

Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Food Systems

2022

University of Vermont

Dissertation: *Adaptive Capacity & [un]Natural Disasters: Puerto Rican Farmers' Adaptation and Food Security Outcomes after Hurricane Maria.*

Advisor: Dr. Meredith T. Niles

Committee: Drs. V. Ernesto Méndez, Amy Trubek, and Teresa Mares

Certificate of Graduate Study in Agroecology

2020

Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative, University of Vermont

M.S. in Food Science and Technology

2018

University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Thesis: *Food Safety Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Amongst Small Scale Commercial Fishermen of Western Puerto Rico.*

Advisor: Dr. Fernando Pérez-Muñoz

Committee: Drs. María del Carmen Rodríguez-Rodríguez & Robinson Rodríguez-Pérez

B.S. in Biology with sub-concentration in Biotechnology

2014

University of Puerto Rico at Ponce, *Cum Laude*

PROFILE AND SCHOLARSHIP STATEMENT

• I am an applied and interdisciplinary writer, science communicator, and researcher from Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico. In general, I am interested in the social dimensions of food systems, considering public health and sustainability outcomes, in the context of disasters and natural hazards. I work with farmers, fishers, organizations and institutions interested in food systems issues, including community-based groups, NGOs, and government, on different research projects and capacity building strategies to support climate adaptation, policy development, and public health. These are the general workstreams I pursue:

Sustainable food systems and climate adaptation: This line of work aims to generate information, resources, and tools that support farmers, fishers, and agricultural service providers in their decision-making processes related to climate adaptation, sustainable food production, and policy dynamics.

Food security, food sovereignty, and disasters: This work seeks to understand how we navigate disruptions in the built and natural environments to produce and access food in the context of compounded shocks. It is grounded in the assertion that disasters are not natural. It also uses interdisciplinary approaches to better understand our relationship to components of our food system.

Vulnerability and natural hazards: Here I engage with public health, NGO, community, and governmental sectors, to work in understanding social determinants of health and wellbeing in relation to natural hazards. This work explores the role of governance structures on individual outcomes.

APPOINTMENTS**Research and Science Communication Specialist**

June 2025 –

Caribbean Agroecology Institute

- Directs, develops, and co-manages applied and participatory research projects that support agroecological efforts in the Caribbean and that contribute to building the capacities of farmers, fishers, and community-led organizations in the region.
- Leads all activities related to the project, “Caribbean Agroecological Mapping and Regional Integration”. Tasks include systematic literature review, stakeholder analysis, semi-structured interviews, actor database, quantitative and qualitative analysis, science communication, and event management.
- Directs and facilitate outreach and science communication.
- Supports strategic planning and grant writing activities.

Freelance writer and journalist

2014 –

Yale Climate Connections

- Writes essays and articles that cover food systems, science, the environment, and policy in Puerto Rico.

Adjunct Professor

2023 –

Department of Agricultural Technology, University of Puerto Rico at Utuado

- Sustainable Agriculture Senior Seminar (AGSU 4302)
 - Restructured the course to emphasize science communication, outreach, and policy.
- Introduction to Research in Sustainable Agriculture (AGSU 4214)
 - Established a research collaboration with the Instituto para la Agroecología (IALA-PR) and with Drs. Ivette Perfecto and John Vandermeer (University of Michigan).
 - Facilitated this course for the first time at the University of Puerto Rico at Utuado.
- Agroecology (TPAG 3019)
 - Restructured the syllabus and included new and updated teaching materials.
 - Organized in-class talks and workshops by farmers, researchers, and organizations relevant to course topics (13)
- Senior Capstone Project I: Project Planning and Design (AGSU 4300)
 - Advised on proposal development (agribusiness, research, and community development)
- Sustainable Agriculture Practicum (AGSU 4211)
 - Coordinates student individual work practices in Puerto Rican agroecological farms and projects.

Project Manager and Research Social Scientist

2023 – 2025

USDA Caribbean Climate Hub, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, San Juan, P.R.

- Led the USDA Caribbean Climate Hub’s research and project management responsibilities in the collaborative project with Migrant Clinicians Network titled, *Building Capacity Among Community Health Centers to Address Climate Change Impact on Agriculture Workers in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands*, in which he also served as Co-PI.

- Co-developed, revised, and tested a multifaceted and module-based curriculum for Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands' clinicians. Led the modules focused on climate change and on food systems and natural hazards.
- Led the development and deployment of a social survey study focused on understanding 102 clinicians' climate change perceptions in relation to their clinical decision-making and own wellbeing.
- Co-developed, modified, and facilitated 5 participatory workshops (Train-of-Trainers) impacting over 50 clinicians of community health centers in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. This workshop involved the development of activities and outreach materials related to the developed curriculum.
- Supported broader research (i.e. data analysis, conceptualization), science communication, and outreach activities.

Research Fellow

2022 – 2023

Caribbean Climate Hub, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, US Forest Service, San Juan, P.R.

- Led the NRCS-funded project, “Climate Adaptation Guide for Tropical Forestry and Agriculture: Pilot assessments and draft guide development”
 - Developed a methodology for on-farm assessment to determine areas of vulnerability, areas to implement conservation practices, and potential adaptation strategies.
 - Completed 18 farm assessments, 39 informative interviews, established 5 cross-sector partnerships, and catalyzed 10 outreach activities that included presentations and workshops for community, Extension, university, and governmental partners (impacting over 400 people)
 - Led the development of a secondary proposal to the Natural Resource Conservation Service to extend this project to include a secondary phase focused on evaluating the produced resources through a participatory approach. The proposal was fully funded for \$250,000
 - Adapted the USDA Climate Hub's adaptation workbook to the context of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. It includes (1) a practical and culturally-appropriate guide to support decision-making regarding on-farm and forestry adaptation, (2) nine practical climate brief with sector-specific information on climate impacts, adaptation strategies, and specific USDA programs that support those practices and strategies, and (3) two information sheets on actual USDA resources and programs tailored to the Caribbean.
- Contributed to the Caribbean Drought Learning Networking by working in team 1, Drought Impact Reporting / Citizen Science, through the development of communication and outreach activities. Provided technical support and advisory to tasks and activities related to the project, Climate Smart Caribbean
- Co-authored two “Drought Status Update for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands” report, which details drought conditions and impacts, as well as strategies to mitigate and adapt to impacts in working lands.
- Supported day-to-day activities of the Caribbean Climate Hub: science communication and outreach, proposal development, data analyses, among other research-related activities.

Agricultural Worker Health and Environmental Justice Intern

2021

Migrant Clinicians Network. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- Provided support in project management, data analysis, and outreach communication. Worked in 3 projects related to agricultural emergency management, public health, and food security:

- Mobilizing Communities in Puerto Rico to Meet the Needs of Vulnerable Populations Before, During and After a Natural Disaster, Founded by Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation.
- Exploring Mental Health and Natural Disasters in Agricultural Communities in Puerto Rico, Founded by Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety.
- Environmental Education Program on Safe Water and Chemical Management During Disasters, Founded by EPA.

Research Assistant

2017 – 2020

Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Vermont

Assistant to Dr. Meredith T. Niles

- Project: *Food access and food security during Coronavirus*
 - Built survey on Qualtrics platform and translated to Spanish some parts of the survey.
- Project: *Farmers' Perspectives on Water Management and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)*
 - Wrote policy briefs on the results of three California counties.
- Project: *Advancing Grass-Fed Dairy: A Whole Systems Approach to Enhancing Productivity, Quality, and Farm Viability in the US.*
 - Performed qualitative analysis of transcripts
- Project: *Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Policy Stacking on Vermont Farmers.*
 - Prepared data sheets for coding and statistical analysis.
 - Performed qualitative analysis of transcripts.

Teaching Assistant and Laboratory Instructor

2017 – 2020

Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Vermont

- Basic Concepts of Food Laboratory (NFS 054) (Spring Semesters 2018, and 2020)
 - Instructor of two laboratory sessions (12 and 16 students each).
 - Intertwined culinary skills with food science and technology.
- Fundamentals of Nutrition (NFS 043) (Fall Semester 2019)
 - Graduate TA of the course (206 students)
 - Supervisor of 5 undergraduate TA's
- Food Microbiology Laboratory (NFS 213) (Fall Semesters 2017, and 2018)
 - Instructor of two laboratory sessions (16-20 students each).
 - Prepared laboratory materials: media cultures, sanitation of equipment, etc.

Research Assistant

2016 – 2017

Extension Service, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Assistant to Dr. María del Carmen Rodríguez-Rodríguez

- Project: *Development of Culturally-Sensitive-Age-Appropriate Nutrition Education Materials for Childhood Obesity Prevention in Puerto Rico.* (USDA NIFA-AFRI)

- Conducted 3 focus groups (~11 children each). Performed 5 verbatim transcriptions, and analyzed them through content analysis. Assessed current barriers on acquiring healthy food, promoting physical activity, and on healthy eating perceptions among Puerto Rican parents and children.

Laboratory Instructor

2014 – 2017

Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

- Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory (BIOL 3716) (2015-2018)
 - Instructor of 2-3 laboratory sessions per semester (15-20 students each).
 - Prepared laboratory materials: dissection organs, anatomical schemes, etc.
 - Designed and carried out exams and assessments.
 - Incorporated experiential learning techniques, as well as the arts.
- Biological Sciences Laboratory (CIBI 3032) (2014 – 2015)
 - Instructor of 2-3 laboratory sessions per semester (15-20 students each).
 - Assisted Mr. Donato Seguí, coordinator of the laboratory, in leading TA meetings.
 - Incorporated an interdisciplinary approach to satisfy the diverse interests of students.

Biology Assistant

2014

Fisheries Division of the Department of Agriculture, San Juan, PR.

Supervisor: Salvador Coleman Tió

- Conducted in person and telephoned surveys (~20), organized meetings across Puerto Rico (~5), and developed an updated registry of the fisheries of the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture.

Research Assistant

2014

Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico at Ponce

Assistant to Dr. José G. Rodríguez

- Project: *A Comparison of Two Genetic Populations of Atlantea tulita.*
- Gathered field data (caterpillars) in two locations in Puerto Rico (Maricao and Quebradilla), and performed genetic tests (e.g. DNA amplification, Maximum Likelihood, etc.) of Cytochrome Oxidase I to understand the relationship between two extant populations of *Atlantea tulita*.

Research Assistant Intern

2012 – 2013

AIDS Program of the Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce, PR.

Assisted in the laboratory of Dr. Qiyi Tang

- Performed techniques such as cloning using the Bacterial Artificial Chromosome, Overlapping PCR, Electroporation, and others to understand the roles of different genes in Human cytomegalovirus.

Research Assistant Intern

2012

Tropical Agricultural Research Station, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Mayagüez, PR.

Assisted Dr. Timothy Porch.

- Project: Characterization, Conversion, and Improvement of Common Bean Germplasm.
- Performed genetic techniques (e.g. PCR, gel electrophoresis), developed a photographic database for tepary beans, and carried out field work (e.g. virus inoculation, data analysis on-site).

RELEVANT CONSULTANCIES

4. Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (CCG Program), Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington D.C.

2024

- Non-federal reviewer for 10 proposals/applications submitted to the CCG Program. The proposals were evaluated through the Salesforce platform, and they were seeking funding up to \$20 million.

3. Science Communication Lab, San Francisco, California

2024

- Developed an inclusive and bilingual [educator resource](#) on the film, *Coming Home*, which “explores how culture and community shapes the interests and work of a scientist”. The materials will be tailored to high school and undergraduate students.

2. USAID Advancing Nutrition, United States Agency for International Development, Washington D.C.

2022 – 2023

- Co-led the development of the project titled, “Understanding Climate Change Interventions Influencing Resilience for Improved Nutrition Outcomes”.
- Co-led conceptualizing the evidence review methodology (systematic literature review). Developed a search approach and evidence spreadsheet focused on gray literature of 19 websites of governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Co-authored the report based on a systematic literature review of existing and emerging peer-reviewed and gray literature, focused on interventions that address nutrition outcomes in relation to climate adaptation and mitigation in Low-and-Middle-Income countries.

1. Caribbean Agroecology Institute, Burlington, Vermont

2018 – 2021

- Provided consulting on program development and evaluation, and on food systems research.
- Developed 5 synthesis documents for outreach and communication purposes about highlights from the conference series, “Resistance & Resilience: Responses to the Climate Crisis from Cuba and Puerto Rico.”
- Worked in the logistics regarding the US delegation’s participation at the 7th International Encounter of Agroecology, Sustainable Agriculture and Cooperativity of Cuba’s National Association of Small Farmers (November 2019, Havana).
- Provided consulting on climate change adaptation workshops for a collaborative project between the Caribbean Agroecology Institute and the *Unidad Presupuestaria de Servicios Ambientales* (Baracoa, Guantánamo, Cuba) titled, *Strongly Prepared for Climate Change: Community-based Adaptation and Resiliency Planning*. (November 2018)

RESEARCH TOPICS INTERESTS

- *Island food systems, natural hazards and working lands, food security and food sovereignty, adaptive capacity and structural vulnerability, agroecology, social-ecological systems, science communication and outreach, Puerto Rican and Caribbean studies, food culture, governance, public health, and public policy.*

GRANTS AND DIRECT SUPPORT

Total awarded in grants and direct support: \$2,175,782 (USD)

13. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Caribbean Agroecology Institute (2025) ***Changing Tides in the Caribbean Sea: Supporting the Integration of Fisheries into Agroecology and Island Food Systems Work.***

The Switzer Foundation. *Total award: \$60,000*

12. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2024) **Proyecto Solidaridad entre Artistas.** Poetry is Busy Studio. Total award: *\$5,000.*

11. Maya Moore, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Katia Avilés-Vázquez, Jessica Fanzo, Lewis Zisca, Zain Alabweh (2024). **RICE PR: Reimagining Innovative Cultivation for Equity in Puerto Rico.** USDA-FFAR Innovation Challenge: “Nourishing Next Generation Agrifood Breakthroughs”. Total award: *\$500,000 (Co-PI).*

10. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz and Diana Guzmán Colón (2024). **Advancing Social-ecological Forecasting in Puerto Rico: Integrating Social Dimensions to Support Decision-Making around Climate Adaptation.** Social Science and Ecoforecasting Planning Award, Ecological Forecasting Initiative (EFI). Total award: *\$1,000. (PI).*

9. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2024). **Professional Development Grant**, The Switzer Foundation. Total award: *\$2,000.*

8. Nicolás Gómez Andújar, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Alfredo Montañez Acuña, Emmanuel Maldonado, Nathania Martínez, Gerardo Rosa (2023). **Exploring the influence of coastal displacement in accessible seafood for the small-scale fisheries of Culebra, Puerto Rico.** University of Maine. Total award: *\$11,518. (Co-PI).*

7. Marysel Pagán Santana, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Aníbal López-Correa (2022). **Building Capacity Among Community Health Centers to Address Climate Change Impact on Agriculture Workers in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.** USDA NIFA Program: Extension, Education & USDA Climate Hubs Partnership. Total award: *\$1,489,000. (Co-PI).*

6. Jocelyn West, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, and K. Stephen Hughes (2022). **Assessing Social Vulnerability to Landslide Hazards in Rural Puerto Rico.** Research in U.S. Territories, Tribal Areas, and Rural Communities, Natural Hazards Center. Total award: *\$49,764. (Co-PI).*

5. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2020). **Switzer Environmental Fellowship.** The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation. 2020-2021. Total award: *\$15,000.*

4. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2020). **Food Systems 4th Year Doctoral Candidate Grant.** Graduate College, University of Vermont. Total award: *\$31,500.*

3. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Bianca Valdés, Luz Cumba García, Puerto Rico Science Policy Action Network (2020). **Visibilidad y conciencia en Puerto Rico de cara a las elecciones 2020.** Science Rising Challenge Fund, Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington, DC. *Total award: \$1,000. (PI).*

2. Marysel Pagán-Santana, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, and Yamil López (2020). **Puerto Rican Agricultural Resiliency and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods**. COVID-19 Working Group for Public Health and Social Sciences Research. NSF-funded Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) network and the CONVERGE facility, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. *Total award: \$1,000 (PI)*.

1. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz and Amy Trubek (2020). **Food Systems, Mixed-Methods and Archival Research: A Learning and Doing Workshop**. Food Systems Transdisciplinary Workshop or Proposal Development Grant, University of Vermont Graduate College. *Total award: \$10,000. (Co-Lead)*.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Research articles

6. Mónica I. Feliú Mójér, et al. (including Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz). (2024) **Increasing culturally relevant science media coverage: exploring the outcomes of a collaboration in Puerto Rico**. *Journal of Science Communication*. 23(05), No2. <https://doi.org/10.22323/2.23050802>.

5. Meredith T. Niles, Courtney Hammond Wagner, Natalia Aristizabal, Carolyn Hricko, Adam Petrucci, and Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz. (2024) **Politically engaged and knowledgeable farmers are more likely to support regulatory groundwater policies: Implications from the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in California**. *Ecology and Society*. 29:1(5). <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-14673-290105>.

4. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Nora Álvarez-Berríos, and Meredith T. Niles. (2022) **Social-ecological interactions in a disaster context: Puerto Rican farmer households' food security after Hurricane Maria**. *Environmental Research Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac6004>. [Español]

3. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Maya Moore, and Meredith T. Niles (2021) **Puerto Rican Farmers' Obstacles Towards Recovery, and Adaptation Strategies after Hurricane Maria: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Understanding Adaptive Capacity**. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2021.662918>. [Español]

2. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz & Meredith T. Niles. (2021) **Awareness of climate change's impacts and motivation to adapt are not enough to drive action: A look at Puerto Rican farmers after Hurricane Maria**. *PLOS ONE*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244512>. [Español]

1. Robinson Rodríguez-Pérez, PhD, Nancy Correa-Matos, PhD, RDH, LND, Angélica Valdés-Valderrama, MS, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, MS, María C. Rodríguez, PhD. (2018) **A Qualitative Study of Puerto Rican Parent and Child Perceptions Regarding Eating Patterns**. *Journal of Nutrition and Education Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2018.10.002>

Comments and book reviews

5. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz, Emmanuel Maldonado-González, Nathania Martínez, and Nicolás X. Gómez Andújar (2024) **Voces culebrenses identifican puerto seguro para acceder pescados y mariscos**. Fuede y Verguilla Vol 18 Num 1; Sea Grant Puerto Rico, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. 2024.

4. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2020) **Food in Cuba: the pursuit of a decent meal.** *Journal of Food, Culture & Society*. DOI: 10.1080/15528014.2020.1773145.
3. Vanessa García Polanco & Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2019) **Decolonizing the Caribbean diet: Two perspectives on possibilities and challenges.** In a special edition of the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* titled, “*Indigenous Food Sovereignty in North America*”. 9(B).
2. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2019) **Between Two Worlds.** *Science*. 365(6456): 946.
1. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (2018) **From Ocean to Table: Integrating Marine and Coastal Food Systems into Food Studies.** *Cite This*, a special edition of the *Graduate Journal of Food Studies*. 5(2).

RESEARCH REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

6. **Review of Evidence of Interventions to Improve Nutrition Outcomes During Climate Shocks and Stressors: Evidence Review Report** (2023) [Multiple authors, including Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz]. USAID Advancing Nutrition, USAID Advancing Nutrition. Arlington, VA.
5. **Steep Risks: Assessing Social Vulnerability to Landslides in Rural Puerto Rico** (2023) Jocelyn West, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, K. Stephen Hughes. Public Health report #34. Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado, Boulder.
4. **Puerto Rican farmer households’ food security after Hurricane Maria** (2022) Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Nora Álvarez-Berrios and Meredith T Niles. University of Vermont and International Institute of Tropical Forestry. English and Spanish.
3. **Obstáculos para la recuperación de fincas tras María** (2021) Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz. University of Vermont. Spanish.
2. **Seafood handling and processing in western Puerto Rico: Challenges and opportunities for commercial fishermen** (2020) Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. English and Spanish.
1. **Hurricane Maria’s Impacts on Puerto Rican Farmers: Experience, Challenges, and Perceptions** (2018) Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz & Meredith T. Niles. University of Vermont. English and Spanish.

PUBLIC RESEARCH AND OUTREACH MATERIALS

4. Álvarez-Berrios, Nora L.; McGinley, Kathleen A.; Gould, William A.; Rodríguez-Serrano, Paloma S.; Rodríguez-Cruz, Luis Alexis; Ortiz-Colón, Guillermo. 2025. **Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico: Survey data on effects, impacts and adaptive responses in agriculture and forestry from 2023 to 2024.** Fort Collins, CO: Forest Service Research Data Archive. <https://doi.org/10.2737/RDS-2025-0058>.
3. Guzmán-Colón, D., Crespo-Vélez, S., Rodríguez-Cruz, L.A., Álvarez-Berrios, N., Crespo-Acevedo, W., Gould, W.A. (2024) **Climate Adaptation Guides for Tropical Forestry and Agriculture.** Caribbean Climate Hub, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture.

2. **Uso eficiente del agua de riego en fincas de hortalizas y otros cultivos.** [Practical guide for producers]. Gustavo A. Rodríguez, Sofía Macchiavelli Girón, Luis G. Sierra Rivera, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Ermita Hernández, and Eric Irizarry. USDA Caribbean Climate Hub, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, UPRM Extension Service. 2023.

1. **Puerto Rican farmers, Hurricane Maria, and adaptive capacity.** [Datasets and survey instruments]. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz & Meredith T. Niles (2020) University of Vermont. Harvard Dataverse.

PUBLIC WRITING

20. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (March 18, 2026) **¿Qué pueden hacer las islas del Caribe para poder tener soberanía alimentaria?**. Yale Climate Connections.

19. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (January 16, 2026) **Comedores peruanos promueven el uso total de los alimentos y crean comidas ricas en el proceso.** (*Zero-waste community kitchens turn scraps into flavor-packed dishes*). Yale Climate Connections.

18. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (December 15, 2025) **Celebran apertura de la Oficina de Mitigación ante Deslizamientos de Tierra de Puerto Rico.** Yale Climate Connections.

17. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz, Emmanuel Maldonado-González, Nathania Martínez, and Nicolás X. Gómez Andújar (October 21, 2025) **What life in Culebra shows us about access to seafood** (*Lo que la vida en Culebra nos muestra sobre el acceso a los alimentos del mar*). Nueve Millones.

16. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (September 12, 2025) **"Sin semilla no hay comida": Los bancos de semillas impulsan la agricultura en Puerto Rico** (**"Without seeds, there is no food": Seed banks foster agriculture in Puerto Rico**). 9 Millones and Proximate Media.

15. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (July 16, 2025) **El programa LandslideReady ayuda a mitigar riesgos a deslizamientos en Puerto Rico** (LandslideReady program helps mitigate landslide risks in Puerto Rico). Yale Climate Connections.

14. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (April 8, 2025) **Una comunidad puertorriqueña decide preservar su bosque. Ahora gana dinero gracias al ecoturismo** [*Morovis Community Preserves Its Forest and Makes Money Thanks to Ecotourism*]. Yale Climate Connections and Nueve Millones.

13. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2024, November 11) **¿Cómo afecta y afectará el cambio climático a la seguridad alimentaria?**. Yale Climate Connections

12. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2024, October 2) **U.S. Virgin Islands native returns to St. Croix to support environmental changemakers.** Yale Climate Connections.

11. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2024, August 19) **En los ojos duele el verde: Efectos de Ernesto en la agricultura puertorriqueña** [*Puerto Rican farmers will replant despite Ernesto's impacts*]. Yale Climate Connections.

10. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (2024, February 12) **Urge compostar nuestros desperdicios orgánicos** [Puerto Rico Needs to Compost]. *El Nuevo Día*, p. 35.
9. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2023, August 8) **Puerto Rican farmers should have the opportunity to access USDA programs in Spanish.** Yale Climate Connections. [Español]
8. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (2023, March 23) **Urge actuar ante la crisis climática: a mantener los embalses.** [Urgent action needed to address climate crisis's impacts in Puerto Rico: Let's start with reservoir maintenance] *El Nuevo Día*, p. 37.
7. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2022, September 19) **In Puerto Rico, Activists Transform Abandoned Land to Build Food Sovereignty.** [*La transformación de un terreno abandonado para fortificar la soberanía alimentaria de Puerto Rico*] NextCity.
6. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2021, March 24) **Obstáculos post-María: estrategias futuras para la agricultura.** [Obstacles Puerto Rican Farmers Faced after Hurricane Maria: Information for Future Adaptation Strategies]. *El Nuevo Día*.
5. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2021, March 12) **Buscando mariposas bajo la luna nueva en El Yunque.** [Looking for Moths Under the New Moon]. *Revista 80 grados*.
4. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (2020, March 19) **Soberanía alimentaria en tiempos de coronavirus.** [The COVID-19 Pandemic and Puerto Rico's Food Sovereignty] *El Nuevo Día*.
3. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz (2019, August 29) **I wanted to join my fellow Puerto Ricans in protest—but I'm far away for my Ph.D.** [Quería involucrarme en las protestas del verano, pero me encontraba lejos de Puerto Rico.] *Working Life, Science Magazine*.
2. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (2019, June 14) **El reto de fortalecer la pesca en Puerto Rico.** [Challenges on Strengthening the Puerto Rican Fishing Sector] *El Nuevo Día*, p. 48.
1. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz (2019, March 11) **Descontaminar sin atentar contra los viequenses.** [Cleaning Vieques Shouldn't Threaten its Citizens nor the Environment] *El Nuevo Día*, p. 52.

VIDEO PUBLICATION

Mini documentary

1. What role do seed banks play in achieving food sovereignty in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean? **(2005). Nueve Millones. (Co-producer). Available at YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2Dm-kc2eQs>

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

Books

2. *Al otro lado* (A compilation of short stories) (March 2023) ISBN: 978-1-64131-737-5.
1. *Cuentos color mostaza* (A compilation of short stories) (July 2015) ISBN: 978-1-51461-120-3

Magazines and Anthologies

4. ***Flotar en el verde*** (short story) Revista Causes. Núm 3. November 2023.
3. ***Beyond What the Ship Brought to Puerto Rico***. Revista Anchoa. April, 2025.
2. **La caja de los sueños** (short story). *Fricción cuántica: Antología de ciencia ficción desde Puerto Rico y su diáspora*. Gnomo Editorial. May 2022.
1. **Perdón** (cuento). Revista Le.Tra.S. Universidad Metropolitana de Bayamón. 2:2. December 2015.

ORGANIZED CAPACITY-BUILDING, SCIENCE COMMUNICATION, AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

21. **More sweet than bitter, this Trópico agridulce of ours: A workshop on mapping joy in the food system**. Puerto Rico Museum of Contemporary Art. San Juan, Puerto Rico. March 10, 2026. The workshop was designed for members and fellows (22) of The Action Lab (NGO).
20. **“Diálogo en sala sobre Trópico agridulce”** (public gathering, tour, and conversation) Puerto Rico Museum of Contemporary Art. San Juan, Puerto Rico. February 19, 2026. Artistic activity. (27 attendees).
19. **“Sobre comunicar nuestra ciencia: Recursos y estrategias para la comunicación científica”** (Science communication workshop) *Organizer and facilitator*. CORA-S Program, School of Health and Sciences, University of the Sacred Heart. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 14, 2025. Workshop. (28 participants).
18. **“Sobre narrar la ciencia: Recursos y estrategias para la comunicación científica”** (Science communication workshop). *Organizer and facilitator*. CORA-S Program, School of Health and Sciences, University of the Sacred Heart. San Juan, Puerto Rico. April 4, 2025. Workshop. (17 participants).
17. **“Landslide Mitigation in Puerto Rico: Available Data and Digital Tools”**. *Co-organizer with Loderay Marrero Bracero*. K. Stephen Hughes presented, and Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz moderated. Tech Talk Series, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub. December 11, 2024. Webinar (42 participants).
16. **“Efficient Use of Irrigation Water: Adapting to Climate Impacts”**. *Co-organizer (USDA Climate Hub section) and Speaker*. Informative presentations with Gustavo A. Rodríguez, Sofía Macchiavelli Girón, and Luis G. Sierra. Agricultural Experimental Station, UPR. Corozal, P.R. December 2, 2023. Workshop (41 participants)
15. **Careers in Agriculture**. *Organizer and Co-facilitator*. An activity for high school students, alongside Yahaira Torres Burgos. Luis Muñoz Marín High School, Juana Díaz, P.R. October 19, 2023. Lecture. (19 students).
14. **Practical Tools to Understand and Facilitate Data and Information Regarding Climate Change Impacts to Puerto Rico and its Agriculture**. *Organizer and Speaker*. This session was part of *Integrating Climate Change and Agriculture to High Schools’ Science Classrooms*. University of Puerto Rico at Utuado. May 31, 2023. Workshop. Funded by the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization. (26 teachers).

13. **“Efficient Use of Irrigation Water: Adapting to Climate Impacts”**. *Co-organizer (USDA Climate Hub section) and Speaker*. Informative presentations with Gustavo A. Rodríguez, Sofía Macchiavelli Girón, and Luis G. Sierra. Agricultural Experimental Station, UPR. Gurabo, P.R. May 2, 2023. Workshop and Expo. (80 participants).
12. **“Connecting the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service with the Climate Hubs.”** *Organizer and Speaker*. Informative presentations with William Gould, Nora Álvarez-Berrios, and Eva Holupchinski. USDA FAS Sustainability Committee. January 25, 2023. Online meeting. (13 participants).
11. **“USDA Caribbean Climate Hub’s Tools and Resources for Vegetable Growers.”** *Organizer and Facilitator*. Information table with Silmarie Crespo. Annual HORT EXPO of the Extension Service. May 21, 2022. Conference and workshop. (75 participants).
10. **“Island Food Security and Climate Change”**. *Organizer and Moderator*. Panel with Christina Chanes, Mariolga Reyes Cruz, Sommer Sibilly-Brown, and Uriyoán Colón Ramos at the 3rd Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference. April 19, 2022. Virtual Panel. (76 participants).
9. **“An Intersectional Look to Agricultural Labor: Perspectives from Public Health and Agroecology”**. *Co-Moderator and Organizer*. Puerto Rico Science Policy Action Network Seminar Series. April 7, 2021. Webinar.
8. **“Undergraduate Research: How and Why?”** *Moderator and Co-Organizer*. SACNAS University of Vermont Chapter. February 17, 2021. Webinar.
7. **“Demystifying Grad School.”** *Presenter and Co-Organizer*. SACNAS University of Vermont Chapter. October 29, 2020. Webinar.
6. **“Community Mobilization as a Model for Just Emergency Management: Challenges and Opportunities for the Development of Public Policies”**. *Organizer*. Funded by The Science Rising Challenge Fund. October 23, 2020. Webinar.
5. **“Inclusion and Equity in Politics: Challenges and Opportunities for the Development of Public Policies”**. *Organizer*. Funded by The Science Rising Challenge Fund. October 16, 2020. Webinar.
4. **“A Realist and Culturally-appropriate 101 of Media Communications and Science: Challenges and Opportunities for the Development of Public Policies”**. *Organizer*. Funded by The Science Rising Challenge Fund. September 25, 2020. Webinar.
3. **“Land Pedagogy at Schools and Communities: Challenges and Opportunities for the Development of Public Policies.”** *Moderator and organizer*. Funded by The Science Rising Challenge Fund. September 11, 2020. Webinar.
2. **“Racism in Puerto Rico: Challenges and Opportunities for the Development of Public Policies”**. *Moderator and organizer*. Funded by The Science Rising Challenge Fund. September 4, 2020. Webinar.

1. “*Acortando la brecha entre la ciencia, política y medios de comunicación*”. [**Shortening the Gap Between Science, Politics, and the Media**] *Presenter, and leadership team*. Funded by the National Science Policy Network (NSPN). *San Juan, Puerto Rico*. September 6, 2019. *Workshop*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

32. Moderator. **Café y comunidad: ¿Cuáles soluciones impulsan la soberanía alimentaria?** (Which Solutions Support Food Sovereignty?). Online panel with Giovanni Roberto and Crystal Díaz. Nueve Millones. November 12, 2025.

31. Panelist. **“Whose Story Counts?” – Climate Politics, Media Trust & Environmental Justice**. Panel with Tory Stephens, Roxanne Scott, and Tik Root. *Journey of a Story: Climate, Politics, and Trust in the Media Series, The Uproot Project and The Grist*. October 21, 2025.

30. Guest Lecturer. **“On The Meanings of World Food Day and International Food Sovereignty Day”**. International Studies, Trinity University. San Antonio, Texas. October 16, 2025.

29. Guest Lecturer. **“On Developing a Public Health Intervention: Bolstering the Capacities of Community Health Centers to Support Agricultural Communities”**. Nutritional Division, Cornell University. September 30, 2025.

28. Panelist. Presented: **“On How I Pack My Science Communication”** in the panel, *Different Modalities for Effective Science Communication: Case Studies from Puerto Rico*. Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS) Annual Summit. San Juan, Puerto Rico. April 25, 2025.

27. Moderator. **“What is beyond supermarkets?”**. Panel was composed by Naia Seda, Milianny Berríos, and Marisel Robles Gutiérrez. *La comida como cultura: Diálogos de sobremesa*. Second edition focused on *De los mercados a los supermercados*. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 10, 2024.

26. Panelist. **“Do you have questions about climate change?”** with Pearl Marvell, Johani Ponce, and Rafael Méndez Tejeda. Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. October 25, 2024.

25. Guest Lecturer. **“Let’s Talk About Food Systems, Disasters, and Food Security”**. International Studies, Trinity University. San Antonio, Texas. October 16, 2024.

24. Panelist. **“Harvesting potential: Developing leaders for a sustainable food system”** with Maya More, Ali Boochever, Kevin Haggerty, Sarra Talib, and Michelle Nikfarjam. Food Systems Research Summit, Burlington, Vermont. September 17, 2024.

23. Panelist. **“A Conversation About Transdisciplinary Research”** with Gillian Galford and Analena B. Bruce. Food Systems Research Summit, Burlington, Vermont. September 16, 2024.

22. Panelist. **“Careers with a BS in Biology: The Importance of an Interdisciplinary Background”**. Organized by the Alumni Office, University of Puerto Rico at Ponce. March 11, 2024.

21. Panelist. Presented: **“Climate Change Awareness into Action: The Case of Puerto Rican Farmers”** in the panel, **“Climate Change in Puerto Rico: Public Opinion and Public Engagement”**; with Marija Verner, Ada Monzón, and Sara Santiago. Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. December 8, 2023.

20. Guest speaker. Presented: “**Sustainability, Food Security and Food Sovereignty, in the Context of Climate Change**” with Yahaira Torres Burgos. Luis Muñoz Marín High School (35 students). Juana Díaz, P.R. October 19, 2023.
19. Panelist and speaker. Presented: “**Vulnerability to Landslides in Puerto Rico: Communicating Risks and Implications for Public Health**” with Desireé Bayouth García. *Jornada de comunicación de riesgo y salud pública ante eventos de la naturaleza y desastres*. San Juan, P.R. July 19, 2023.
18. Panelist. Presented: “**Working with Farmers and Extension in Puerto Rico.**” USDA Caribbean Climate Hubs All-Hands Pre-meeting’ panel: “Conversation on Administering a Regional Hub.” Panel alongside Holly Prendeville, Emile Elias, Erin Lane, Karrah Kwasnik, and Clay Pope. October 18, 2022.
17. Guest speaker. Presented: “**Areas of Opportunities and Needs for Farmers’ Climate Adaptation**”. USDA NRCS State Technical Meetings for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. May 18 and 19, 2022.
16. Guest speaker. Presented: “**Contrasts and Similarities between Food Security and Food Sovereignty**”. Industrial Biotechnology Students Association, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. March 8, 2022.
15. Panelist. Participated in the COMPASS Science Communication-organized panel for the Switzer Foundation: “**Understanding Policy Engagement and Communication.**” Panel alongside Kristin Dobbin and Raven Graf. January 14, 2022.
14. Panelist. “**Importance and Challenges of Bilingual Science Communication**”. USDA Hispanic American Cultural Effort. Earth Day Panel with colleagues from the USDA Caribbean Climate Hub. April 22, 2021.
13. Guest speaker and panelist. “**Exploring the Intersections of Identity, Agency, and Engagement**”. Training session for the Leaders for Sea Change Fellows, COMPASS Science Communication. Panel alongside Priya Shukla. April 21, 2021.
12. Panelist. **Discussed experience with science communication and advocacy**. COMPASS Policy Communications Training for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research Fellows. Panel alongside Switzer Fellows working in agriculture. March 18, 2021.
11. Guest speaker. Presented: “**Obstacles towards recovery and adoption of adaptation practices after Maria: A look at 405 Puerto Rican farmers**”. Working Group for Private Forests in Puerto Rico. March 3, 2020. US Forest Service, USDA. San Juan, PR.
10. Guest speaker. Presented: “**The role of science communication and outreach in my research**”. Institute on the Environment Global Scholars Program. February 22, 2021. University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Minneapolis, MN.
9. Guest lecturer. GEOL 371: Critical Writing in Earth and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Paul Bierman. Presented: “**Publishing a Working Life Piece in Science Magazine**”. February 18, 2021. University of Vermont. Burlington, VT.

8. Panelist. Presented a short version of “**Looking at Puerto Rican Farmers’ Food Security and Climate Change Adaption Through the Eye of Hurricane Maria**”. Panel: *Agricultural Adaptation and Global Food Security: Trends, Needs, Barriers, and Opportunities*. December 8, 2020. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting.
7. Panelist. Presented: “**Giving Visibility to the Role of Governance and Power Structures in Food Systems**”. Panel: *Racial Inequities in Food Systems and Agricultural Training*. Alongside Sarah Huang and Olga Bolden-Tiller. November 13, 2020. National Science Policy Network Annual Symposium.
6. Guest lecturer. PSS 212: Advanced Agroecology, Prof. Victor Izzo. Presented: “**Beyond the Farm: Community Resilience in Eastern Cuba**”. October 29, 2020. University of Vermont. Burlington, VT.
5. Guest lecturer. DESS 8305: Social Health Policy Analysis, Profs. Carmen Vélez and Irene Lafarga Previdi. Presented: “**The Puerto Rico Science Policy Action Network as a Tool for Graduate Students Interested in Policy and Advocacy**”. October 7, 2020. University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus. San Juan, PR.
4. Guest lecturer. NFS 073: Farm to Table: Our Contemporary Food System, Profs. Jean Harvey and Amy Trubek. Presented: “**Small Island Developing States and Climate Change**”. December 3, 2018. University of Vermont. Burlington, VT.
3. Panelist. Presented:” **Small Island Developing States: Challenges and opportunities for agricultural resilience in a changing climate**”. Panel: *Climate Change and Resilience*. Alongside Chathurika Wijewardana, Valens Niyigena, and Saleh Ahmed. Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security. June 13, 2018. Perdue Center for Global Food Security, Perdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.
2. Discussant. *Peer Mentoring Chat: “Isolation and Imposter Syndrome”*. Alongside Sofía Machiavelli-Girón & Liz Hernández. Yale Ciencia Academy. June 12, 2018. Yale University and Ciencia Puerto Rico.
1. Guest speaker. Basic Spanish, Prof. Marta García Nieves. Was invited to speak to students about the process of writing *Cuentos color mostaza*. December 8, 2016. Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. Ponce, PR.

PRESENTATIONS AT ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

**Presenter*

18. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz*, Myrellis Muñoz Márquez, Nilsa Padilla, Aníbal López Correa, Marysel Pagán Santana. ***Design of an Educational Curriculum on Agriculture, Occupational Health, and Climate Change for Health Professionals***. 48th Annual Meeting of the Puerto Rican Society of Agricultural Sciences. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Poster Presentation. December 2025.
17. “**Hete aquí este paisaje digestivo: Four Perspectives to Identify Abundance in the Puerto Rican Food System**”. *Co-organizer and moderator*. Conference of the Puerto Rico Section of the Latin American Studies Association, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. March 27, 2025. Panel.

16. Marysel Pagán-Santana*, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Nilsa Padilla. “**Understanding Climate Change Perceptions and Literacy Among Clinicians in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.**” Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. Oral presentation. October 2024.
15. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz. “**Un rompecabeza difícil de montar: Un futuro positivo para el sistema agroalimentario puertorriqueño**”. Annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association. Part of the panel: *Puerto Rico en la Olla: Cocinando la soberanía alimentaria*, with Mónica B. Ocasio, Carol Ramos Gerena, and Crystal Díaz. Bogotá, Colombia. Oral presentation. June 2024.
14. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz. “**Hablemos de la seguridad alimentaria de los hogares agrícolas puertorriqueños**”. Puerto Rico’s Fourth Congress of Applied Economics, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. Oral presentation. May 2024.
13. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz*, Jocelyn West, and K. Stephen Hughes. “**Vulnerability and Risks to Landslide Hazards in Puerto Rico: A Focus on Farmers**”. *46th Annual Meeting of the Puerto Rican Society of Agricultural Sciences*. Añasco, Puerto Rico. Oral Presentation. December 2023.
12. Jocelyn West*, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, and K. Stephen Hughes. “**Assessing Social Vulnerability to Landslide Hazards in Rural Puerto Rico.**” Researchers Meeting of the *48th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*. Broomfield, Colorado. Oral Presentation. July 2023.
11. Jocelyn West*, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, K. Stephen Hughes. “**Assessing Social Vulnerability to Landslide Hazards in Rural Puerto Rico.**” *Research in U.S. Territories, Tribal Areas, and Rural Communities Internal Meeting on Public Health Implications*. Natural Hazard Center and Center for Diseases and Control. Oral presentation. May 2, 2023.
10. Nora L. Álvarez-Berrios*, Eva Holupchinski, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Dariana Mattei, Silmarie Crespo Vélez, Gabriela Cotto, William A. Gould. “**Climate-Smart Caribbean: Efforts to increase drought adaptation and climate literacy in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.**” *103rd Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society*. Oral presentation. January 2023.
9. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz*, Silmarie Crespo, Nora L. Álvarez-Berrios, Eva Holupchinski, Dariana Mattei Ramos, Gabriela Cotto, Kathleen McGinley, and William A. Gould. “**Una mirada a las investigaciones, colaboraciones, y herramientas desarrolladas por el Centro Climático del Caribe del USDA.**” *49th Annual Meeting of the Puerto Rican Society of Agricultural Sciences*. Oral presentation. December 2022.
8. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz* and Christian Giardina. “**Lessons Learned from the Caribbean and Pacific Regions: Climate Adaptation Guides for Tropical Agriculture and Forestry.**” *USDA Climate Hubs’ All Hands Fall Meeting*. Oral presentation. October 2022.
7. Nora L. Álvarez-Berrios*, Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz, Eva Holupchinski, Kathleen McGinley, and William A. Gould. “**Adaptation lessons from rural communities in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands after hurricanes Irma and Maria: Summarizing challenges and strategies in agriculture and forestry working landscapes.**” *5th National Adaptation Forum*. Poster presentation. October 2022.

6. Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz*, Nora Álvarez-Berrios, and Meredith T. Niles. “**Puerto Rican Farmer Households’ Food Security after Hurricane Maria: Rethinking Metrics.**” *47th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*. Poster presentation. July 2022.
5. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz* & Meredith T. Niles. “**Looking at Puerto Rican Farmers’ Food Security and Climate Change Adaption Through the Eye of Hurricane Maria.**” *American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*. Oral presentation. December 2020.
4. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz* & Meredith T. Niles. “**Intended and Actual Adoption of Climate Adaptation Practices after Hurricane Maria**”. *American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting*. Poster presentation. *Seattle, WA*. February 2020.
3. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz*. ***Farming in an Unincorporated Territory of the United States***. Panel presentation: *Relocalizing Agriculture in a Transnational World: Place, Markets, and Migration*. Alongside Emily Ramsey, Andrea Rissing, Alex Korsunsky, and Debarati Sen as moderator. *SANA/SUNTA joint conference*. *San Juan, PR*. May 2019. [*paper in absentia*].
2. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz* & Meredith T. Niles. “**Hurricane Maria’s Impacts on Puerto Rican Farmers: Experience, Perceptions, and Challenger.**” *University of Vermont’s Student Research Conference*. Poster presentation. *Burlington, VT*. April 2019.
1. Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz* & Meredith T. Niles. “**Puerto Rican Farmers Psychological Distance of Climate Change Adaptation**”. *American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting*. Poster presentation. *Washington, D.C*. February 2019.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships

10. **Proyecto Solidaridad**. Poetry is Busy Studio and Mellon Foundation. September 2024.
- Supports Puerto Rican artists through diverse professional and personal development activities.
9. **Public Voices Fellowship on the Climate Crisis**. The OpEd Project and the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC). 2023.
- “This Fellowship is part of The OpEd Project’s national Public Voices initiative to change who writes history. It is also part of YPCCC’s work to diversify and amplify the voices working to build public and political will for climate change action.” Almost 500 people applied for this cycle; 20 fellows were chosen.
8. **USDA-USFS Reducing Climate Risks and Increasing Climate Fellowship Position**, ORISE, USDE. 2022.
7. **Semi-finalist, Mass Media Fellowship**, American Association for the Advancement of Science. 2021.
6. **Switzer Environmental Fellowship**. The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation. 2020-2021.
- “The Switzer Fellowship offers one-year fellowships to highly talented graduate students in New England and California whose studies and career goals are directed toward environmental improvement and who clearly demonstrate leadership in their field.”

5. Scientist Sentinels for Civic Engagement and Leadership, COMPASS Science Communication Inc. 2019.

- One of 15 scientists chosen nationwide (US) to “(...) advance the role of science in society, inspire their peers, and support evidence-based decision making at the local level and beyond”.

4. Graduate Fellow. Gund Institute for the Environment, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. 2018 – 2022

- “The Gund Institute for Environment brings scholars and leaders together to accelerate research, uncover solutions and tackle the world's most pressing environmental issues.”

3. Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security Fellow, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. 2018.

- One of the 40 accepted graduate students nationwide (United States) interested in “developing a holistic understanding of the conceptual challenges around global food security.”

2. Yale Ciencia Academy, Yale University and Ciencia Puerto Rico. 2018.

- Successfully completed a competitive year-long career development program for doctoral students (40), across the United States and Puerto Rico, featuring professional development workshops, virtual conversations with successful scientists, career planning, science outreach, networking opportunities, and extensive community building.

1. The Caminos Project Fellow (USDA-NIFA), Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas. 2016.

- One of 12 graduate students from underrepresented populations in the US, chosen to participate in a multidisciplinary training in the agricultural sciences at the 2016 National Conference of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.

Awards

12. Wildseeds Fund's Impact Media Award Nominee (February, 2026)

- Nominated for La Fiambrera, “a rather unique weekly newsletter [published by Luis Alexis], where he presents different social and cultural dimensions of agriculture (including fisheries) promoting a wider engagement with local food systems and culture.”

11. Communication Award for Educational Book/eBook, Southern Region. (April 2024). National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NCAAA).

- Awarded to us for developing *Uso eficiente del agua de riego en fincas de hortalizas y otros cultivos*, a practical guide for producers.

10. Angela Batista Award. The Mosaic Center for Students of Color. (April 2021). University of Vermont.

- Awarded to the SACNAS leadership team for starting the first SACNAS chapter at UVM.

9. 2021 Grist 50. Fix program. The Grist. (March 2021) Grist Magazine Inc.

- “The Grist 50 is an annual list of emerging leaders from across the U.S. who are working on fresh, real-world solutions to our world's biggest challenges.”

8. **2020 Graduate Research Excellence Award.** Recognized by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for excelling in research and scholarly accomplishments. (May, 2020) University of Vermont. Burlington, VT.
7. **Winner in Social Sciences.** Student *Eposter* Competition of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting (February 2020), Seattle, Washington.
6. **Symposium Scholar #InclusiveSciComm Symposium.** Funding from the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation. (August 2019) Metcalf Institute, University of Rhode Island. Kingstown, RI.
5. **Honorable Mention in Social Sciences.** Student *Eposter Competition* of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting (February 2019) Washington, D.C.
4. **Student Diversity Program Winner.** *USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum.* (February 2017) Washington, D.C.
- One of 10 graduate students selected nationwide (essay competition) for a highly competitive program that exposes students to contemporary agribusiness, future trends, scientific research and agricultural policy.
3. **Selected winner.** 1st National Contest of Microstories, Isabel Freire Matos. Editorial Múcao-CEDEI y Ediciones Mágica. 2016.
2. **Honorable Mention in Poetry.** *2015 Literary Contest* (May 2015) University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
1. **Best Presentation and People's Choice Awards.** *New Food Product Development Competition* (November 2014) University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.

ADVISING EXPERIENCE

6. MA Committee member to Edwin Hommy Martínez (University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras (2026)
5. PhD Committee member to Francis Russell (University of Texas at Austin, 2023 – present)
4. PhD Ad Honorem advisor to Aura Alonso-Rodríguez (University of Vermont, 2022 – present)
3. Dissertation Reviewer, PhD Committee for Edrick Marrero-Soto (Universidad Interamericana-San Germán, 2024)
2. PhD Ad Honorem advisor to Maya Moore (University of Vermont, 2022)
1. M.S. Ad Honorem advisor to Milton López-Aponte (Universidad de Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, 2022).

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

17. Member of the Latine Editorial Circle. **Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development.** 2025.
16. Lead interview reviewer. **Switzer Environmental Fellowship, Switzer Foundation,** May 2025.
15. Member of the Community Coalition of Partners. **Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation, Cancer and Health Disparities Research Center (CARIB-CARES).** April 2025 –

14. Member of the Food Research Group, Climate Measurements Center of Excellence, Gund Institute for the Environment, University of Vermont. January 2025 –
13. Author. **US Caribbean Chapter, Sixth National Climate Assessment of the United States**, U.S. Global Change Research Program. October 2024 – May 2025.
12. Advisor at the special session hosted by the **Marie & John Sherwood Fund for the Engagement of Underrepresented Minorities in Plant Pathology at Plant Health 2024**. Invited by the American Phytopathological Society (APS). April 2024.
11. Voluntary application reviewer (8 applications). **Switzer Environmental Fellowship, Switzer Foundation**. February 2024.
10. Expert participant. **Academic Research Workshop to Understand Nutritional Security and Agricultural Production in PR**. March, 2023. George Washington University. San Juan, PR.
9. Voluntary application reviewer (8 applications). **Switzer Environmental Fellowship, Switzer Foundation**. February 2023.
8. Voluntary application reviewer (8 applications). **Switzer Environmental Fellowship, Switzer Foundation**. February 2022.
7. Student representative in selection committee, **Gund Institute for the Environment**, University of Vermont. (2021)
6. Chapter Liaison. **Society for the Advancement of Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)**, UVM Chapter. (2020 – 2021)
- Was part of the founding group. Represents the group at the SACNAS US Level, and at the University of Vermont Graduate Student Senate
5. Co-Lead. Social Activities Committee, **Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative**, University of Vermont (2020)
4. Co-Chair. **Puerto Rico Science Policy Action Network (PR-SPAN)**. (2020)
- A Ciencia Puerto Rico initiative that seeks to create a platform for Puerto Rican scientists to access resources and skills that allow them to inform policy and decision-making at all levels, and collaborate with Puerto Rican communities and organizations in the creation and implementation of sound and evidence-based policies.
- Founding member since 2018.
3. Student representative in curriculum evaluation committee, **Food Systems Graduate Program**, University of Vermont (2019)
2. Student representative in selection committee, **Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences**, University of Vermont (Fall 2018)
1. Student representative in selection committee, **Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences**, University of Vermont (Spring 2018)

JOURNAL REVIEWER SERVICE

- Food, Culture, and Society (2026)
- Agriculture and Human Values (2023)
- PLoS One (2021)
- Weather, Climate, and Society (2021).

SELECTED MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES

11. **El Nuevo Día** (May 31, 2025; pp. 4-5) Arranca la temporada ciclónica: más del 80% de la población de Puerto Rico enfrenta vulnerabilidad social ante desastres.
11. **The Bittman Project** (March 27, 2025) WhatsApp Is a Vital Resource in Global Agriculture. But Is It in Danger?
10. **Nature Careers** (February 25, 2025). PhD scientists who forged a career off the beaten track.
9. **The Weather Channel en Español** (September 7, 2024). Puerto Rico: agricultura y huracanes.
8. **El Nuevo Día** (October 15, 2023). A merced de la tierra: más de una tercera parte de los puertorriqueños vive en zonas de alta susceptibilidad a derrumbes. (In print: p. 4-6; video report as well).
7. **PBS** (July 5, 2022). Puerto Rico's Small-Scale Farming Revolution.
6. **El Nuevo Día**. (August 1, 2021; pp. 34-35). A medio camino la recuperación del agro.
5. **El Nuevo Día**. (April 17, 2021; pp. 55). Revista The Grist reconoce a científico boricua.
4. **The Grist** (March 23, 2021). His research gets to the root of the problem on Puerto Rico's farms.
3. **In Common Podcast** (March 15, 2021). Food systems, communicating science and taking care of yourself in academia with Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz.
2. **Rolling Stone** (July 23, 2020). Puerto Rico Is Battling a COVID-19 Surge on Top of a Drought.
1. **AAAS Member Spotlight** (September 20, 2019). How Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz Brings His Culture with Him While Studying Overseas.

TRAININGS & SKILLS

- Human Research Protection Foundational Training. US Department of Health and Human Services (2023)
- Building Better Virtual Events, COMPASS Science Communication (3 hours) (2023)
- Curso de Productorxs y Promotorxs Agroecológicxs, Proyecto Agroecológico El Josco Bravo (2022)
- Social Networks Analysis. CenterStat by Curran-Bauer Analytics (40 hours) (2021)
- Certified in Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), Standard Sanitizing Operating Procedure (SSOP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs). University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (2016).
- Proficiency with/in:
 - Moodle Education Platform
 - Project and program management
 - Management of interdisciplinary teams
 - Academic events management, planning, and organizing
 - Quantitative analyses in STATA, SPSS, JMP (basic), and R (basic)

- Scientific survey design and administration (in person, online, by phone, and through enumerators)
- Survey design in Qualtrics and Google Forms
- Qualitative analysis with NVivo Software
- Microsoft Office Suite, CANVA platform, Mural platform, WordPress blog management and design
- Webinar facilitation and design, online event planning (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google Meet, Jetsy)
- Knowledgeable in the use of Salesforce

OTHER SPOKEN LANGUAGE

Spanish (first language)

ACTIVE PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Ciencias Agrícolas	2022 –
Ciencia Puerto Rico	2017 –
Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)	2015 –