

NICOLÁS ARIAS

ACADEMIC EDUCATION

M.A. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California **2020**

Master of Arts in Yoga Studies (2-year program)

- Study of etic and emic perspectives of religion and spirituality, including postcolonial perspectives.
- Uberoi Foundation Religious Studies grant and LMU Yoga Studies scholarship recipient.
- LMU Graduate Scholar Award recipient: “Outstanding 2020 Graduate, Yoga Studies”.
- Thesis title: *The Immanent Mind of Clear Light: Non-conceptuality and Skillful Means in Early Atiyoga (Dzogchen)*.
- Research and editorial assistant to Dr. Christopher K. Chapple; copyeditor for the book *Living Landscapes: Meditations on the Five Elements in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain Yogas*, State University of New York Press, 2020.
- Yoga, Mindfulness and Social Change graduate certificate, 2019.
- International School of Jain Studies Summer Program, India, 2019 participant.
- Weekly Sanskrit translation group – Fall semester 2018 member.

LL.M. Universidad EAFIT, Medellín, Colombia **2016**

Master of Laws in Criminal Law (2-year program)

- COLCIENCIAS Junior Researcher – part of a macro collaboration project between EAFIT University and the University of León (Spain): *Legal criminal guarantees and safeguards as limits and guides for solving complex criminal legal problems* (translation).
- Honorable Mention for the thesis: *The mistake of law referred to normative elements of the criminal offense definition: analysis of some sections of the Colombian Penal Code* (translation).
- Research assistant for the legal research group "Justice and Conflict," 2014-2015.
- Teaching assistant for the criminal law courses in Bachelor of Laws program, 2014-2015.
- Wrote and published two academic papers in peer-reviewed legal journals.

LL.B. Universidad EAFIT, Medellín, Colombia **2014**

Bachelor of Laws (5-year program)

- National Ministry of Education Award (SaberPro) recipient: Highest score in the 2013 State Law exam.
- Honorable Mention (among the five highest cumulative GPA scores at the 2014-2 graduation ceremony).
- Honorable Mention for the thesis: *The culpability principle as a limit to state criminal intervention* (translation).
- Exempted from taking Law School comprehensive exams due to exceptional academic merit.
- Law School semester honorary prize recipient (highest GPA), 2010.
- Undergraduate teaching assistant – Criminal Law Department, 2011-2013.
- Undergraduate research and teaching assistant – Criminal Law Department, 2014.
- Copyediting and administrative volunteer – Academic journal “Nuevo Foro Penal”, 2010-2015.

- Member of several student research groups: Criminal Law, Economic Criminality, Penal Abolitionism, 2011-2015.
- Finalist – Regional Inter-University Contest in criminal trial procedure, Department of Justice of the US Embassy, 2013.
- Legal mediation training for non-judicial legal dispute resolution, 2014.

COMPLEMENTARY TRAINING

Photography and graphic design

Over 10 years' experience with nature, portrait and architectural photography (both analogue and digital). I use Adobe Creative Suite on a Mac paired with a Wacom Intuos Pro tablet.

- **Spéos School of Photography, London, UK** - intensive **photojournalism** course in summer 2018.
- **London College of Communication (University of the Arts London), London, UK** - intensive course in photography and creating a **photographic portfolio** in summer 2018.
- **Spéos School of Photography, Paris, France** - intensive **street photography** course in summer 2022.
- **Corporación Nacional de Cine Casa del Sol, Medellín, Colombia** - (ongoing) advanced training in analog photography, audiovisual storytelling, alternative photographic techniques, since early 2022.

Printmaking

Experience with numerous printmaking techniques: acid etching with various grounds and lavis, aquatint with both rosin and sugar, mezzotint, drypoint, linocut, monotype, cyanotype, lithography, photogravure.

- **Steindruckwerkstatt, Munich, Alemania** - intensive **lithography** course, summer 2026.
- **Druckwerk Wien, Vienna, Austria** - intensive **advanced printmaking** course, summer 2026.
- **Atelier Cent Onze, Strasbourg, France** - intensive **lithography** course, summer 2026.
- **Atelier Bo Halbirk, Paris, France** - intensive **advanced printmaking** course, autumn 2025.
- **Atelier 3113, Paris, France** - intensive **advanced printmaking** course, summer 2023.
- **Grafisk Eksperimentarium, Copenhagen, Denmark** - intensive **photogravure** course, summer 2023.
- **Taller de Grabado La Estampa, Medellín, Colombia** - ongoing training in **printmaking** since 2022.

Drawing and painting

- **Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, California** - intensive **basic drawing and watercolor** courses spring 2020.
- **Casa Tragaluz, Medellín, Colombia** - intensive illustration course “La intuición de la imagen”, taught by Alefes Silva, 2022.
- **Private drawing tutoring with Hernán Marín, Medellín, Colombia**, visual artist, since 2022.
- **Taller del Prado, Madrid, Spain** - intensive **drawing and painting** course autumn 2025.

Buddhist Visual Literacy: The Bodhisattva Ideal Throughout Asian Art

Nalandabodhi Seattle: advanced short course under the direction of Stephanie Johnston, MA.

Contemplative Psychotherapy (Mindfulness and Compassion)

Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science: two-year program under the direction of Dr. Joseph Loizzo (MD and psychiatrist, Harvard University, and PhD in Buddhist Studies from Columbia University).

Buddhist logic and debate

Proyecto Despertar (online): ongoing weekly classes of introduction to Dudra texts, since September 2022.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Universidad EAFIT – Law School, Medellín, Colombia **2022**

Undergraduate level: primary instructor

Argumentación 3: argumentación e interpretación jurídica (third year undergraduate course on legal hermeneutics and argumentation).

Universidad CES – Cultural Extension Department, Medellín, Colombia **2021**

Continuing/adult education: primary instructor

Tradiciones contemplativas asiáticas de mindfulness y cultivo de la compasión (16-hour online extension course on mindfulness and compassion cultivation in Asian contemplative traditions).

Universidad EAFIT – Law School, Medellín, Colombia **2015**

Graduate level: primary instructor

Problemas complejos de dogmática jurídica penal: el error sobre los elementos normativos del tipo penal (Short seminar module in the Criminal Law LL.M. applied legal research track).

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2022 “What is ‘Tantra?’” *TARKA - Embodied Philosophy*, 7.

2016 “Tratamiento del error sobre elementos normativos del tipo: análisis aplicado a algunas figuras de la parte especial del C.P. colombiano.” *Revista Libertas - Fundación Internacional de Ciencias Penales –FICP-*, 4. **Translation:** “The mistake of law referred to normative elements of the criminal offense definition: analysis of some sections of the Colombian Penal Code.”

2015 “El error sobre elementos normativos del tipo penal: el caso de la usurpación de derechos de obtentores de variedades vegetales”. *Revista Nuevo Foro Penal*, 85. **Translation:** “The mistake of law

referred to normative elements of the criminal offense definition: the appropriation of plant breeders' rights -PBR-."

ART EXHIBITS

- **Museo El Castillo**, Medellín, Colombia - **Salón del Grabado (group exhibit, printmaking)**, 2024.
- **Galería Policroma**, Medellín, Colombia - **Poligráfica (group exhibit, printmaking)**, 2024.
- **Galería Policroma**, Medellín, Colombia - **Taller de Grabado La Estampa: 40 Años (group exhibit, printmaking)**, 2024.
- **Bienal Internacional de Arte de Medellín y Antioquia**, Colombia - **Salón de Grabado (group exhibit, printmaking)**, 2025.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Arias y Asociados Abogados S.A.S., Medellín, Colombia 2020–present
Lawyer

- Part-time civil litigation and occasional drafting of legal opinions.

Moreno Quijano Abogados S.A.S., Medellín, Colombia 2015–2017
Lawyer

- Managed multiple high-level cases and lawsuits in administrative, civil, and commercial law.
- Experience meeting demanding deadlines and working under pressure, including adversarial hearings.

Seguros Sura, Medellín, Colombia 2012
Legal Department Intern

- Drafted legal opinions on insurance, corporate, commercial, labor, and administrative law.
- Supervised the status of judicial proceedings and consumer protection law complaints.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Language skills:

- **Spanish** (native speaker).
- **English** (advanced: TOEFL iBT Test score 115/120).
- **French** (advanced: *Brevet d'études françaises* – level 6/6, Institut de Touraine).
- **German** (intermediate: *Zertifikat Deutsch als Fremdsprache* – level B2-Vantage, DID Institut).
- **Sanskrit** (intermediate reading skills: 3 semesters at LMU, Los Angeles, USA).
- **Italian** (basic: A1 level)
- **Tibetan** (elementary reading of Uchen alphabet: Rangjung Yeshe Institute, and Proyecto Despertar).

Special skills:

- Zettelkasten/Evergreen Notes methods for academic notetaking and writing, using specialized software (Roam Research, Bookends/Zotero, DevonThink and Scrivener).

Additional awards and grants:

- Faggin Foundation Grant for Cortona Week in Italy, Summer 2020 (interdisciplinary symposium for current and prospective PhD students; postponed due to the pandemic).
- Andrés Bello Philosophy Student (Ministry of Education award for the highest scores in the philosophy section of the state High School graduation exams –ICFES-, 2007).
- Honor roll - highest GPA (Colegio Cumbres, 1997, 2004, 2005).

Extracurricular academic seminars attended:

- New Developments in Private Law (Universidad de Antioquia, 2016).
- International seminar on Procedure Law and Justice (Colegio de Jueces y Fiscales de Antioquia, 2015).
- Criminal Policy and Crime Prevention, (Universidad EAFIT, 2013).
- International seminar: 40 Years of the Commerce Code (Universidad EAFIT, 2011).
- Criminal Law Theory and Adversarial Criminal Procedure (Universidad EAFIT, 2011).
- International seminar: Armed Conflict, Justice, and Reconciliation (Universidad EAFIT, 2011).

Study abroad experiences:

- German language and culture study abroad summer intensive at DID Institut, München/Munich (Bayern), Germany, 2014.
- Extracurricular (audit/not-for-credit) undergraduate study abroad semester (criminology and criminal law courses) at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Catalunya), Spain, 2011.
- French language and culture study abroad semester at Institut de Touraine, Tours, France, 2008.
- Middle school study abroad trimester at Faust Gymnasium, Staufen, Germany, 2006.
- Primary school study abroad semester at Transfiguration Catholic School, St. Petersburg, USA, 2000-2001.

References:

- **Christopher Key Chapple, Ph.D.**, Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. E-mail address: christopher.chapple@lmu.edu
- **Christopher Patrick Miller, Ph.D.**, VP of Academic Affairs, Professor of Jain and yoga Studies, Arihanta Institute, Zürich, Switzerland. E-mail address: christopher.miller@arihantainstitute.org
- **Juan Oberto Sotomayor-Acosta, Ph.D.**, Criminal Law Professor Emeritus at EAFIT University, Medellín (Colombia). E-mail address: jsotoma@eafit.edu.co