

Curriculum Vitae

NICHOLAS SPIERS

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LANGUAGES

English: Native speaker
Spanish: Proficiency (C2)
Portuguese: Advanced (C1)

EDUCATION

2024/09/01 - 2028/09/29: Antropologia (Doutoramento) *Ongoing*
Universidade de Lisboa Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Portugal

2011/09/05 - 2012/07/26: Master Degree in Visual Anthropology (Master) 18/20
Universitat de Barcelona, Facultat de Geografia i Història, Catalunya

2005/09/25 - 2008/08/01: Bachelor of Science in Anthropology (Bachelor) 2:1 Second Class Honours
University College London, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, United Kingdom

PREVIOUS AFFILIATIONS

2021/07/01 - 2024/09/30: Research Coordinator
The Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines, United States

2019/10/01 - 2021/06/03: Teacher
Cambridge School, Portugal

2015/05/15 - 2019/08/13: Co-founder and Director
Agua de Rayo, Mexico

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2025/10/18 – 2025/12/18: Secondment at Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) - Mobility activities in the context of the HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE project EDGES: Entangling Indigenous Knowledges in Universities under WP4: Reassessing Indigenous Cosmo-Ecologies: Current Entanglements and Potential Contributions between Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge.

2024/10/01 – 2028/09/20: Grantee (Doctoral research grant) Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT)

2016/10/01 - 2017/03/31: Grantee (Residencies for Artistic Creation) Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development, Mexico

2016/07/01 - 2017/01/30: Grantee Project, Open Society Foundations, United States

OUTPUTS

Publications

Book chapter

Spiers, Nicholas; Heriberto Prado Pereda. "Recovering Mazatec Culture with the Sacred Mushrooms: an Interview with Heriberto Prado Pereda" in *Psychoactive Plants in the Americas: Agencies, Traditions, and Circuits*, edited by North Atlantic Books. United States: North Atlantic Books, 2025.

Edited book

Buchanan, NiCole T. et al., ed. *Psychedelic Justice: Towards a Diverse and Equitable Psychedelic Culture*. Santa Fe, United States: Synergetic Press. 2021.

Journal article

Spiers, Nicholas; Labate, Beatriz Caiuby; Ermakova, Anna O.; Farrell, Patrick; Romero, Osiris Sinuhé González; Gabriell, Ibrahim; Olvera, Nidia. "Indigenous psilocybin mushroom practices: An annotated bibliography". *Journal of Psychedelic Studies* 8 1 (2024): 3-25. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1556/2054.2023.00297>.

Newspaper article

Spiers, Nicholas. "Opinion piece in The Guardian: Freak show TV: lessons to learn from Channel Seven's racist 'lost tribe' report", *The Guardian*, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/commentisfree/2015/jan/02/freak-show-tv-lessons-to-learn-from-channel-sevens-racist-lost-tribe-report>

Online resource

Spiers, Nicholas; Ortega, Litay. *Salvia Divinorum: The Globalization of a Sacred Psychoactive Plant* (online article). 2018. <http://realitysandwich.com/322615/salvia-divinorum-the-globalization-of-a-sacred-psychoactive-plant/>.

Spiers, Nicholas; Ortega, Litay. *Envisioning a New Approach to a Sacred Mexican Plant*. 2017. <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/envisioning-new-approach-sacred-mexican-plant>.

Video

IRI partner organizations; Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative (Producer); Nicholas Spiers (Director). 2023. What Does "Reciprocity" Mean? (documentary short). <https://youtu.be/WICJ68gzyUo?si=bHTOzuriQ7LAX2XI>.

The Chacruna institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines (Producer); Nicholas Spiers (Director/editor) & Beatriz Caiuby Labate (Director). 2021. Peyote Files (3-part web-series). <https://youtu.be/9IPaC08gwEc>.

Chacruna Institute for Plant Medicines (Producer); Nicholas Spiers (Director). 2021. Chacruna Debunks 6 Racist Myths from the Psychedelic Community. <https://youtu.be/XOUF98BTJhA?si=ttkoAd1PmGUujy7b>.

Agua de Rayo (Producer); Nicholas Spiers and Litay Ortega (Directors). 2020. Los Cazadores y Chikon Nindo (short film). <https://vimeo.com/392445322>.

The Chacruna Institute (Producer); Nicholas Spiers and Litay Ortega (Director). 2019. Queering Psychedelics: Rainbow Capitalism and Psychedelics (documentary short). <https://youtu.be/dYi768N19k?si=QqBWUI7V5YPIxSdR>.

Agua de Rayo A.C. (Producer); Nicholas Spiers and Litay Ortega (Directors). 2016. Divinorum (3-part documentary web-series). <https://vimeo.com/197648075>.

Agua de Rayo (Producer); Nicholas Spiers and Litay Ortega (Director). 2016. Chikon Nindó y la Fortuna (short film) <http://vimeo.com/183349854>

ACTIVITIES

Oral presentations

2024/11/09: "Mazatec Indigenous Shamanism" - Psilocybin Conference 2024 (San Francisco, United States)

2023/06/23: "Mazatec Sacred Mushrooms & Psychedelic Capitalism" - Psychedelic Science 2023, Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (Denver, United States)

2022/10/26 – "Prácticas Indígenas con Hongos Psilocibios: Una Bibliografía Comentada" - II Simposio Internacional sobre Hongos Sagrados y Psilocibina. Sociedad Mexicana de la Psilocibina A.C. (Mexico City, Mexico)

2022/10/16: "Mazatec Shamanism & the psychedelic Renaissance" - Horizons: Perspectives on Psychedelics, The Horizons Center PBC, Inc. (New York, United States)

2022/06/16: "Indigenous Uses of Psilocybin Mushrooms and Psychedelic Capitalism" - Alcohol and Drugs History Society (ADHS) Conference. National Autonomous University of Mexico (Mexico City, Mexico)

2022/04/04: “Traditional vs Western Use: Indigenous Psilocybin Mushroom use in Mexico” - Student Psychedelic Conference 2022, Drug Science (London, United Kingdom)

2019/08/17: “The Peyote Files screening and presentation” - Breaking Conventions, Greenwich University (London, United Kingdom)

2018/02/24: “Mercantilización de la Planta Sagrada xka Pastora (Salvia divinorum)” - Plantas Sagradas en las Américas, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (Ajijic, Mexico)

2017/06/21: “Envisioning a New Approach to a Sacred Mexican Plant” - Drugs in Documentary Films, Open Society Foundations (New York City , United States)

EVENT PARTICIPATION

2025/09/22 – 2025/09/26 Residência Ressurgência (Ressurgence Residency), Portugal

2025/06/04 – 2025/06/06 Workshop from the EDGES project ‘Reflorestar o património: Museus e a retomada dos povos indígenas’, Museu Nacional de História e da Ciência, Portugal

2024/05/27 - 2024/05/29 Simpósio do projeto europeu EDGES - Pensar/agir através de entrelaçamentos Symposium, Universidade de Lisboa Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Portugal

2024/04/27 - 2024/04/28 Showing of short ethnographic film about the Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative (directed by Nicholas Spiers), Psychedelic Culture Conference 2024, The Chacruna Institute of Psychedelic Plant Medicines, United States

2024/03/05 - 2024/03/05 Decolonization, Indigenous Allyship & Protecting Sacred Plants workshop , The Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines, United States

2023/12/12 - 2023/12/12 Eco-chaplaincy, Psychedelics, and Spirituality workshop, The Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines, United States

2023/01/09 - 2023/04/05 Critical Perspectives on Knowledge Production in Psychedelic Science course, The Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines, United States

2023/02/27 - 2023/02/28 Psychedelics as Medicine Conference in Iceland, Eden Foundation, Iceland

2021/09/20 - 2021/09/21 Moderator on panel "Hongos y Psilocibina en Colombia", Simposio Internacional Sobre Psilocibina: Terapia, Cultura y Decolonización, Sociedad Mexicana de la Psilocibina A.C., Mexico

2015/10/05 - 2015/10/06 Congreso: Drogas, Política y Cultura: Perspectivas Brasil-México, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores de Antropología Social, Mexico

COURSE / DISCIPLINE TAUGHT

2023/09/12 - 2023/09/12 - Class: “Mazatec uses of Psilocybin Mushrooms” on the course: Shamanism, Ritual and Traditional Uses of Sacred Plants, The Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines, United States

2023/08/11 - 2023/08/11 – Class: “Mazatec sacred mushrooms and the psychedelic renaissance” on the course Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Training course, Integrative Psychiatry Institute, United States

2022/07/05 - 2022/07/05 – Class: “Mazatec Culture and Psilocybin Mushrooms” on the course Integrative Medicine Psychedelic Project: Intro to Therapeutic Uses of Psychedelics, The University of Arizona, United States

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION

2022/06/20 - 2022/09/03 - Fieldwork expedition in Mexico to visit Indigenous partner organizations collaborating with the Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative to carry out collaborative ethnographic fieldwork, Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative, United States

DISTINCTIONS

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| 2020 | Official Selection: Festival Internacional de Cine de Morelia, Mexico |
| 2020 | Official Selection: Fundacion Festival De Cine En Las Montañas, Colombia |
| 2020 | Official Selection, Cine+Video Indigena, Chile |
| 2018
Mexico | Winner - Oral History and Collective Memory, Secretaría de las Culturas y Artes de Oaxaca, |
| 2018 | Official Selection, Festival de cine MIAX, Mexico |
| 2017 | Best Short Film, Echele Cabeza Cuando Se De En la Cabeza, Colombia |