

SEBASTIAN KUCH

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PhD Latin American Studies, Mexico

08/11 - 10/15

Doctoral program at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico. Full scholarship, *National Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT)*

Thesis title: Struggles for identity- the Garífunas in the face of tourism development in Honduras (Spanish title: *Combates por la identidad- Los garífunas ante el desarrollo turístico en Honduras*), *honourable mention*

Description: This research shows how Garifuna communities on the Northern Coast of Honduras and the Bay Islands are affected by (mass) tourism development but also on how they manage to evolve in their own peculiar forms of tourism, restrengthening their cultural past and idiosyncrasy. Rather than explaining tourism as an isolated social phenomena in the present, an integral approach takes into account both, socio-historical phases of development and the emergence of a transnational Garifuna society.

Bachelor & Master's, International Business & Cultural Studies 04/04 - 06/10

Interdisciplinary programme, University of Passau, Germany, with focus on economics, politics, Spanish and English, as well as a specialization in Latin America related cultural studies.

Degree: *Dipl. Kulturwirt Univ.*

Thesis title: Tourism as a mean for development? – the Lenca Trail in Honduras (Original German title: *Ist der Tourismus ein Entwicklungsmotor? Eine Fallstudie am Beispiel der Ruta Lenca in Honduras*)

Description: Evaluation of the Lenca Trail, a community-based tourism project in Western Honduras, as a possible sustainable alternative of development in one of Honduras poorest regions.

Research stay, Honduras

02/13 - 01/14

Research stay at National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Sponsored by the *CONACyT*

Activities: Field work preparation, literature review, quantitative and qualitative data collection in Garifuna communities, i.e. surveys and interviews with intellectual and political leaders, tourism authorities, private enterprises and other key actors.

Field research, Honduras

10/09 - 01/10

Master's thesis related research, report on 2009's Military Coup in Honduras

Academic exchange, Honduras

08/07 - 03/08

Self-organized academic exchange at the *Universidad Nacional Pedagógica Francisco Morazán (UNPFM)*, Tegucigalpa, Honduras Assignments: History of Central America, Politics, Latin American Literature

EDUCATION

RESEARCH

EXPERIENCE

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Executive Director** **07/16 – Present**
Conceptos Arkipelago S. A. de C. V.
Co-founder and executive director of a company guided under three main pillars: environmental and marine assessments, sustainable tourism and community development based in Quintana Roo, with regional vision of the Mesoamerican Reef Region.
Tasks: Main administration, budget management, coordination between disciplines and projects and its implementation, customer acquisition and client based relations. In charge of sustainable tourism related projects, hotel management and staff.
- Legal representative** **04/19 – Present**
Kajdrys & Partner de Mexico S.A. de C.V.,
Company dedicated to real estate development in Southern Quintana Roo, Mexico.
Project: Restoration and market launch of a real estate project for tourism, Caribbean Casa Blanca Xcalak, Xcalak, Quintana Roo
Tasks: Company representation, co-working with legal and accounting areas, budget management, legal compliance with environmental regulations within the Marine Protected Area of Xcalak
- Legal representative of main shareholder** **04/20 – Present**
Bleibe- Casitas Flotantes S.A. de C.V.
New established company dedicated to developing and promoting sustainable floating homes as a new form of lifestyle.
Tasks: Legal and accounting matters, market study and preparations for market launch, product development in compliance with engineers and the most strict environmental standards
- General Manager** **11/18 – 10/19**
Villa Marilu Bacalar, Mexico
Boutique hotel, Bacalar Lagoon, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Tasks: Market launch, creation of sales profiles, staff recruitment, implementation of environmentally responsible practices
- General Manager** **04/16 – 03/20**
Amigos Hotelito Bacalar, Mexico
Hotel, Bacalar Lagoon, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Tasks: Sales channel management, accounting, personnell management, legal matters, recruitment and supervision of maintenance work, implementation of environmentally responsible practices
- Intern** **06/11 – 07/11**
Amazon Trails Peru, Cusco, Peru
Sales & customer support
- Intern** **03/08 – 05/08**
Isla Mía Adventure Tours, La Ceiba, Honduras
Excursion logistics, marketing

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages

German	Mother tongue
Spanish	Spanish Language Proficiency Test, level 'B' Doctoral thesis, scientific publications
English	Major during bachelor's and master's programme
French	Basic knowledge (5 years, 7th – 11th grade)
Italian	Written comprehension, knowledge certificate
Latin	Advanced proficiency certificate in Latin (7 years, 5th – 11th grade)

Software

Microsoft office 365. PPT, Word, XLS.
CITAVI (version 3), IBM SPSS Statistics (version 21)

Sales channel management: Booking, Airbnb, Homeway, Expedia.

AWARDS

Dr. Marcos Kaplán Award, honourable mention Best doctoral thesis in Law and Social Sciences, UNAM	2018
Alfonso Caso Medal For most distinguished graduate in Latinamerican Studies, UNAM, 2015	2016

WORKSHOPS

Visualizing and presenting	2009
Intercultural communication	2009
Cultural training South America	2009
Moderation and communication	2005

TECHNICAL REPORTS/ PUBLICATIONS

Ibarra Madrigal, S.M., Osorio Miranda, Y., Rivera-Sosa, A. Kuch, S. **(2020)**. Programa (PROTUR) para la Laguna de Bacalar. Reporte Técnico. Programa de gestión común para el uso turístico en la Laguna de Bacalar. pp 142

Kuch, S. **(2015)**. Who benefits from tourism in Cayos Cochinos, Honduras? (Original Spanish title: *¿Quiénes se benefician del turismo en Cayos Cochinos, Honduras?*), in: Teoría y Praxis, pp. 9-36.

Kuch, S. **(2014)**. The realities of Reality TV-Shows in Honduras (Original German title: *Die Realitäten der Reality Shows in Honduras*), in: tw Zeitschrift für Tourismuswissenschaft (Lucius & Lucius) tw Jg. 6 Heft 2, pp. 193-212.

Kuch, S. **(2014)**. A look behind the scenes - Spanish reality shows threaten Garífuna communities and the environment (Original German title: *Blick hinter die Kulissen- spanische Reality Shows bedrohen Garífuna-Gemeinden und die Umwelt*), in: Lateinamerika-Nachrichten Nummer pp 483/484.

LECTURES

Speaker, Doctorates Colloquium, The impact of tourism on the cultural identidad of the Garifunas of Chachahuate, Cayos Cochinos, Honduras (*El impacto del turismo sobre la identidad cultural de los garífuna en Chachahuate, Cayos Cochinos, Honduras*), 2012.

Speaker, Doctorates Colloquium, Spaces and nodes in the construction of culture and identity (*Espacios y nodos en la construcción cultural e identitaria*), 2014.

Jury member, VI Thesis Competition on Latin America or the Caribbean, Centro de Investigaciones sobre América Latina y el Caribe (CIALC), UNAM, 2015.

Speaker, XVI Caribbean Book Fair & Year of Sustainable Tourism, 2017.

REFERENCES

1. PhD. Juan Manuel de la Serna Herrera, Centro de Investigación de América Latina y el Caribe (CIALC), National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico. dlserna04@gmail.com

2. PhD. Margarita Vargas, Centro de Investigación de América Latina y el Caribe (CIALC), National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico. maryagua02@yahoo.com.mx

3. Dipl. Ing. Alfred Franz Keschtges, CEO, Invenio Group AG, Germany, & main shareholder of Kajdrys & Partner de México S.A. de C.V., Mexico. alfred.keschtges@inveniogroup.com

3. Robert Kopelman, Owner, Amigos Hotelito, Bacalar, Quintana Roo, Mexico. amigoshotelito@gmail.com

4. María de Lourdes Malo, Owner, Villa Marilu, Bacalar, Quintana Roo, Mexico. villamarilubacalar@gmail.com

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