pittsburgh.
2020	\$20,250 Graduate Student Assistant Appointment, University of Pittsburgh.
2019	\$2,800 CLAS Graduate Student Field Research Grants. Center of Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh.
2019	\$1000 Professional Development Funds Award, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh.
2018	\$70,000 Fulbright Scholarship, United States Department of State.
2016	\$6,000 Universiteit Antwerpen. Fellowship to the Excellence in Scientific Research
2016	\$5,000 Fundación Nicaraguense para el Desarrollo Económico y Social. Talent Cloud Fellowship

**Service to Department, University, and Profession**

2024	Manuscript reviewer: (Article) Sociology of Development, (Book) Seminario de Intersecciones de lo Religioso.
2024	Panel Organizer – Public and Social Policies for the troubled Central America of yesterday and today. Center for Latin American Studies – University of Pittsburgh.
2021-2022	Graduate student representative - Sociology Department Monthly Meeting

### **Presentations and academic conferences.**

- 2024 “Living in Guatemala: origin, transnational links and social integration of Central American and Venezuelan immigrants.”, Latin American Studies Association Conference, Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2024 “A Region at Risk: Opportunities, Gaps, and Challenges for Social Disaster Research in Central America”, National Conference on Climate Change. Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- 2024 “Public and Social Policies for the troubled Central America of yesterday and today”. Panel Organizer, Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference. Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2024 “Authoritarian Consolidation: Loss of Democracy and Resistance in Nicaragua”, Central American Politics Consortium (CAPC) Workshop. Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.
- 2024 “A region at risk: opportunities, gaps, and challenges for disaster research in Central America”, Eastern Sociological Association. Washington, DC.
- 2023 “Migration as a result of Authoritarianism in Nicaragua”, Jesuit Migrant Accompaniment Network, Universidad Centroamericana. San Salvador, El Salvador.
- 2023 “Compete, accompany, or democratize? The Nicaraguan Catholic Church's motivations for involvement in the 2018 wave of protest.”, University of Pittsburgh, Sociology Department.
- 2021 “The Catholic Church and the 2018 wave of protests in Nicaragua”, American Sociological Association.
- 2021 “The Catholic Church and the 2018 wave of protests in Nicaragua”, American Political Science Association
- 2020 “The Catholic Church in the Negotiation process in Nicaragua”, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC., United States.
- 2020 “The 2018 Nicaraguan Wave of protests”, ILASSA Conference, The University of Texas – Austin. Austin, Texas, United States.
- 2019 “Catholic Church in Nicaragua Democracy”, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, United States.
- 2019 “Education stakeholders for democracy in Nicaragua”, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, United States.
- 2019 “The 2018 Nicaraguan Wave of Protests: Triggering processes, mechanisms, and results.” Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2019 “The 2018 Nicaraguan Wave of Protests: Triggering processes, mechanisms, and results.” Instituto de Investigaciones sociales, Universidad de Costa Rica, San José, Nicaragua
- 2017 “Qualification mismatch in Call Centers in Nicaragua”. Fundación Nicaragüense para el Desarrollo Económico y Social, Managua, Nicaragua.
- 2017 “Vox Populi: Collective actions in Nicaragua in 2016”. Mexican Association of Political Sciences Annual Conference, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

### **Media Appearances**

Quoted in “La persecución Ortega-Murillo contra la Iglesia.”, *Divergentes*. September 18, 2021.  
Invited to “Callcenters en Nicaragua”, *Ponete Las Pilas*. August 4, 2021.  
Quoted in “Nicaragua: A ditadura do revolucionário”, *ALÉM-MAR*. Interview, April 1, 2022.

Invited to "The state of social movements in Nicaragua amid the Pandemic and the electoral year." *Radio Corporación*. Interview, January 18, 2021.

Quoted in "¿Participar o no en elecciones sin condiciones?, el otro dilema de la oposición." *Nicaragua Investiga*. Interview, January 13, 2021.

Quoted in "Christmas, a time to campaign to free political prisoners in Nicaragua.", *Global Voices*. January 12, 2021.

Quoted in "Golpe de estado" vrs. Rebelión ciudadana.", *Divergentes*. December 19, 2020.

Invited to "Sismología Social: De régimen híbrido a uno autoritario." *Revista Cultura Libre*. Interview, October 29, 2020.

Quoted in "Renewed Anti-Ortega Graffiti Reflects "Coordinated" Strategy.", *Confidencial*. September 13, 2020.

Quoted in "Mientras Ortega siga en la política, Nicaragua seguirá inestable", *4toMono*. September 17, 2020.

Invited to "Sergio Cabrales: sigue temblando en Nicaragua, la protesta es un medio de cambio político". *Confidencial*. September 10, 2020.

Quoted in "Protestas auto convocadas podrían surgir en los próximos meses.", *Radio Corporación*. September 8, 2020.

Quoted in "Estudio de Funides proyecta retorno de las protestas callejeras para 2021", *La Prensa*. September 7, 2020.

Quoted in "¿Por qué continúa el ataque contra la Iglesia? Estos han sido sus papeles desde la rebelión de 2018", *La Prensa*. August 11, 2020.

Quoted in "La Iglesia católica en Nicaragua, bajo asedio", *France24*. August 11, 2020.

Invited to "Abril a dos años: la insurrección cívica en Nicaragua", *Voces y Razones*. April 27, 2020.

Quoted in "Pobreza en el país puede provocar violencia, depresión y estrés", *Artículo66*. January 7, 2020.

Quoted by Sarah Stanton and Ariel Fiszbein in their "English Teaching and Teachers in Latin America" report at The Dialogue. October, 2019.

Invited to "RedPolitik Ep.8 | Sismología Social en Nicaragua", *RedPolitik*. November 19, 2019.

Quoted in "En tiempos de Dictadura", *Revista Cultura Libre*. October 30, 2019.

Invited to "Sociólogo asegura que la lucha no está dividida", *Actualidad con Dino Andino*. September 15, 2019.

Invited to "Sergio Cabrales: el "sismo social" de las protestas de abril". *Confidencial*. May 27, 2019.

Quoted by Maria J. Stephan in her "Mediating mass movements" report at *Oslo Forum*. April 07, 2019.

Invited to "What Does Nicaragua's Future Hold?", *World Affairs Report*. January 31, 2019.

Invited to "The impact of mobilizations in Nicaragua". *Canal 12*. May 18, 2018.

Invited to "El programa Talent Cloud: investigaciones sobre educación y el mercado laboral". *Confidencial*. December 14, 2017.

### **Associations**

- Latin American Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Central American Political Consortium, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.
- Red Jesuita con Migrantes (Jesuit Migrant Accompaniment Network) – Latin America and North America.
- Associated Researcher, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala.

## **Languages and Skills**

**Languages:** Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

**Software skills:** MAXQDA, NVivo, SPSS, ArcGIS, STATA, Tableau, Microsoft Office Suite.