

# **Indigenous Geospatial Mobility: Agency, Gender, and Urbanization in Ecuadorian Amazonia**

## **Doctoral Dissertation Research**

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### **Abstract**

My research examines how Indigenous urbanism, mobility, and resistance actions influence urbanization in Ecuadorian Amazonia. Commonly imagined as a region where primitive societies cohabit in harmony with nature, Amazonia is now an area characterized by rapid urban development. I explore the missing voices in the Amazonian urbanization by working with Kichwa indigenous people, who are responding to colonial urbanization using their institutions, knowledges, and methodologies. I situate my research within debates surrounding colonization, extractivism, the racialization of migration, and capitalist urbanization. My study mainly focuses on Indigenous Planning, pointing the way toward Indigenous urbanism, which challenges the unsustainable course of urban governance, spatial planning, and built environment of Amazonian cities. Drawing on Indigenous feminisms, decoloniality, and critical urban theory, my project analyzes how urban development actors understand indigenous mobilities, how Kichwa mobilities challenge capitalist urbanism, and how Kichwa women's space/place-making shapes the cityscape. I explore these inquiries through two case studies in Puyo and Tena cities in Ecuadorian Amazonia. By integrating archival, geospatial, ethnographic, and participatory mapping methods, I develop a feminist indigenous geo-ethnographic approach that centers south-north scholarly dialogue in support of the struggles of underrepresented peoples. I also draw on methodologies developed in critical geography, planning studies, and gender studies to show how mobility shapes space and place, how lived experiences reveal agency and subjectivity, and how gendered bodies produce various, shifting identities. My study includes training and knowledge co-production with Kichwa people in geospatial research to connect diverse epistemologies from global south-north research with urban development praxis.