

**Maria Camila Bustos** (she/hers/ella)  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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**Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University**  
Assistant Professor of Law

July 2023 – Present  
White Plains, NY

**Trinity College**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Human Rights

Fall 2021/2022  
Hartford, CT

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## EDUCATION

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**YALE LAW SCHOOL**, New Haven, CT  
J.D., May 2021

*Awards:* Francis Wayland Prize  
Switzer Foundation Fellow  
Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow  
Hispanic Scholarship Fund Recipient

*Activities:* Law Students for Climate Accountability (Co-Founder)  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project at Yale (Co-Chair)  
Research Assistant (Professors Hope Metcalf and Lucas Guttentag)  
Women of Color Collective (Co-Chair)  
Legal Observer  
Linkages Program (Argentina, 2019)

**BROWN UNIVERSITY**, Providence, RI  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Environmental Studies, International Relations, May 2016

*Honors:* Phi Beta Kappa

*Awards:* Outstanding Senior Award in Environmental Studies  
Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Undergraduate Fellowship  
Royce Fellowship  
First Place in Columbia University Economics Review Climate Policy Competition

*Thesis:* *Deconstructing Colombia's Foreign Policy on Climate Change*

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## NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)**, *Independent Contractor* May 2022 – June 2023  
• Support the climate displacement work of IRAP. Assist in developing climate-related questions for the intake process. Develop climate displacement training materials and resources to help educate attorneys, judges, and advocates. Draft a memorandum that outlines legal theories for recognizing climate change as linked to recognized protection grounds. Remote

**Supreme Court of Connecticut**, *Judicial Clerk* June 2021–July 2022  
• Supported the research and writing of judicial opinions in Hon. Steven D. Ecker's chambers. Hartford, CT  
• Conducted research on a range of state and federal law issues, including zoning law, constitutional law, statutory interpretation, and criminal law.

- University Network for Human Rights, *Clinical Supervisor in Human Rights Practice /Intern*** Sept. 2020–Jan. 2023  
Middletown, CT
- Coordinate as lead author of 100-page report on climate induced displacement from the Northern Triangle, exploring multiple avenues for relief based on U.S. immigration law and policy. Supervised a team of undergraduate and law students.
  - Supported advocacy on behalf of a Bolivian politician facing political persecution before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- Center for Climate Integrity, *Legal Intern*** March–May 2021  
Remote
- Conducted legal research on potential avenues for bringing lawsuits to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for deceiving the public regarding the role of fossil fuels in driving climate change.
- EarthRights International, *Legal Intern*** Summer 2020  
Remote
- Conducted legal research and writing on procedural law, tort law, and federal Indian law issues related to climate litigation including standing, personal jurisdiction, public nuisance, and federal preemption.
  - Supported drafting an appeal brief and motion before the Third Circuit on behalf of Peruvian plaintiffs challenging the activities of international mining company Newmont on their land.
- Climate Litigation Network, *Legal Intern*** Summer 2019  
Amsterdam/London
- Supported the Urgenda Foundation in their climate case against the Dutch government, drawing on economics research and jurisprudence of regional human rights courts.
  - Produced memorandums on strategic human rights litigation in Latin America, with a focus on lessons learned for future climate litigation initiatives in the region.
- Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic at Yale Law School, *Law Student Intern*** 2019–2021  
New Haven, CT
- Conducted legal research and writing for district court and Supreme Court filings as part of the team litigating against the termination of the DACA program.
  - Supported legislative advocacy efforts of United We Dream, the largest organization for undocumented youth in the country.
  - Drafted briefing before the Board of Immigration Appeals and district court on removability and immigration relief.
- Rule of Law Clinic, *Law Student Intern*** Spring 2020  
New Haven, CT
- Supported climate lawsuit seeking damages for climate harms on behalf of states.
  - Supported litigation against prison gerrymandering in Connecticut, which included advocacy before state legislature members and legal research.
- Yale Law School, *Research Assistant*** Spring 2019  
New Haven, CT
- Produced research memos on the anti-solitary confinement movement in the United States, with a focus on several states including Alabama, Illinois, and New York.
  - Tracked developments in U.S. immigration law and policy during the Trump administration for the [Immigration Policy Tracking Project](#).
- Brennan Center for Justice, *Research Assistant through Civil Rights Project*** Fall 2019  
New Haven, CT
- Wrote a memo on denaturalization in the international context, focusing on UK, France, Canada, and Australia to inform the Brennan Center’s litigation strategy in denaturalization cases.
- Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society (Dejusticia), *Researcher*** 2016–2018  
Bogotá, Colombia
- Conducted analysis and writing on the future of human rights, attacks against civil society around the world, climate change displacement, and business and human rights.
  - Interviewed over 50 human rights advocates from around the world on the human rights movement.
  - Supported training workshops in Bangkok, Nairobi, Sao Paulo, and Bogotá.
  - Worked on the first climate litigation case in Colombia to protect the Amazon forest and future generations.

- As a prior intern, conducted research and interviews on the subject of human rights violations around the extraction and export of coal in Colombia as well as possible accountability frameworks for multinational companies.

**Nivela, Lead Researcher and Social Media** 2014–2016  
• Researched and wrote on climate and development focusing on Colombia and Latin America Providence, RI  
for Nivela, a global strategy group that worked on development, politics and climate.

**Climate and Development Lab at Brown University, Researcher** 2013–2016  
• Researched the United Nations climate negotiations, focusing on indigenous rights, Providence, RI  
climate change politics, climate finance, human rights, and Latin America.  
• Attended the UN climate negotiations in Warsaw, Lima, Paris, and Bonn.

**Brown University, Research Assistant** Summer 2014  
• Researched, analyzed, and translated environmental rulings by Chile’s Supreme Court Providence, RI  
and the country’s environmental courts to identify legal trends and developments.

## LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

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[\*Climate Migration and Displacement: A Case Study of Puerto Rican Women in Connecticut\*](#), 55 CONN. L. REV. 781 (2023) (with Bruni Pizarro & Tabitha Sookdeo).

[\*A Human Rights Approach to Climate Displacement: Examples from Central America and Colombia\*](#), 31 MICH. ST. INT’L L. REV. 403 (2023) (with Juliana Vélez-Echeverri).

[\*Implementing Nature’s Rights in Colombia: The Atrato and Amazon Experiences\*](#), 54 REV. DER. DEL ESTADO 227 (2022) (with Whitney Richardson).

[\*Movement Lawyering in the Time of the Climate Crisis\*](#), 39 PACE ENVTL. L. REV. 1 (2022).

[\*The Urgent Need to Re-imagine Human Rights Clinics: Towards an Interdisciplinary Clinical Model\*](#), STUDIES ON CLINICAL TEACHING IN LAW SCHOOLS (2022) (in Spanish, with James Cavallaro).

[\*Shelter from the Storm: Policy Options to Address Climate Induced Migration from the Northern Triangle\*](#), Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program, HLS Immigration Project, the University Network for Human Rights, Yale Immigrant Justice Project, and Yale Environmental Law Association (April 2021) (with John Willshire Carrera, Deborah Anker, Thomas Becker & Jeffrey S. Chase).

*Environmental Law in Colombia*, in [EARTH LAW: A PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE](#) (Tony Zelle and Herman Greene eds., 2020) (with Whitney Richardson).

[\*The Third Space of Puerto Rican Sovereignty: Reimagining Self-Determination Beyond State Sovereignty\*](#) 32 YALE J. OF L. & FEMINISM 73 (2020).

*Protecting the rights of future generations through climate litigation: lessons from the struggle against deforestation in the Colombian Amazon*, in [STANDING FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD](#) (Claude Henry, Hojan Rockstrom and Nicholas Stern, 2020) (with Valentina Roza-Ángel & Gabriela Eslava-Bejarano).

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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[\*Climate Change and the Rights of Women, Indigenous People, and Rural Communities in the Americas\*](#), Heinrich Boll Stiftung (2020) (in Spanish) (with Magdalena Albar Diaz, Juan Auz, Juan Bautista López, Juan Martín Carballo, Valentina Castillo Barnetche, Constanza Gumucio, Ananda María Lavayen, Adrián Martínez, Gastón Medici-Colombo, Claudia Pineda & Joyce Tan).

[\*El litigio climático: un llamado al activismo judicial\*](#), in INFORME AMBIENTAL 2019. Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) (2019) (with Joyce Tan).

*What Shapes Colombia's Foreign Position on Climate Change?*, 94 COLOMBIA INTERNACIONAL 27 (2018), DOI: <https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/doi/10.7440/colombiaint94.2018.02>.

*Rethinking Transitional Justice: How to Integrate Climate Change and State Building In Transitional Justice Debates*, CENID EDITORIAL (2019) (with Alejandro Jimenez Ospina).

*Assessing the credibility of how climate adaptation aid projects are categorised*. 27 DEV. IN PRAC. 458 (2017), DOI: [10.1080/09614524.2017.1307325](https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2017.1307325) (with Romain, J. Weikmans, Timmons Roberts, Jeffrey Baum & Alexis Durand).

*Small group, big impact: how AILAC helped shape the Paris Agreement*, 17 CLIMATE POL'Y 71 (2016), DOI [10.1080/14693062.2016.1240655](https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2016.1240655) (with Guy Edwards, Isabel Cavelier Adarve & J. Timmons Roberts).

[\*Nationalism, Race, and Archaeology in South America\*](#), 5 JOHN HOPKINS U. LAT. AM. STUD. J., *AMÉRICAS* 51 (2016).

[\*Digging Deeper: The Human Rights Impact of Coal in the Global South\*](#), DEJUSTICIA & BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTRE (2015) (co-author for Colombian case study).

*Adaptation Aid Projects: Genuinely Categorized?*, in [\*TOWARD MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY: THE 2015 ADAPTATION FINANCE TRANSPARENCY GAP REPORT\*](#), ADAPTATION WATCH (2015) (with Jeff Baum, Alexis Durand, Michael Murphy, Olivia Santiago, Timmons Roberts & Saleemul Huq).

[\*Walking the Talk? World Bank Energy Related Policies and Financing\*](#), INST. FOR POL'Y STUD. (2015) (with Janet Redman, Alexis Durand, Jeff Baum, & Timmons Roberts).

## SELECTED POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

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[\*Tackling Climate Change Displacement at COP27\*](#)

*Just Security* (with Jeffrey Chase)

[\*Lawyers Exacerbate the Climate Crisis. Here's How We Can Help\*](#)

*Trends*, American Bar Association (with Catherine Rocchi)

[\*Lawyers Can And Should Commit To Climate Action\*](#)

*Law360* (with Alisa White and Catherine Rocchi)

[\*Climate Accountability and the Moral Logic of Stigma\*](#)

*Law and Political Economy Blog* (with Scott Stern)

[\*Redressability of Climate Change Injuries after Juliana\*](#)

*Legal Planet* (with Matt Lifson and Natasha Brunstein)

[\*Environmental Injustice in Uniontown, Alabama, Decades after the Civil Rights Act of 1964\*](#)

*ABA Human Rights Magazine* (with Marianne Engelman-Lado, Haley Leslie-Bole & Perry Leung)

[New climate change lawsuit in Colombia, part of growing, worldwide trend](#)

*OpenGlobalRights*

[Why we are demanding the Colombian government halt deforestation](#)

*Reuters*

[What is at stake for Latin America in 2017?](#) (Invited panelist)

*The Guardian, Global Development Network*

[No es Trump, es Estados Unidos: una historia de racismo y xenofobia](#)

*VICE News Colombia*

[Bustos '16: Contested claims](#)

*The Brown Daily Herald*

[What does peace in Colombia have to do with the environment?](#)

*The Guardian* (with Marcela Jaramillo)

[Machine Guns to Olive Branches: Colombia Imagines Peace Once Again](#)

*The College Hill Independent* (with Nicolas Montano)

[Bolivia's Evo Morales in Hot Seat Over Climate Policy](#)

*Americas Quarterly* (with Guy Edwards)

[Colombia must reduce its dependence on coal exports](#)

*Climate Home News*

[People power central to solving Latin America's air pollution crisis](#)

*Climate Home News*

[Cities need to be democratic and livable, not just 'green](#)

*Reuters*

[UN Climate Negotiations: Indigenous Resistance from Within](#)

*The North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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*Clinical Education and Climate Justice*, Enhancing Clinical Education in Europe (ENCLE) Conference (July 2023).

*Perspectives within the emerging leadership in social and climate justice movements*, Workshop with Atlantic Institute Fellows (May 2023).

*Managing climate migration: Legal and policy considerations in approaches*, Annual Meeting American Society of International Law (March 2023).

*Movement Law: Theory, Strategy and Defense*, Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon School of Law (March 2023).

*Fighting Climate Disinformation: From Carbon Majors, to Industry Front Groups, All the Way to Local Utilities* (moderator) Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon School of Law (March 2023).

*Climate Ethics for Legal Practice*, Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon School of Law (March 2023).

*Human Rights in Practice: Climate and Migration*, University of Minnesota Law School (March 2023).

*Examining Environmental Justice Issues Facing Indigenous Communities & Internationally*, Virginia Environmental Law Journal Symposium (November 2022).

*Shifting Narratives, The Place We Call Home*, Just Recovery Summit organized by Ayuda Legal Puerto (August 2022).

*Crossing Borders in Changing Climates: How to Better Address Climate Refugees in the United States*, Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law, Washington College of Law at American University (March 2022).

*A Human Rights Approach to Climate-Induced Displacement: A Case Study in Central America and Colombia*, International Law Review 2022 Symposium at Michigan State College of Law (February 2022).

*Lawyer Shaming, Lawyer Independence, and Bad Clients*, Hofstra Law School (January 2022).

*Global Climate Justice Advocacy: From the Streets to the Courtroom*, International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School (November 2021).

*How to Write About COP26 and Climate Change in the Americas*, Event for BBC Journalists (September 2021).

*Climate Change & Legal Ethics*, Climate Change in the West: Land, People, Markets, and Law, American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (June 2020).

*Climate Displacement and the International Human Rights Framework*, International Refugee Assistance Project at Alabama Law School (March 2021).

*Youth Climate Litigation: Fighting for The Future*, Columbia Law School Environmental Law Society and the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law (January 2021).

[\*Amazonia e Direitos da Natureza: Experiências Nacionais e Internacionais Na Busca Por Soluções\*](#), Online Webinar (September, 2020).

[\*Leaders in the Climate Litigation Movement\*](#), Climate Case Ireland (June 2020).

*El Amazonas y las generaciones futuras*, Expert Meeting on Climate Litigation in Mexico (June 2019).

*Litigando el cambio climático: El rol de las generaciones futuras*, Cumbre de Jóvenes Frente al Cambio Climático in Pasto, Colombia (June 2018).

*Drawing Inspiration from Human Rights Innovation on the Ground: National Mechanisms, Mobilisation and Impact*, European University Institute (May 2018).

*Rethinking a Transition Away from Coal for Coal-Dependent Communities in Colombia*, Oxford University (September 2018).

*Digging Deeper: Tracking the Human Rights Impact of Coal from the North to the South*, United Nations Conference of the Parties in Paris, France (December 2015).

## **SERVICE**

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Faculty Development Committee (2023)

Advisory Board, Law Students for Climate Accountability (2023-present)

Board member, Breach Collective (2020-present)

Member, Green Leadership Trust (2023-present)

## **LANGUAGES**

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Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), Portuguese (Advanced), French (Beginner).

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

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Connecticut (2021)