Oscar J. Romero Jr.

M.A. International Affairs

CONTACT INFORMATION

NYC, USA

oscar.romero.ei@gmail.com

www.oscarromero.net

www.linkedin.com/in/oscar-romero-ei

PROFILE

Policy designer focused on building innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystems to address poverty and inequality across New York City by leveraging civic engagement, emerging technology, and international cooperation.

Working to connecting diverse youth with opportunities in nonprofits, entrepreneurship and government to increase representation and reduce inequality.

Martial artist, developer, and film maker.

EDUCATION

2017 — International Affairs (M.A.) The New School

2014 — International Studies (B.S.) University of Guadalajara

2009 — Information Technology (Tgo.) Industrial Teaching Center

CERTIFICATES

2012 — Economic Journalism: Media, Politics and Enterprises.

2012 — Latin American Studies: Regional Integration, Regional Geopolitics and Hemispheric Politics.

2011 — Politics, Culture and Economy in Brazil: A historic perspective.

Director Inclusive Innovation & International Cooperation — June 2018 - Present
The NYC Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer — New York City, NY, US

- **Participatory Development:** Creation of local Community Tech Boards with NGOs, universities, entrepreneurs and residents of vulnerable communities in New York City to discuss urban challenges. Co-design research strategies with community partners to identify local priorities. Launch of calls for innovation (NYCx Challenges) to implement solutions to local urban development challenges in areas such as housing, health, public safety, education, transportation and economic development.

- **International Cooperation Management:** Design of international cooperation frameworks and MoUs with national and international cities, state governments, entrepreneurs, business incubators, universities and foundations to finance and manage initiatives, to share best practices, and to research digital equity, open innovation, civic engagement, and inclusive/people-led urban technology strategies.

- **Implementation of Urban Technology Projects:** Managed operation budgets of $1,000,000 to deploy projects, organize events, hire consultants, and fund fellowships. Co-development and co-implementation with local communities of pilot projects on waste management in public spaces, workforce development, public safety, housing rights, mental health, and entrepreneurship in vulnerable communities. Design of work plans, monitoring and evaluation protocols and partnership management strategies.

- **Curriculum Design:** Design of the content of multiple capacity-building workshops and conferences for the Community Tech Board in the following topic areas: civic technology, urban technology, innovation for development, digital equity and infrastructure redlining. Managed a team of two staff members, 4-8 partial staff from partner agencies, and 5-7 fellows to produce original content, design workshops and manage pilots.

Policy Director, Tech & Equity Platform — Nov 2020 - July 2021
Maya Wiley for NYC Mayor Campaign — New York City, NY, US

- **Policy Platform Design:** Creation of a Tech and Equity platform with 30 policy proposals for the City of New York. Proposals included issues such as Broadband inclusion, Worker's Rights, AI for public good, Criminal Justice, Tech Education, Tech Governance, and Workforce Development.

Co-founder & Executive Director — March 2017 - Oct 2018
Educational Services for International Development — New York City, NY, United States

- Managed a team of five consultants to provide capacity building services for nonprofits, foundations and universities. Oversaw the development of ESID's programs and partnerships. **www.esid.org.mx**

- **Client Sample - The Clinton Foundation:** Developed a series of webinars for over 10k CGI U alumni and capacity building workshops on impact assessment for 50+ entrepreneurs working on education, environment and climate change, poverty alleviation,, human rights and public health.

Digital Equity Research Associate — February 2017 - July 2018
The Digital Equity Lab, The New School — New York City, NY, United States

- **Industry Analysis:** Evaluated privacy protection practices of the major Internet Service Providers and Mobile Carriers in NYC. Wrote an 83-page report with recommendations for the NYC government on how to protect citizen's privacy. Provided comparative case studies. The report is available online.

- **Impact Evaluation of Smart City Public Policies:** Researched and designed strategies to increase the impact of the NYC's Wireless Corridors—a network of public wi-fi access points developed by the NYC government for public housing residents in Queensbridge and Red Hook. Designed workshops.

- **Field Research:** Produced and administered interviews with government agencies, community based organizations, and young beneficiaries from employment led IT training programs.

- **Curriculum Design:** Researched the discrimination dynamics embedded in the development of the internet and broadband infrastructure in the US. Delivered an annotated bibliography with 86 sources on topics such as net neutrality, cyber geopolitics, the digital divide, big data, data sovereignty, smart cities, and artificial intelligence. Delivered a course syllabus, which is currently active at The New School.

Special Projects Manager — February - August 2015
International Cooperation (CGCI), University of Guadalajara — Guadalajara, Jal, Mexico

- **International Agenda Development:** Researched International Higher Education Systems as well as the socio-economical context of key regions and countries in the Americas and Europe. Developed and negotiated partnerships with government agencies, research networks, NGOs, enterprises and universities to fund and promote international exchange programs for a community of 120,298 students.

- **Cultural Diplomacy:** Created, developed and maintained networks with governments, and international institutions through cultural projects.

Oscar J. Romero Jr.

M.A. International Affairs

PUBLICATIONS

Romero (2019) "Telecommunications and dependency in Latin America: Challenges for autonomous integration." Latin American Association of Sociology

Wiley, Byrum, Ponce, Romero (2018) "Take it or leave it: How NYC residents are forced to sacrifice online privacy for internet service", Digital Equity Laboratory, The New School. Available online.

Romero (2017) "The Geopolitics of the Latin American Cyberspace", REDIALC.

Romero (2013) "The ALBA-1, a first step towards telecommunications' sovereignty in Latin America", XI Seminar on José Martí, University of Costa Rica.

DISSERTATIONS

2018 The Internet Revolution in Cuba: Challenges and lessons for inclusive development.

2014 Internet Geopolitics: Access, sovereignty, power and resistance: The USA and Brazil.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Youth Education ❖ Immigrant rights
International Cooperation ❖ Digital Equity
Civic Engagement ❖ Open Innovation

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native speaker

English: Fluent **French:** Basic
Portuguese: Fluent **German:** Basic

SOFTWARE, MEDIA & DESIGN

Microsoft Office ❖ Google Drive ❖ Tableau
Salesforce ❖ Wordpress ❖ Slack ❖ Basecamp
Photography ❖ Film making ❖ Klynt 3
Adobe (Premiere, Audition, Illustrator)
C++ ❖ HTML ❖ PHP ❖ SQL ❖ G

Management Experience

Managing Editor — March 2014 - March 2015
The Research Network on Autonomous Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDIALC) — Guadalajara, Jal, Mexico

- **Managing Editor:** Coordinated a team of four to edit, correct and verify articles in English, Spanish and Portuguese submitted for the yearly publications of the Network (50+ researchers from 12 Universities in the Americas and Europe). The network's research focused on economic and political integration across the Americas. My team increased efficiency by 150% successfully overcoming systematic delays with the yearly publications.
- **International Event Manager:** Managed the logistics for conferences and seminars. Designed outreach strategies and advertisement materials for the events.
- **Digital Infrastructure Researcher:** Produced content on urban development and telecommunications. Analyzed Internet regulations in the Americas. Studied discrimination dynamics embedded in the development of the telecommunications infrastructure of the Americas. Produced an undergraduate thesis, academic articles, briefing notes, memos and summaries.

Cultural Events External Consultant — Sep - Dec 2013 & Sep - Dec 2014
Argentine Embassy in Mexico — Guadalajara, Jal, Mexico

- **Field research for Cultural Events**: Collected information and wrote a report on venues, theaters, exhibition rooms, plazas, and other cultural centers in the city of Guadalajara. Provided analysis and recommendations for the participation of Argentina in the International Book Fair of Guadalajara.
- **Event Manager:** Managed photographers and journalists to cover events. Provided support for the management of musical events. Managed general logistics for pieces of art and other items of value.

Product Line Manager — April 2013 - June 2014
Alemex Automotriz — Guadalajara, Jal, Mexico

- **Product Line Manager:** Oversaw assembly line for electronic circuits. Coordinated four technicians and one general assistant. Managed the development of 60 new products, programmed microcontrollers and designed PCBs. Reduced production costs by 20% and increased productivity by 40% with the introduction of CNC machines.
- **R&D Program Manager:** Developed business plan proposals to achieve international quality standards. Worked with the American Chamber to produce business opportunities in the US and Costa Rica.
- **Quality Manager:** Increased the WHS (Workplace, Health and Safety) standards of the company by developing manuals, establishing and enforcing best practices for the management and disposal of hazardous materials. **Note:** I kept offering consulting services on a weekly basis from 2014 to 2015.

International Cooperation Assistant — April 2012 - January 2013
The National University of Lanús (UNLa) — Lanús, Buenos Aires, Argentina

- **International Partnerships:** Assisted the design of grants for students, staff and academics to travel and research abroad. Assisted the legal office with the revision of Memoranda of Understanding.
- **Scholarships Database Design**: designed a database of International Scholarships for students.

Founder & Director — August 2009 - January 2014
Innovative Solutions & Software

- **Business Development:** Identified customers to provide the following services: web design, web placement, software development (using PhP, CSS, HTML and SQL), hardware & software maintenance, and IT consulting. Hired and managed graphic designers, coders and technicians as needed.

Engagements & Networks

50+ Conferences, Webinars, Workshops & Participatory Sessions. (full list)

175+ Partnerships with Universities, NGOs, Governments & Fortune 500 companies.

Relevant Fellowships

Partnerships and Triangular Cooperation Fellow — January - March 2016
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation — New York City, NY, United States

- **South-South Cooperation (SSC) Policy Design:** Researched International Cooperation strategies of agencies from the Global South. Reported on legal and institutional frameworks, institutional management and coordination mechanisms, project management, human resources management, and communication strategies. Produced briefing memos, presentations, talking points and executive summaries in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Facilitated intergovernmental technical cooperation.

Oscar J. Romero Jr.

M.A. International Affairs

JUDGING EXP. FOR GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGES

2021 NYCx Moonshot Challenge: Financial Inclusion

2020 IBM Call for Code 2020: Innovative Solutions to Take on COVID-19 and Climate Change.

2020 MIT Solve Global Challenge: Good Jobs & Inclusive Entrepreneurship

2020 MIT Solve Global Challenge: Health Security & Pandemics

2020 NYCx Co-Labs Challenge: Accessible Mental Health

2020 NYCx Co-Labs Challenge: Housing Rights

ADVOCACY PROJECTS

#PosNoMeSubo *(December 27, 2013)*

Role: Organizer

Description: #PosNoMeSubo was a local initiative in response to unjustified increases of the public transportation fares in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

Outreach: In only **six days** the initiative **reached more than 22,000 people,** received active input from 2,128, and gathered approximately 300 people despite raniny weather to march and share their personal experiences with public transportation while discussing transportation alternatives through participatory workshops.

Outcomes: Elected officials presented plans to install bikelines across the city.

Url: https://es-la.facebook.com/events/1399476593631713/

Teaching Experience

Visiting Lecturer   **May 2021 - Present**
Milstein Program in Technology & Humanity   New York City, NY, United States
Cornell Tech University

- **Civic Innovation: A Development Framework for Local Governments.**
- **Description:** The deployment of new technologies and infrastructure has always generated inequality between those who have access to it, and those who don't. The deployment of infrastructure has reflected the priorities, needs, and political views of those in power leading to the systemic segregation of our societies by race, class, religion, and ethnicity. This course aims to introduce the basic concepts of development in the context of public service, the role of technology and innovation as drivers of inequality, the potential of tech-enabled initiatives to address inequality, as well as frameworks to understand civic innovation in the context of municipal governments.

Part-time Faculty   **August - December 2018**
Master in Transparency and Data Protection   Guadalajara, Jal, Mexico
University of Guadalajara

- **Cybersecurity Resources: Data Protection & Information Privacy.**
- **Description:** This course will provide students with tools and procedures to protect data and privacy according to international standards. Students will learn how to identify vulnerabilities, categories of cybersecurity threats as well as strategies to prevent them.

Honors & Awards

ViP Public Interest Technology Fellowship @ Cornell Tech *(2021)*
The fellowship was designed to involve civic technology practicioners in Cornell Tech programming, research, and education initiatives.

2021 IDC North America Awards - Smart Buildings *(2021)*
The awards were designed to recognize the progress North American municipalities have made in executing Smart Cities projects. Our team was awarded for the design of the NYCx Co-Labs Housing Rights Challenge in Upper Manhattan.

2019 IDC North America Awards - Digital Equity and Accessibility *(2019)*
The awards were designed to recognize the progress North American municipalities have made in executing Smart Cities project. Our team was awarded for the design of the NYCx Co-Labs Safe and Thriving Nighttime Corridors in Brownsville.

The Milano School Travel Assistance Award *(2016, 2017, 2018)*
Covered travel expenses related to field research in Cuba, Braazil and Mexico.

The New School's Provost Scholarship *(2015-2017)*
Covered 60% of tuition of the M.A. in International Affairs at The New School.

University of Guadalajara's Scholarship for Graduate Studies *(2015-2017)*
Covered 40% of tuition of the M.A. in International Affairs at The New School and provided a montlhy stipend for the duration of the M.A.

South American Business Forum (SABF) *(2015)*
Covered expenses to participate in a series of lectures in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

National Council on Science and Technology Research Scholarship *(2015)*
Monthly stipend to support research on Cybergeopolitics.

REDIALC-CONACYT Fellowship *(2014-2015)*
Monthly stipend for a year to support research on Cybergeopolitics.

University of Guadalajara Travel Asisstance Award *(2015)*
Covered travel expenses for academic conference speakers.

Youth Exchange Program: México and Argentina *(2012-2013)*
Covered monthly stipend, and fees to study a semester at the University of Buenos Aires.

PIFI (Institutional Program for Researcher Training) *(2012)*
Covered travel expenses for academic conference speakers.

German Sopeña Scholarship *(2012)*
Covered 100% of the tuition and fees of CADAL's Economic Journalism certificate.

DEILA-UDG Scholarship *(2011)*
Covered 100% of the tuition and fees for certificate on Latin American studies.