



Esteban Tapella

STUDIES

I studied social sciences and human ecology (PhD). I am professor at the National University of San Juan, Argentina, teaching and researching topics like sustainable development and project management. My interest on photography started as a consequence of my field trips and extension services in rural communities. After some years, documentary and ethnographic photography became a necessity and a very important part of my personal and professional development.

I took an advance course with Susana Matellán and a portrait workshop with Ivan Zabrodsky, both in Rancho Aparte, San Juan (2006 y 2013). I participated in different photo seminars and workshops in *Festival de la Luz – Encuentros de Fotografía*, in Buenos Aires (2004, 2006 y 2010). I took a photocomposition workshop with Raquel Bordelois (2012). I teach the annual courses of 'Ethnic Photography' and 'Photo Essay' in Rancho Aparte.

MOTIVACIÓN

My photographic work is driven by my restless desire and curiosity about the world and its people. I mainly concentrate on long-term in-depth projects to create frameworks to reflect on the social, cultural and environmental consequences of our globalized society. Throughout my essays I attempt to generate dialogue and collaboration between subjects and audiences, bringing different world views into confrontation with each other.

As a documentary photographer, I like to take pictures that could tell powerful stories and advocate for social change. During last ten years I've been doing photography essays on topics like rural livelihoods, land tenure, indigenous knowledge and identity. I usually work to serve NGOs and local organizations that want to drive social change by telling their stories through high quality pictures. Most of my images are grounded in people from developing countries. I try to highlight their livelihoods and stories of human experience. I participate in organizations such as [Photo Philanthropy](#) and [Visual Ethnography](#), from where I get in touch with NGOs and nonprofit organizations around the world to support them in telling their stories to drive action for social change.

EXHIBITIONS

- "Tierra Adentro", in Centro Cultural Estación San Martín, San Juan (2007).
- "Detrás del árbol, la gente" in photo gallery of Facultad de Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad de Buenos Aires (2009).

- “La economía descalza”, at the web-photo gallery of Institute of Social Studies , The Hague, The Netherlands (2010).
- “Sal”, at the photo gallery of Baró Art Bar, San Juan (2013).
- “Inlands”, at the web-photo gallery of Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands (2012).
- “Gente de tierras altas”, in the Art Museum of San Juan (Museo provincial de Bellas Artes Franklin Rawson, 2014), Festival de la Luz – Encuentros Abiertos de Fotografía.
- “Belonging to the Forest, The Baka Pygmies from the Central African Rainforest, in the Art Museum of San Juan (Museo provincial de Bellas Artes Franklin Rawson, 2015).

PUBLICATIONS

My pictures have illustrated books like “*Raíces huarpes*”, “*San Guillermo: Un lugar conocido por nuestros abuelos y un desafío para las nuevas generaciones*”, “*Innovaciones creativas y desarrollo humano*”, “*Journal of Agrarian Change*”, “*Globalización en el Banquillo*” y “*Valoración de los ecosistemas del Oeste de Córdoba*”, among others. Part of my documentary works belongs to the Photobank project “*Functional Biodiversity Effects on Changing Ecosystem Processes and Services and Sustainability: An Interdisciplinary Approach*”. I have published different essays and pictures in *Diario de Cuyo*, *Revista Rumbos* and *Journal* from the National University of San Juan. I have also published pictures in the documentary and ethnography section of [Multi Imagen](#) and [Fotorevista](#). I have recently published “*Rural Women*” and “*Salt*”, in the book entitled “*In The Empty Places*”, edited by The Bantuan Coffee Foundation to support victims from childhood prostitution in Asia and Africa (2015).

PHOTOGRAPH AWARDS

I was awarded one first prize, one second prize and six special mentions of the jury in the Open Photo-contests of [Fotorevista](#) (2005 to 2009). I was awarded the first prize in the photo-contest “*Portfolio del mes*” in [Multi Imagen](#) (2009). I was awarded the first prize in Aerolíneas Argentinas photo contest (2005). I was awarded the first and second prize in the Argentinean Mountain Photocontest, supported by Club Andino Mercedario and Revista Kooch.

I’ve got the bronze medal and special mention of the jury in the contest organized by the organization *Fotógrafos Latinoamericanos* (2014 y 2015) for my works from the essay ‘*Incas Heritage*’. My work “*Intimidades*” got special mention of the jury in the contest organized by Hospital Italiano (Argentina), then used for the Breast Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Campaign (2015). I’ve got special mention of the jury in the contest “*Afrícate*”, organized by the Pacto for Africa Foundation, publishing and exhibiting my pictures in the Centro Cultural de la Villa de San José de La Rinconada (Sevilla, España) (2015).

fotografía documental



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DATOS DE CONTACTO

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