

Rebecca Hanson

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Academic Appointments

2025 – present: Associate Professor, Joint Appointment in Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law and Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida

2017 – 2025: Assistant Professor, Joint Appointment in Department of Sociology, Criminology, & Law and Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida

2018 – present: Affiliate faculty in Department of Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies (UF); Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (UF); Political Science (UF)

Education

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Georgia, 2017

Committee: David Smilde (chair, Tulane University), Patricia Richards, Pablo Lapegna, Alice Goffman (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Dissertation: “Civilian policing, socialist revolution, and violent pluralism in Venezuela”

M.A., Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2008

Committee: Mauricio Tenorio, Betty Farrell, Nick Dempsey

Magna cum Laude

B.A., Sociology, University of Montevallo, 2006

Summa cum Laude with Honors

Research Interests

Political Sociology; Criminology; Policing; Latin America; Gender; Ethnography and Qualitative Methods

Publications

Books and Special Issues

Rebecca Hanson. 2025. *Policing the revolution: The transformation of security and violence in Venezuela during Chavismo*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

David Smilde, Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson (eds). 2022. *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime, and policing during Chavismo*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press

Reviewed in:

[Latin American Politics and Society](#)
[Revista: Harvard Review of Latin America](#)
[Bulletin of Latin American Research Review](#)
[Caracas Chronicles](#)
[Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft](#)

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards (eds). 2022. Gender, violence, and the production of knowledge. *The Journal of Men's Studies* 30(2). Special Issue

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. *Harassed: Gender, bodies, and ethnographic research*. 2019. Oakland, CA: University of California Press

Reviewed in:

Choice Reviews by Doreen Mattingly
[Gender & Society](#) by Abigail C. Sagay
[Social Forces](#) by Gwen Sharp
Times Higher Education [Book of the Week](#) by Rachel O'Neill
Jennifer Carlson, [Harassed: A Crucial Book on Embodiment, Ethnography & Gendered Violence](#)
Featured on the [New Books Network Podcast](#)

Rebecca Hanson (ed). 2018. Ethnographies of Security. *Qualitative Sociology* 41(2). Special Issue

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Rebecca Hanson and Dorothy Kronick. 2026. Official vigilantism. 198. Published online 10/28/24
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2025.106978>

Rebecca Hanson, Dorothy Kronick, and Tara Slough. 2025. "Preaching to the choir: A problem of participatory interventions". *The Journal of Politics* 87(2): 739-757

Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson. 2024. "Shoutings, scoldings, gossip and whispers: Mothers' responses to armed actors and militarization in two Caracas barrios". *Latin American Research Review* 59(1): 1-18

*Winner of 2023 Best Article Award from the Latin American Studies Association, Section on Venezuelan Studies

Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson. 2024. “Cris, réprimandes, commérages et chuchotements : réactions des mères face aux acteurs armés et à la militarisation dans deux quartiers de Caracas”. *Cahiers des Amériques latines*. Éditions de l'IHEAL. Special issue directed by Yoletty Bracho and Fabrice Andréani

*French translation of article “Shoutings, scoldings, gossip and whispers: Mothers’ responses to armed actors and militarization in two Caracas barrios” *Latin American Research Review* 59(1): 1-18

Verónica Zubillaga, Rebecca Hanson, and Francisco Sánchez. 2022. “Gobernanzas criminales en Caracas”. *Dilemas: Revista de Estudos de Conflito e Controle Social* 4: 529-558. Special issue “Governança Criminal na América Latina em Perspectiva comparada”, edited by Luana Dias Motta and Benjamin Lessing.

Graeme Blair, Fotini Christia, Jeremy Weinstein, Rebecca Hanson, et al. 2021. “Community policing does not build citizen trust in police or reduce crime in the Global South”. *Science* 374: 1-14

*Received honorable mention for the Luebbert best article prize from the Comparative Politics section of the American Political Science Association

Rebecca Hanson and Verónica Zubillaga. 2021. “From carceral punitivism to systematic killing: The necropolitics of policing in post-Chávez Venezuela”. *Violence: An International Journal* 2(1): 65-84

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2021. “Acoso sexual en el campo: Género, raza, nación y la construcción del conocimiento etnográfico”. *Polis, Revista Latinoamericana* Vol 59. <http://journals.openedition.org/polis/20369> Special issue “Re-imaginando diversidad en la academia, en tiempos de activismo feminista y pandemia”, edited by Jael Goldsmith Weil and Kelly Bauer

Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson. 2018. “Del punitivismo carcelario a la matanza sistemática: El avance de los operativos militarizados en la era post-Chávez”. *REVISTA M. Estudos sobre a Morte, os Mortos e o Morrer* 3(5): 32-52

*Republished in 2021, *Dicen que están matando gente: Violencia armada y políticas de seguridad ciudadana en Venezuela*, eds. Verónica Zubillaga and Manuel Llorens, pp.273-302. Madrid: Editorial Dahbar

*Republished in 2020, *La muerte nuestra de cada día: Violencia armada y políticas de seguridad ciudadana en Venezuela*, edited by Verónica Zubillaga, Manuel Llorens, and Francisco Sánchez. Bogotá, Colombia: Universidad del Rosario

*Republished in 2018, *Nueva Sociedad* 278:59-69

*Received honorable mention from the Latin American Studies Association, Section on Venezuelan Studies 2019

Rebecca Hanson. 2018. “Deepening distrust: Why participatory experiments aren’t always good for democracy”. *The Sociological Quarterly* 59(1): 145-167

Rebecca Hanson and Pablo Lapegna. 2018. “Popular participation and governance in Kirchner’s Argentina and Chavez’s Venezuela: Recognition, incorporation, and supportive mobilisation”. *Journal of Latin American Studies* 50(1): 153-182

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2017. “Sexual harassment and the construction of ethnographic knowledge”. *Sociological Forum* 32(3): 587-609

Andrés Antillano, Iván Pojomovsky, Verónica Zubillaga, Chelina Sepúlveda, and Rebecca Hanson. 2015. “The Venezuelan prison: From neoliberalism to the Bolivarian Revolution”. *Crime, Law, and Social Change* 65(3): 195-211

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Eric Arias, Rebecca Hanson, Dorothy Kronick and Tara Slough. “Do police-community meetings work? Experimental evidence from Medellín”. In *Crime, insecurity, and community policing: Experiments on building trust*, eds. Graeme Blair, Fotini Christia, and Jeremy Weinstein, pp.226-256. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Rebecca Hanson, David Smilde, and Verónica Zubillaga. 2022. “Introduction: The paradox of violence in Venezuela”. In *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime, and policing during Chavismo*, eds. David Smilde, Verónica Zubillaga, and Rebecca Hanson, pp.3-28. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press

Rebecca Hanson and David Smilde. 2022. “Dilemmas of reform: Crime, policing, and public opinion in Venezuela”. In *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime, and policing during Chavismo*, eds. David Smilde, Verónica Zubillaga, and Rebecca Hanson, pp.153-169. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press

Leonard Gómez Núñez and Rebecca Hanson. 2022. “The Pressure to Bring in a Body: How Systematic Killing Transformed Police Raids and Gangs in Post-Chávez Venezuela”. In *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime, and policing during Chavismo*, eds. David Smilde, Verónica Zubillaga, and Rebecca Hanson, pp.187-210. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press

Rebecca Hanson, David Smilde, and Veronica Zubillaga. 2022. “Explaining violence in times of revolution: Final reflections and emerging agendas for research”. In *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime, and policing during Chavismo*, eds. David Smilde, Verónica Zubillaga, and Rebecca Hanson, pp.250-262. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press

Non Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

Verónica Zubillaga, Rebecca Hanson, and Francisco Sánchez. 2025. “Criminal governance in the post-Chávez revolution in times of questioned legitimacy”. In *Authoritarian consolidation in times of crisis: Venezuela under Nicolás Maduro*, eds. John Polga-Hecimovich and Raul Sanchez Urribarri, pp.140-156, New York: Routledge

Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson. 2024. “La traición de las promesas de la revolución bolivariana y la represión a oscuras en los barrios populares”. *LASA Forum* 55(3): 63-67

Rebecca Hanson. 2024. "The expansion of police violence and impunity in Venezuela". *LASA Forum* 55(2): 34-39

Rebecca Hanson. 2024. "Los operativos y la violencia policial en la Venezuela Post-Chávez". In *Asegurando justicia para víctimas de la violencia en Venezuela*, Manuel Llorens (ed). London: Amnesty International

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2022. "Towards an embodied analysis of the academic field". Introduction to special issue "Gender, violence and the production of knowledge". *The Journal of Men's Studies* 30(2): 321-330

Verónica Zubillaga, Rebecca Hanson, and Andrés Antillano. 2021. "The mutation of gangs as a response to militarization in Caracas barrios". In *The International Handbook of Critical Gang Studies*, eds. David C. Brotherton and Rafael Gude, pp.473-488. New York: Routledge Press

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2020. "What does sexual harassment tell us about the construction of ethnographic knowledge?" *ASA Footnotes* 47(5):4-6

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2020. "La etnografía corporizada en tiempos de pandemia: ¿A dónde vamos desde aquí?" *LASA Forum* 52(1): 24-28

Rebecca Hanson. 2019. "Gender & urban ethnography". In *Research in Urban Sociology*, eds. Richard E. Ocejo and Ray Hutchison, pp.173-192. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2019. "Harassment and violence in qualitative research and why we ignore it." *Crime, Law, and Deviance News: Newsletter for the Crime, Law, and Deviance section of the American Sociological Association* Fall/Winter: 4-6

Rebecca Hanson. 2018. "Ethnographies of security: Pushing security studies beyond the bounds of international relations". Introduction to special issue "Ethnographies of security". *Qualitative Sociology* 41(2): 135-144

David Smilde and Rebecca Hanson. 2018. "Editors' note: Studying gender and sexuality with qualitative methods" *Qualitative Sociology* 41(3): 333-335

Rebecca Hanson. 2015. "Policing the protests in Post-Chávez Venezuela: How human rights legitimize coercion" In "Hot Spots: Protests and Polarization in Venezuela after Chávez", Amy Cooper, Robert Samet and Naomi Schiller (eds), Society for Cultural Anthropology, February 5

In Process

Books

David Smilde, Verónica Zubillaga, and Rebecca Hanson. *La paradoja de violencia en Venezuela: La revolución, el crimen, y la policía en el Chavismo*. Spanish translation of *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime, and policing during Chavismo* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022)

Working Manuscripts

Peace Zones in Caracas: The zona franca of criminality, political pacts, and criminal governance in the post-Chavez Bolivarian Revolution, with Verónica Zubillaga

Conceptualizing criminal governance in authoritarian contexts: A relational ethnography in Venezuela, with Verónica Zubillaga

Policy Reports

Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson. 2021. “Soberanías fragmentadas en tiempos de revolución: control territorial, bandas criminales y su relación con el Estado y las comunidades en Caracas”. Report commissioned by Woodrow Wilson International Center for International. Submitted June 29

Eric Arias, Rebecca Hanson, Dorothy Kronick, and Tara Slough. 2019. “Perceptions of police corruption in Medellín”. Second policy report submitted to the Development Bank of Latin America. The Development Bank of Latin America is a funding organization of the project “Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia.” Submitted October 22

Rebecca Hanson, Eric Arias, Dorothy Kronick, and Tara Slough. 2019. “The bad apple narrative: Police-community dialogue about corruption in Medellín”. First report submitted to the Development Bank of Latin America from ongoing RCT project “Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia.” Submitted March 31.

Rebecca Hanson and Leonard Gómez Núñez. 2018. “Los operativos policiales en Venezuela post-Chávez: Análisis crítico de sus actuaciones desde la perspectiva de los ciudadanos y los funcionarios de los cuerpos de seguridad” Commissioned by the Development Bank of Latin America. Submitted May 31.

Public Sociology (Select)

Verónica Zubillaga, Rebecca Hanson, Maryhen Jiménez, Juan Albarracín, Nicholas Barnes, Benjamin Lessing. 2025. [¿Estará Río de Janeiro más segura después de la Operación Contención?](#) Los estudios sobre la mano dura en América Latina sugieren que no. Op-ed in *El País*, November 29

Rebecca Hanson, David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga. 2025. [This is not the way to curb migration.](#) Op-ed in *The New York Times*, April 4

Verónica Zubillaga and Rebecca Hanson. 2025. “What is Tren de Aragua? How the Venezuelan gang started – and why US policies may only make it stronger”. *The Conversation*, March 3

Rebecca Hanson. 2025. “The murder rate in Venezuela has fallen – but both Trump and Maduro are wrong about why”. *The Conversation*, February 24

Rebecca Hanson. 2024. “What Does González’s Exile Mean for Venezuela?” *Latin American Advisor*, September 13

Rebecca Hanson and Verónica Zubillaga. 2024. “Massive protests erupt again over disputed Venezuelan elections – but they look different this time”. *The Conversation*, July 31

Rebecca Hanson and Verónica Zubillaga. 2022. “Shifting dynamics of violence: The revolution’s most powerful legacy?” *NACLA* 54(1): 96-100

Republished in Spanish, April 2022

Rebecca Hanson. 2021. “Popularity contests deepen Venezuela’s deadly stalemate”. *NACLA* 53(1):15-18

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2020. Harassed: An interview with Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. New Books Network Podcast, June 22

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/rebecca-hanson-and-patricia-richards-harassed-gender-bodies-and-ethnographic-research-u-california-press-2019/>

Rebecca Hanson and Francisco Sánchez. 2019. “The stalemate in Venezuela” *NACLA*, September 12

Republished in *Jacobin Magazine*, September 22

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2019. Harassed: An interview with Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. *ASA Body & Embodiment Section*, June, 18
<http://sectionbodyembodiment.weebly.com/blog/an-interview-with-patricia-richards>

Rebecca Hanson and Francisco Sánchez. 2019. “Venezuela’s popular sectors and the future of a country” *NACLA*, February 13

Republished in Spanish, February 20

Selected for *NACLA* 2019 Editors’ Picks

Tim Gill and Rebecca Hanson. 2019. “How Washington funded the counterrevolution in Venezuela” *The Nation*, February 8

Rebecca Hanson and Tim Gill. 2019. “Venezuela at another crossroads” *NACLA*, January 24

Rebecca Hanson. 2018. “Deciphering Venezuela’s emigration wave” *NACLA* 50 (4): 356-359

Rebecca Hanson. 2018. “Four charts show Venezuela’s worsening migrant crisis” *The Conversation*, September 6

Rebecca Hanson and Leonard Gómez Núñez. 2018. “Behind the scenes of Venezuela’s deadly prison fire” *The Conversation*, April 4.

Rebecca Hanson. 2017. “Protecting the right to life in Venezuela” *NACLA* 49(3): 309-314

Rebecca Hanson. 2016. “Why are police officers dying in Venezuela?” *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, September 20

Rebecca Hanson. 2016. “Human Rights Watch and PROVEA release devastating report on Venezuelan citizen security initiative” *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, April 18

Rebecca Hanson. 2016. “Amid crisis, Venezuela’s National Assembly proposes security reforms” *Insight Crime*, February 10

Rebecca Hanson. 2015. “Venezuela’s new security plan turns fight against crime into battle against paramilitaries” *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, July 24

Media Quotes and Interviews (Select)

[“Maduro solo espera a que otra cosa distraiga a Trump”](#). *Artículo14*, interview with Esther Sanz Sieteiglesias, December 11, 2025

[US Venezuela tensions](#). The Sunday Magazine with Piya Chattopadhyay, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, December 7, 2025

[Maduro increasingly isolated amid US threats](#). One World with Zain Asher and Bianna Golodryga, CNN, December 3, 2025

[Revealed: police across US spread false rumors about Venezuelan gang threats](#). Quoted in *The Guardian*, article by Sam Levin, October 23, 2025

What is the US doing in the Caribbean? Al Jazeera, live interview, October 16, 2025

[Revealed: US law enforcement claimed emojis could signal Tren de Aragua affiliation](#). Quoted in *The Guardian*, article by Sam Levin and Maanvi Singh, September 19, 2025

[What is the US doing in Venezuela?](#) Interview on BBC’s The World This Weekend, October 19, 2025

[“No es de extrañar que Trump y Maduro puedan negociar”](#). *Artículo14*, interview with Esther Sanz Sieteiglesias, July 28, 2025

[El Tren de Aragua y Maduro](#), Interview with César Miguel Rondón En Conexión radio, May 15, 2025

[What is Tren de Aragua? The criminal organization's origins, activities and reach within the U.S.](#) Interview, On Point with Meghna Chakrabarti, NPR, May 13, 2025

[Venezuelan man who came to Texas through refugee process among those deported to El Salvador](#). Quoted in *Houston Chronicle*, article by Sam González Kelly, May 9, 2025

[Deportan a venezolanos a El Salvador](#). Interview with César Miguel Rondón En Conexión radio, April 11, 2025

[DHS claims these tattoos show Venezuelan gang membership. The tattoo artists who did them are confused.](#) Quoted in *The Independent*, article by Io Dodds, April 5, 2025

[FBI and DHS question using tattoos to accurately ID Venezuelan criminal gang](#). Quoted in *USA Today*, article by Will Carless and Rick Jervis, March 28, 2025

[Trump sent Venezuelans to this Salvadoran prison. Kristi Noem visited them.](#) Quoted in *USA Today*, article by Eduardo Cuevas, March 26, 2025

[How Eric Adams and the NYPD Helped Create the Xenophobic Tren de Aragua Panic. Hell Gate,](#) article by Max Rivlin-Nader, March 25

[“What next for Venezuela? Maduro critics fear widening crackdown”](#). 2025. *Buenos Aires Times*, article by Esteban Rojas & Mariette Le Roux, January 13

[“Para ser investido primero tendría que sacar del juego a Maduro y a Diosdado Cabello”](#). *Artículo14*, article by Esther Sanz Sieteiglesias, January 11, 2025

[“What Does González’s Exile Mean for Venezuela?”](#). 2024. *Latin American Advisor*. September 12.

[“¿A quién beneficia el exilio de Edmundo González en España?”](#) 2024. *Artículo14*, article by Esther Sanz Sieteiglesias, September 11

[“Joe Biden lifted sanctions on Venezuela. Is he to blame for the country’s disputed elections?”](#) 2024. *POLITIFACT*, article by Marta Campabadal Graus and Maria Ramirez Uribe, August 2

[“Venezuela, ¿y ahora qué? Las opciones de Machado ante el fraude de Maduro”](#). 2024. *Artículo14*, article by Esther Sanz Sieteiglesias, July 31

[“Présidentielle au Venezuela: de nouvelles manifestations attendues après la réélection de Maduro”](#). 2024. *AFP News*, article by Mariëtte Le Roux, July 30

[“Como morre uma democracia: os impactos do novo avanço autoritário de Maduro”](#). 2024. *VEJA Magazine*, article by Amanda Péchy, July 29

[“¿Qué hará Estados Unidos cuando se conozca al ganador?”](#) 2024. *Clarín*, article by María Eugenia Plano, July 28

Venezuela’s Presidential Elections. 2024. *Al Jazeera English News*. Live interview with Laila Harrak, July 28

[“Amid fears of foul play, Venezuela grids for uncertain election”](#). 2024. *AFP News*, article by Mariëtte Le Roux, July 21

[“Regresamos a la vieja cultura de la militarización policial”](#). 2023. *PRODAVINCI*. Interview by Hugo Prieto, June 6

“Bouncy Castles and Grenades: Gangs Erode Maduro’s Grip on Caracas”. 2021. *New York Times*, article by Isayen Herrera and Anatoly Kurmanae, May 30

“Fact-checking Matt Gaetz on gun bans in Australia and Venezuela”. 2019. *POLITIFACT*, article by Amy Sherman, August 10

“Understanding the Venezuelan Crisis”. 2019. *Understanding Latin American Politics Podcast*, UNC-Charlotte, interviewed by Greg Weeks. Episode 62, February 1

“Two Men claim to be the president of Venezuela”. 2019. Knowledge @Wharton, University of Pennsylvania. January 25

“Venezuelan student protestors seek to woo poor”. 2014. *AP Press*, by Frank Bajak, March 19

“Civil unrest in Venezuela”. 2014. Let Your Voice Be Heard! Radio, WHCR 90.3FM New York City, March 9

“Chávez cult no match for Venezuela’s crisis”. 2014. *AP Press*, by Joshua Goodman, March 2

Book Reviews

The Two Faces of Fear: Violence and Inequality in the Mexican Metropolis. By Ana Villareal, New York: Oxford University Press. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*,
<https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492251319719>

The Marvelous Ones: Drugs, Gang Violence, and Resistance in East Los Angeles. By Randolph Contreras, University of California Press. *Sociological Forum* 40(1): 122-123, 2024

Gangs of the El Paso-Juárez Borderland: A History. By Mike Tapia, University of New Mexico Press. *American Journal of Sociology* 126(6): 1518-1520, 2021

Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa. By Nicholas Rush Smith, Oxford University Press. *American Journal of Sociology* 126(2): 508-510, 2020

We Created Chávez: A People’s History of the Venezuelan Revolution. By George Ciccarello-Maher, Duke University Press. *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe* 25 (2): 133-135, 2014

Active Grants & Fellowships

2022	Post-Conflict Security Structures and Citizen Buy-In (Co-PI) Department of Defense, FY2021 Minerva Research Initiative Amount: \$1,423,151
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Past Grants, Fellowships, and Funding

2025	Visiting Fellowship at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at University of Notre Dame Amount: \$32,500
2024	Peggy Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University Amount: \$35,000
2023	Visualizing & Sensing Spaces: A Workshop Series Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, University of Florida Amount: \$3,760
2022	An Institutional Biography of the Venezuelan Police (PI) University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund \$8,400
2021	Understanding violence in Venezuela: Retrospective and Perspectives of Justice and Reparation (Co-PI) Fulbright NOFO 75th competition \$20,640
2019	Community Information Sharing on State-Sponsored Violence in Venezuela (PI) University of Florida International Center \$12,000
2019	Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia (Co-PI) Evidence in Governance and Politics \$3,900
2019	Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia (Co-PI) Evidence in Governance and Politics \$25,500
2018	Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia (Co-PI) Development Bank of Latin America \$15,000
2017	Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia (Co-PI) Evidence in Governance and Politics \$170,878

2017	Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia (Co-PI) Economic Development and Institutions \$120,510
2017	Police Raids, Police Violence, and the Reorganization of Organized Crime: A Comparative Study (PI) Development Bank of Latin America \$10,000
2017	The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: A Comparative Approach (Co-PI) Development Bank of Latin America \$10,000
2017	The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: A Comparative Approach (Co-PI) Fulbright Association \$2,900
2015	The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: A Comparative Approach (Co-PI) The Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University \$5,000
2010	Participatory Democracy in Venezuela (PI) Tinker Foundation Grant \$1300

Awards

2025	American Bar Association Commission on Immigration Pro Bono Champion
2022	UF International Educator of the Year award
2018-2021	University of Florida Term Professorship award

Conference, Session, and Workshop Organizing

“Revolutionary Governance and Contestation in Venezuela”. Co-organized by Yoletty Bracho, Rebecca Hanson, David Smilde, and Verónica Zubillaga. Tulane University, October 23-25, 2025

“Taking stock of MeToo to consider its future” Invited Special Session, American Sociological Association annual meeting, Montréal, Québec, August 12, 2024

“(Re) imaginar la paz negociada en Colombia y Venezuela: una mirada binacional” Co-organized with Yoletta Bracho, David Smilde, and Verónica Zubillaga, Ford-LASA Special Project, June 17-18, 2024

“Workshop on embodiment and research” Co-organized with Unna Yared, International Ethnography Lab, University of Florida, April 15, 2024

“Workshop on visual ethnography” Co-organized with Unna Yared, International Ethnography Lab, University of Florida, November 16-17, 2023

“Asegurando justicia para víctimas de la violencia en Venezuela” Co-organized with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Caracas, Venezuela, Universidad Católica Ándres Bello, July 6 – 8, 2022

“Ethnographic horizons of the Americas: Method, evidence, aesthetics” Co-organized with Richard Kernaghan, annual conference of the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, March 30 – April 2, 2022

“Impasses políticos y los caminos hacia un futuro mejor en Venezuela” Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, March 26, 2021

Workshop on sexual harassment, violence, and the construction of knowledge with Patricia Richards, American Sociological Association annual meeting, sponsored by the ASA Working Group on Harassment, New York, August 13, 2019

“The paradox of violence in Venezuela: A comparative approach II” Co-organized with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Caracas, Venezuela, March 30 – 31, 2017

“The paradox of violence in Venezuela: A comparative approach I” Co-organized with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Tulane University, October 29 – 31, 2015

Invited Presentations (Select)

“Chavismo and the Colectivos in Venezuela”. Presented at the Illicit Ideologies Conference, Bildner Center for Western Hemispheric Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, November 13-14. Organizers: Enrique Desmond Arias, Bildner Center Director; Philip Johnson, Flinders University

Book discussion: *Policing the revolution: The transformation of security and violence in Venezuela during Chavismo*. Center for International Studies, Sciences Po, October 3, 2025

Gender and ethnographic research. Department of Political Science, Sciences Po, October 2, 2025

Book discussion: *Policing the revolution: The transformation of security and violence in Venezuela during Chavismo*. Department of Political Science, University of California-Berkeley, September 25, 2025

Book discussion: *Policing the revolution: The transformation of security and violence in Venezuela during Charismo*. Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan, April 9, 2025

“Peace Zones in Caracas: Authoritarian consolidation and criminal governance in the post-Chávez Bolivarian Revolution”. Presented at the Youth Gangs in Latin American and Caribbean Contexts: An International Seminar, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU, Organized by José Miguel Cruz and Jonathan Rosen, August 8, 2025

Gender and fieldwork. Department of Sociology, Culture and Politics Workshop/Gender and Sexuality Workshop, University of Michigan, April 9, 2025

Book discussion: *Policing the revolution: The transformation of security and violence in Venezuela during Charismo*. Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, February 25, 2025

“Peace Zones in Caracas: The zona franca of criminality, political pacts, and criminal governance in the post-Chavez Bolivarian Revolution”, with Verónica Zubillaga. Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago, December 3, 2024

Book discussion: *Policing the revolution: The transformation of security and violence in Venezuela during Charismo*. David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, October 22, 2024

Violence and society: Political responses from Latin America. Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, Boston University, October 15, 2024

Book discussion: *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Charismo*, with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Program in Latin American Studies, Princeton University, April 18, 2024

“The landscape of violence in Venezuela: A focus on policing and women's responses,” with Verónica Zubillaga. Seminar on Latin America at Columbia University, April 4

Book discussion: *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Charismo*, with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, WOLA, Washington DC, March 26, 2024

Book discussion: *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Charismo*, with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, NYU, March 13, 2024

Book discussion: *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Charismo*, with Verónica Zubillaga, Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, CUNY Graduate Studies, March 8, 2024

Book discussion: *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Charismo*, with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, October 26, 2023

Book discussion: *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Chavismo*, with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University, October 18, 2023

“Zonas de Paz y control local territorial en tiempos de revolución post-Chávez. Los pactos político-criminales y la gobernanza criminal en Caracas” with Verónica Zubillaga. Invited presentation at the workshop Economía moral de la criminalización de lo político: Entender los vínculos entre lo político y lo criminal en los intersticios de la violencia en las Américas, organized by Dennis Rodgers and Maya Collombon. Mexico City, Mexico, Ciudad de México, September 18-19, 2023

“Los Operativos y la violencia policial en la Venezuela Post-Chávez”. Invited presentation at the two-day conference ¿Es posible la Paz Total? Interrogantes para América Latina, Collegium de Lyon – Institut d’études avancées (IEA) – Université Lumière Lyon 2, June 6-7, 2023

Author Meets Critic: *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Chavismo*, with David Smilde, Social Science History Association, November 18, 2022

(Re)Thinking Venezuela Session 10: The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime, and policing during Chavismo (A conversation with authors Verónica Zubillaga, David Smilde and Rebecca Hanson), Cornell University, May 27, 2022

“Gritos, regaños, charlas y susurros: Respuestas de las madres a los actores armados y la militarización en dos barrios de Caracas”, with Verónica Zubillaga, Centro de Estudios de Género-Colmex y Programa para el Estudio de la Violencia-CIDE, April 20, 2022. Organizers: Karine Tinat and Sandra Ley

“Police and the revolution: Chaos, conflict, and state violence in Venezuela” Center for Latin American Studies Colloquium, University of Florida, February 18, 2022

“Gobernanzas criminales en Caracas” at “Governança Criminal na América Latina em Perspectiva Comparada” with Verónica Zubillaga and Francisco Sánchez. Virtual workshops organized by Luana Dias Motta and Benjamin Lessing. June 8 and August 6, 2021

“Rentas ilegales, actores armados y desigualdad: Conflictos y reconfiguraciones”, REACIN Caracas, Venezuela, July 6-9, 2021. Organizers: Chelina Sepulvada, Andrés Antillano, Verónica Zubillaga, and Ivan Pojomovsky

“Acoso sexual en el campo: Género, raza, nación y la construcción del conocimiento etnográfico” Re-imaginando diversidad en la academia, en tiempos de activismo feminista y pandemia panel, Universidad de Chile, May 13, 2021. Organizers: Jael Goldsmith Weil and Kelly Bauer

“Violencia policial en la Venezuela post-Chávez” at the Asegurando Justicia para Víctimas de la Violencia en Venezuela Conference, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Notre Dame University, May 7-8, 2021. Organizers: David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga

“Sexual harassment and fieldwork” with Patricia Richards. Dependency, Vulnerability and Embodied Fieldwork Conference, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, University of Bonn, April 21-22, 2021. Organizer: Sinah Kloss

“Harassed: gender, bodies, and ethnographic research” Temple Department of Sociology. Co-sponsored by Anthropology; Center for the Humanities; Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies; Geography and Urban Studies; Public Policy Lab; and Science, Technology, and Society Network, February 24, 2021. Organizer: Laura Orrico

“The Covid-19 crisis: Effects on criminal violence and public security in Latin America” Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Michigan, November 20, 2020. Organizer: Edgar Franco-Vivanco

Book discussion: *Harassed: Gender, bodies, and ethnographic research* Women’s & Ethnic Studies Program at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, November 10, 2020. Organizer: Tre Wentling

Book Salon: *Harassed: Gender, bodies, and ethnographic research* with Patricia Richards. Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Co-sponsored by The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality at the University of Chicago, July 15, 2020. Organizer: Kristen Schilt

Book discussion: *Harassed: Gender, bodies, and ethnographic research* with Patricia Richards, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, January 23, 2020

Book discussion: *Harassed: Gender, bodies, and ethnographic research* with Patricia Richards, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia, October 4, 2019

“Constituent power and Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution: A reader-authors roundtable” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Boston, MA, May 27, 2019

“Community policing and public trust: Evidence from Colombia” LACEA-LAMES, Guayaquil, Ecuador, November 8, 2018. Panel sponsored by Development Bank of Latin America

“Harassed: Gender, bodies, and ethnographic research” with Patricia Richards, Columbia University, September 14, 2018. Organizer: Shamus Khan

“Getting out of our heads: Taking theory into the body, space, and place” American Sociological Association’s 2018 Junior Theorists Symposium, Philadelphia, PA, August 10, 2018

“Men, masculinity, and police violence in Venezuela” Sociology Working Group, Florida Atlantic University, February 18, 2018

Author-Meets-Critics: Enrique Desmond Arias’ *Criminal enterprises and governance in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 6, 2018

Conference Presentations (Select)

“The Ideology of Criminal Actors” Roundtable participant at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress, San Francisco, May 23, 2025. Session Organizers: Philip L. Johnson, Flinders University; Enrique Desmond Arias, Baruch College, CUNY

“Orientalism Left and Right: Thinking about Violence and other Issues from the Global North” Workshop at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress, San Francisco, May 25, 2025. Session Organizer: David A. Smilde, Tulane University

Author Meets Critics: Rebecca Hanson’s Policing the Revolution: The Transformation of Security and Violence in Venezuela during Chavismo. Latin American Studies Association International Congress, San Francisco, May 26, 2025

“Reimagining Reciprocity: Reflections on Feminist, Participatory Research Methods in High Risk Contexts” Roundtable discussant at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress, San Francisco, May 26, 2025. Session Organizers: Anne Ruelle, University of Chicago; Tara J. Yanez, Tulane University.

Author Meets Critic, *The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Revolution, crime and policing during Charismo*, with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Bogotá, June 14, 2024

“Conceptualizing criminal governance in authoritarian contexts” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Bogotá, Colombia, June 12, 2024

“Hacia una nueva política feminista contra el autoritarismo y violencia policiaca y estatal reconociendo las luchas de mujeres en América Latina” Roundtable at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Vancouver, May 26, 2023

“Más allá de la justicia versus la paz: víctimas de la violencia policial y la búsqueda de democratización en Venezuela” with David Smilde and Verónica Zubillaga, Latin American Studies Association International Congress. Understanding Authoritarianism in Latin America: Incumbent Strategies, Defections, and Mobilization Panel. Vancouver, May 26, 2023

“Police reform in Latin America: An analysis of its triggers, enablers, results, and lessons” Roundtable at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Vancouver, May 27, 2023

“Official vigilantism” with Dorothy Kronick, Latin American Studies Association International Congress Virtual Conference. The State and Criminal Violence in Latin America Panel, May 2022

“Police and the revolution: Chaos, conflict, and state violence in Venezuela” Latin American Studies Association International Congress Virtual Conference, Political and Social Polarization in Chávez- and Maduro-Era Venezuela Panel, May 2022

“Del punitivismo carcelario a la matanza sistemática” LASA-Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela, La mutación criminal en la era Post Chávez Panel, June 2021

Special Session Organizer/Chair. “La mutación criminal en la era post Chávez” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Boston, MA, May 2019

“Making security forces insecure: Police vulnerability, pluralized violence, and urban politics in Venezuela” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018

“Gendered bodies, sexual harassment, and field research” with Patricia Richards, American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018

Special Session Organizer/Chair. “The paradox of violence in Venezuela: Crime, violence and left-wing citizen security” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Barcelona, May 2018

“Gendered bodies and field research” with Patricia Richards, Sociologists for Women in Society, Atlanta, GA, February 2018

Special Session Organizer/Chair. “Sexual harassment and the production of ethnographic knowledge” American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, August 2016

“Policing violent democracies: Understanding new relations of power and police violence in plurally violent contexts” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Violence session, Seattle, WA, August 2016

“Padding the iron fist? Ethnographic approaches to ongoing criminal justice and citizen security reforms in Latin America” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, New York, May 2016

“Policing violent democracies: Understanding new relations of power and police violence in plurally violent contexts” Unequal Security in the Americas, Brown University, April 2016

“Quién es el responsable y qué debería pasar? Opinión publica sobre la inseguridad y las reformas de seguridad ciudadana en Venezuela” with David Smilde, Crimen y Violencia en Venezuela: Insumos para la Formulación de Políticas Públicas, Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración, Caracas, Venezuela, November 2015

“Who is responsible and what should be done? Public opinion on crime and citizen security reform in Venezuela” with David Smilde, Tulane University, October 2015

“Sexual harassment and the construction of ethnographic knowledge” with Patricia Richards, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 2015

Panel organizer. “Trust, intimacy, and sexual harassment: What doing “good” qualitative research means for women in the field” Sociologists for Women in Society, Washington, D.C., February 2015

Professional Associations

American Society of Criminology; American Sociological Association; Latin American Studies Association; La Red de Activismo e Investigación por la Convivencia (REACIN); The Strategic Hub for Organised Crime Research (SHOC)

Professional Service

University

Co-Director of UF's International Ethnography Lab	2025 – present
Director of UF's International Ethnography Lab	2023 – 2024
Faculty Coordinator of the Qualitative Methods Working Group	2020 – present
Chair of Gender, Sexuality, and Social Movements in Latin America Search Committee in the Center for Latin American Studies	2023
UF Faculty Senate	2019 – 2022
Member of Human Rights, Peace, and Transitional Justice Search Committee in the Center for Latin American Studies	2018
Faculty Co-Coordinator of the Crime, Law, and Governance in the Americas Working Group and MALAS specialization https://www.latam.ufl.edu/academics/graduate-programs/malas/las-specializations/crime-law-and-governance-in-the-americas/	2017 – 2023
Faculty Advisor for Florida Society of the Social Sciences (F3S) https://f3s.soccrim.clas.ufl.edu/home/	2017 – 2023

Associations

Co-coordinator, Venezuela Conflict and Peacebuilding Research Network 2025 – present
<https://cipr.tulane.edu/research/venezuela-conflict-and-peacebuilding-research-network/>

Security and Violence Track Chair, Latin American Studies Association 2022 – 2023
International Congress in Vancouver, May 2023

Chair for the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Awards Committee 2019 – 2022
SWS Meeting Program Committee member 2019 – 2022
SWS Committee on Committees member 2020 – 2022

Executive Committee Member for the Section on Venezuelan Studies

Latin American Studies Association 2019 – 2021

Moderator and Contributor to the Washington Office on Latin America 2012 – 2016
blog Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights

Journals

Managing Editor, *Qualitative Sociology* 2010 – 2019

Editorial Board member, *Qualitative Sociology* 2019 – present

Courses

Graduate

- ◊ Advanced Qualitative Methods
- ◊ Criminological Theory
- ◊ Crime and Violence in Latin America
- ◊ Design and Methods of Research in Latin American Studies
- ◊ Gangs and Society
- ◊ Law and Order in Latin America
- ◊ Policing the Americas

Undergraduate

- ◊ Crime and Deviance
- ◊ Crime and Violence in Latin America
- ◊ Introduction to Sociology
- ◊ Law and Order in Latin America
- ◊ Policing the Americas
- ◊ Research Methods

Graduate Students, Current

Name	Degree	Expected Graduation
Iblin Edelweiss Murillo Lafuente	Phd, Sociology	August 2025
Rosario Fernández-Romero	Phd, Sociology	May 2026

Graduate Students, Former

Name	Degree	Graduation Date	Current Position
Martina Speranza	Phd, Sociology	December 2025	
Morgan Averette	Phd, Sociology	August 2025	

Unna Yared	Phd, Sociology	August 2024	Assistant Professor of Sociology, Georgia Military College
Laura Botero	MA, Latin American Studies	May 2024	Enrolled in the doctoral program in sociology at University of Texas-Austin
Rodrigo Mezarina	MA, Latin American Studies	May 2024	Enrolled in the doctoral program in sociology at University of Florida
Dominique Fairley	Phd, Sociology	August 2023	Adjunct Professor of Sociology at University of Florida
Francisco Sánchez	MA, Latin American Studies	May 2023	Enrolled in the doctoral program in sociology at University of Texas-Austin
Michael McKenna	MA, Latin American Studies	May 2021	Staff member at the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies
Treethep Srisa-Nga	MA, Latin American Studies	May 2021	Enrolled in the doctoral program in political science at University of Florida
Sophia Rogner	MA, Latin American Studies	May 2020	Attorney at HR Law

Languages

English: Native
 Spanish: Fluent