

Isabel Bueno García-Reyes

*Transdisciplinary &
Collaborative Research*
Education · Participatory
Methods · Sustainability

CONTACT

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Mexico
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CURRENT ROLES

Evaluator, researcher,
consultant and science
communicator for
universities, research
institutions, government
programmes and educational
organisations (since 2014).

Lecturer in higher education
(since 2014).

LANGUAGES

Spanish ●●●● *mother
tongue*
English ●●●● *excellent*
French ●●○○ *good*
Portuguese ●●○○ *good*
German ●●○○ *good*

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Sustainability
Science

Universidad Nacional
Autónoma de México
(UNAM), Aug. 2024

BA in Environmental
Sciences

Universidad Nacional
Autónoma de México
(UNAM), 2013

MEMERSHIPS

Socioecological Action
Research Group (GIASE) —
since 2015

Responsive Research
Collective — since 2023

Responsive Research
Association — since 2023

ITD Alliance — since 2024

PROFILE

Isabel is a researcher and facilitator with over a decade of experience in **transdisciplinary collaboration**, bridging science and society towards sustainability pathways. Her work with non-formal and informal education processes in rural communities seeks to strengthen dialogue and build strategies for environmental and epistemic justice, drawing on participatory and qualitative research methodologies. She brings hands-on experience with a range of evaluation and assessment tools, used as strategies for engaging with the complexity of sustainability issues and for integrating a relational view of sociocultural diversity within human–nature systems. As a researcher, evaluator, trainer and consultant, her core interests are **knowledge co-production, relational values and situated collaborative experiences for sustainability**.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC POSITIONS

MOOC Coordination — Transdisciplinarity for Sustainability 2026

Universitary Seminar of Society, Environment and Institutions, SUSMAI UNAM

- Coordination and systematisation of content for the “Transdisciplinarity for Sustainability” MOOC platform

Project Coordinator — Collaborative Territorial Management Plan 2025–2026

Umbela Transformaciones Sostenibles · Ejido LEA, Laguna San Ignacio, BCS

- Coordination of a plan for collaborative, shared management of the territory with the local ejido community

Pedagogical Coordinator and Advisor, Preschool Sustainability Programme 2024–2026

Kinder Happy Days · Specialty teacher

- Pedagogical coordination and advising for an early-childhood sustainability curriculum

Communication Coordinator & Transdisciplinary Research Assistant 2024

Responsive Research Collective

- Communication coordination and research support across transdisciplinary projects

Evaluation and Communication Collaborator — LIRA Programme Evaluation 2022–2023

“Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa” (LIRA) funding programme

- Contributed to evaluation design and communication for the LIRA programme assessment

Research Collaborator — ADESUR Project 2020–2021

Strategic Alliance for the Sustainable Development of the South Pacific Region of Mexico (ADESUR)

- Collaborated on research activities within the ADESUR alliance

Consultant and Evaluator — External Evaluation of the Altépetl 2020 Programme 2021

Government Programme · Mexico City, Mexico

- Led consulting and evaluation work for the external review of the Altépetl 2020 governmental programme

Research Associate & Co-coordinator, Transdisciplinarity Node 2015–2020

Socioecosystems and Sustainability Research Network, CONACYT, Mexico

- Research associate and co-coordinator of the Transdisciplinarity node within the national network

Research Assistant — Masewal Biocultural Critical Platform 2016–2017

“Life Plan for Masewal Territory in the Northern Sierra of Puebla, Mexico” · Network of Biocultural Heritage

- Research assistance for a community life-plan project in the Masewal territory

Research Associate — Ecosystem Services Assessment Diagnosis 2014–2015

“Diagnosis of Needs and Capacities for Ecosystem Services Assessment in Federal Natural Protected Areas of Mexico”

- Research associate for a national diagnosis of ecosystem-services assessment capacities

LECTURING AND RESEARCH STAYS

- Master’s in Educational Innovation for Sustainability, Universidad del Medio Ambiente (UMA), Mexico — 2022–2024, 2026–2027
- “Tasting Latin American Flavours of Transdisciplinarity: Tools for Learning in Community” (workshop series), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México — 2026, co-organiser and facilitator
- Workshop series and Inter- and Transdisciplinarity Conference, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
- Posgrado en Ciencias de la Sostenibilidad, UNAM — 2019, 2020, 2024
- Department of Anthropology and Master’s in Sustainability with Communities and Traditional Peoples, University of Brasília, Brazil — 2018

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

Journal articles

Bueno, I., Moreno-Calles, A.I., Merçon, J. *Yeknemilis: Social Learning and Intercultural Transdisciplinary Collaboration for Sustainable Life*. *Sustainability* 2023, 15, 9626. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15129626>

Calderón-Contreras, R., Balvanera, P. et al., including Bueno, I., Velázquez, M. *A regional PECS node built from place-based social-ecological sustainability research in Latin America and the Caribbean*. *Ecosystems and People*, 18(1), 1–14, 2022.

Ayala-Orozco, B., Rosell, J.A., Merçon, J., Bueno, I. et al., Lobato, A. *Challenges and Strategies in Place-Based Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Sustainability: Learning from Experiences in the Global South*. *Sustainability (Switzerland)* 10(9), 2018.

Merçon, J., Rosell, J.A., Alatorre, G., Ayala-Orozco, B., Bueno, I. et al., Colmenero, S.L. *Redes para la transformación socio-ecológica: fortaleciendo la colaboración transdisciplinaria para la sustentabilidad en México*. *ClimaCom* 05(13), 2018.

Ortega Uribe, T., Mastrangelo, M. et al. *Estudios transdisciplinarios en socio-ecosistemas: reflexiones teóricas y su aplicación en contextos latinoamericanos*. *Investigación Ambiental: Ciencia y Política Pública* 6, 2014. pp. 109–122.

Book chapters

Bueno, I., Sánchez L.G., Garrido, P. *Aprendizaje social y plan de vida: escucha, reconocimiento y colaboración por el yeknemilis, buen vivir, del pueblo masewal en México*. In: *Experiencias y metodologías participativas en diálogo: Saberes, actores y territorios*, 2023. Paño et al. (eds.).

Alatorre, G., Merçon, J., Rosell, J., Bueno, I., Ayala, B., Lobato, A. *Para construir lo común entre los diferentes. Guía para la colaboración intersectorial hacia la sustentabilidad*. *Red de Socioecosistemas y Sustentabilidad*, 2016. México. ISBN 978-607-8445-47-9.

Translations

Spanish translation — *Una guía para diseñar talleres y cursos inspiradores sobre transdiscipliniedad*. *Transdisciplinary Training Collaboratory, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 2025*.

APPROACH

Isabel sees education and collective learning as the foundation for building the skills and strategies needed for sustainable transitions. With an interdisciplinary background, she works comfortably in collaborative, team-based settings that foster creativity and shared effort. A strong listener and observer, she engages critically with diverse perspectives to develop context-sensitive methodologies, and has contributed to projects that promote ethical and political clarity in their approach to transformation.

ENGAGEMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Co-organisation and Facilitation — Transdisciplinary Projects and Research 2015–2020

Transdisciplinarity Node, Socioecosystems and Sustainability Research Network, CONACYT, Mexico

- Co-organised and facilitated activities promoting transdisciplinary projects and research
- Provided accompaniment and facilitation for transdisciplinary projects in rural communities

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PROJECTS (SELECTION)

Collaborative Territorial Management Plan — Ejido LEA, Laguna San Ignacio, BCS

Applies participatory methodologies at the local scale within a Biosphere Reserve to identify potential routes for strengthening local environmental governance, social learning, and the livelihoods of fisher families.

Final Evaluation — Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa 2022–2023

Associate evaluator and communication assistant

A large-scale transdisciplinary research programme comprising 28 projects across 22 African countries, conducted by the Responsive Research Collective for the International Science Council and the Swedish International Development Agency.

Masewal Biocultural Critical Platform: Life Plan for Masewal Territory, Northern Sierra of Puebla, Mexico 2016–2017

Research collaborator

An intercultural project to strengthen local communities' strategies for local governance and relational values supporting sustainable ways of life, using a participatory approach to intercultural dialogue and Indigenous science. Network of Biocultural Heritage, Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico. Funded by CONACYT, Mexico.

Diagnosis of Needs and Capacities for Ecosystem Services Assessment in Federal Natural Protected Areas of Mexico 2014–2015

Research associate

A research project conducted in collaboration with a government initiative to strengthen institutional capacity for ecosystem assessments, incorporating local governance and multi-stakeholder perspectives. Institute of Ecology and Sustainability, National Autonomous University of Mexico; National Commission for Protected Natural Areas (CONANP); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Evaluation of a Non-Formal Education System: Escuela Campesina (Peasant School), Sierra Tarahumara 2011–2012

Co-Principal Investigator

Collaboration with a non-profit civil organisation to evaluate sustainability programmes within peasant and Indigenous communities in the Tarahumara region of northern Mexico. Network of Biocultural Heritage, Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico. Funded by CONACYT, Mexico.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- “Sustaining Processes of Social Trauma through Art” — Cátedra Bergman, UNAM / Ambulante, 2024–2025
- “The Construction of Experience: Perceptions, Paradigms, and Configurations” — virtual seminar with Denise Najmanovich, 2021
- “Environmental Education: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Addressing Wicked Problems” — Cornell University, USA (online), 2016
- “Introduction to Participatory Processes” — Institute of Ecology and Sustainability, UNAM, 2012
- “Writing for Another World: Building Transnational Relations in Post-Capitalist, Post-Development and Post-Patriarchal Social Research” — University of Bath, 2018
- Transdisciplinary Research Spring School — Universidad Veracruzana / Leuphana University, 2018
- “Socio-Ecological Systems Management to Support Decision Making” (intensive international course) — Inter-American Institute (IAI) and UNAM, 2014