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Fábio Zuker

Environmental Social Scientist
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Research interests: Political Economy of Environmental Harm; Environmental Governance; Global Supply Chains; Industrial Agriculture and Land-Use Change; Environmental Technologies; Climate Change and Environmental Health; Indigenous and Territorial Ecologies

EDUCATION

2018-2022	Ph.D. in Social Anthropology, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil) Award for PhD Dissertation in the Humanities, 2023
2022	Predoctoral Visiting Researcher, Cornell University (USA)
2013-2015	Master's Degree in Sciences Sociales École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (France) Mention très bien
2008-2011	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present - Researcher, Pensi Institute (José Luiz Setúbal Foundation); Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for Brazilian Studies, University of São Paulo.

May-June 2026 - Visiting Researcher, University of Oxford, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography & Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation (Kellogg College).

2024 - Postdoctoral Fellow, Collège de France (Paris).

2023-2024 - Postdoctoral Research Associate, Princeton University (High Meadows Environmental Institute & Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies).

2017-2022: Environmental Journalist
Journalistic coverage of environmental issues, human rights violations, and climate change primarily in the Amazon. Published in The Guardian, National Geographic, Wired, Reuters, Folha de São Paulo, revista Piauí, among others.

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Anthropologie de la Vie (Collège de France – Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale).
Maison du CNRS–USP.
Fluid Futures Initiative (Princeton University)
IARA-Saúde (INCTI-USP).

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

2026–Present — Smoke: An Anthropology of Atmospheric Harm and Healing in the Brazilian Amazon — Collaborative research project with the University of Oxford examining smoke, forest fires, environmental health, and Indigenous and riverine understandings of atmospheric harm and healing. Research team: Elizabeth Ewart (PI), Fábio Zuker (Co-PI), Agathe Faure, Barbara Stiubiener Abrahão, Clara Fortes Brandão, and Javier Lezaun.

2023–2027 — Urbanisation Without Cities? Hydraulic Infrastructure and the Ecologies of Vulnerability in the Amazon — Research on how hydraulic infrastructure and agricultural expansion reshape water systems, environmental health, and territorial relations on Bananal Island, Brazil. Supported by the Pensi Institute, Princeton University, the University of Oxford, and the Carlsberg Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS

A) Books

Zuker, Fábio. (**Under contract; manuscript under peer review.** University of California Press. Entangled Destruction: Planetary Health at the Frontiers of Amazonian Deforestation.

Zuker, Fábio. 2022. The Life and Death of a Minke Whale in the Amazon: Dispatches from the Brazilian Rainforest. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions. **Selected Media:** New York Times, The Economist, Los Angeles Review of Books

B) Peer-Reviewed Articles

Zuker, Fábio; Capellini, Nathalia; Ferraz, Luiz Paulo; Fonteles, Gabriel. The Authoritarian Origins of the Amazonian Chemical Frontier. **Submitted -** *Tapuya*: *Latin American Science, Technology and Society*

Zuker, Fábio. Making Forests Disappear: The Political Ecology of Forest Governance at the Amazonian Soy Frontier. **Revised and resubmitted** - *Journal of Political Ecology*.

Zuker, Fábio. Toxic Traces: Uncertainties, Ethnography, and the Visibility of Harm in the Use of Pesticides. **Accepted**. *Revista de Antropologia*.

Zuker, Fábio. **2025**. Expulsion by Suffocation: Soybean Plantations, Toxicity, and Land Grabbing in the Brazilian Amazon. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.

Zuker, Fábio. 2024. Destroying the Territory, Weakening the Body: An Essay on Food, Illness, and *Quebranto* among the Tupinambá of the Lower Tapajós. *Mana*.

Levis, Carolina; [...] Zuker, Fábio; [...] Biehl, João. **2024**. Indigenizing Conservation Science for a Sustainable Amazon. *Science*.

C) Book Chapters

Zuker, Fábio. Forthcoming. "Legalizing Deforestation: The Financial Architecture of Amazon Cattle Laundering." In *The Palgrave Handbook on the International Relations of the Amazon*, edited by Christoffer Guldberg et al. Palgrave Macmillan.

Zuker, Fábio; Malmaceda, Ana; Maciel, Lucas. **Forthcoming**. "Crop Wars in Brazil: Towards a Counter-Colonial Ecology." In *Vegetal Anima: Why Plant Studies Now?*, edited by Sushmita Chatterjee and Banu Subramaniam. Bloomsbury.

D) Reviews

Zuker, Fábio & Ferreiro Cardoso, Jessica. **2025**. Review of *Glyphosate & the Swirl*. Revista de Antropologia.

Zuker, Fábio. **2019**. Review of *Silencing the Past*. Cadernos de Campo, 28(1).

Zuker, Fábio. **2017**. Review of *The Ends of the World,* by Danowski and Viveiros de Castro. Artelogie, 10.

Zuker, Fábio. **2017**. Review of *Earth Beings,* by Marisol de la Cadena. Revista de Antropologia da USP, 60(2).

E) Selected Public Writing

'In Bananal, God no longer decides whether there's water – farmers, and agribusiness do'. The Guardian, with Avener Prado. 2024.

Ashes to Ashes: On Combustion and Tyranny. e-Flux. 2023.

Global craze for collagen linked to Brazilian deforestation. The Guardian, with Elisangela Mendonça and Andrew Wasley. 2023.

The coveted legacy of the 'Man of the Hole' and his cultivated Amazon forest. Mongabay + Podcast at Rádio Novelo. 2023.

'This land belonged to us': Nestlé supply chain linked to disputed Indigenous territory. The Guardian, with Elisangela Mendonça and Andrew Wasley. 2022.

A Pandemic Tragedy on Brazil's Lago Verde. Wired. 2022

GRANTS and AWARDS

Research Grants and Fellowships

- Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation, Kellogg College, University of Oxford — 2026 · £10,000
- Carlsberg Foundation (with Peter Krogh Andersen) — 2026 · $77,000
- Ibirapitanga Institute — 2024 · $8,000
- Bourse Terrée, Collège de France / LAS — 2024 · $6,000
- Princeton University Center for Health & Wellbeing Grant — 2023–2024 · $10,000
- FAPESP Doctoral Fellowship — 2018–2022 · $40,000

Journalism Grants

- Four-time recipient of the Pulitzer Center's Rainforest Journalism Fund — 2019-2023
- Agência Pública & Josué de Castro Chair — 2022

Academic Award

- USP Award for PhD Dissertation in the Humanities — 2023

Journalism Awards

- Covering Climate Now Journalism Awards — Winner 2024
- Foreign Press Association Media Award — Shortlisted 2023
- Covering Climate Now Journalism Awards — Finalist 2023

TEACHING

2026 - Understanding the Green Transition. SESC-SP Research Center.

2025 - Anthropology of Science: Environmental Conflicts and Climate Change. University of São Paulo.

2024 - Understanding the New Authoritarian Movements. SESC-SP Research Center.

2024 - Plantation and Counter-Plantation. University of São Paulo.

2023 - Indigenous Worldings — semester course, Princeton University.
Formally evaluated; recognized for participatory methodology and interdisciplinary engagement.

2023 - Political anthropology in the Amazon. SESC-SP Research Center.

2022, 2024 - Socio-environmental Narratives Workshop. Pulitzer Center/Federal University of Pará (2022) and Federal University of Acre (2024).

SELECTED INVITED LECTURES

2026 — "The Feral Life of Infrastructure: Hantavirus and Diseased Landscapes in the Brazilian Amazon." University of Oxford.

2026 — "Urbanisation Without Cities? Hydraulic Infrastructure and the Ecologies of Vulnerability in the Amazon." University of Oxford.

2025 — **Keynote Lecture:** "The Political Ecology of the Far-Right in the Brazilian Amazon." Fiocruz, Rio de Janeiro.

2025 — "Indigenous Ecologies Confronting Amazon Deforestation." Cornell University.

2025 — "Fieldwork and Socioenvironmental Conflicts in the Amazon." *International Colloquium Worlds in Transition*, CNRS–USP, São Paulo.

2025 — "The Magic of the Numbers and Deforestation." IT University of Copenhagen.

2025 — "Financialization of the Amazon Forest." Centro de Estudos Sociais, University of Coimbra.

2024 — "Expulsion by Suffocation." Atelier des Milieux, Sciences Po.

2023 — "Plantation Violence in the Amazon." High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University.

2023 — "An Evidential Ethnography of the Destruction of the Amazon." Brown University.

2023 — "An Ethnography of Pesticide Use as Political Technology." IT University of Copenhagen.

2022 — "Composing Toxic Landscapes." Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Cornell University.

2022 — "The Life and Death of a Minke Whale in the Amazon." University of Chicago.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)
Anthropology & Environment Society (A&E)
European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

LANGUAGES

English (Excellent Reading and Speaking, Advanced Writing)
Spanish (Excellent Reading and Speaking, Advanced Writing)
French (Excellent Reading and Speaking, Intermediate Writing)
Italian (Intermediate Reading and Speaking, Elementary Writing)