

LAURA ACOSTA

Northwestern University
Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Ph.D., Sociology, 2023 (expected)

Dissertation Title: “Social Origins of Perpetual Civil Wars”

Committee: James Mahoney (Chair), Wendy Griswold, Ann Shola Orloff, Robert Braun (UC Berkeley)

M. A., Sociology, 2018.

The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA.

M. A., Social Science Research, 2015.

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.

B. A., Management and Organizations, 2010.

AWARDS

Graduate Student Paper Award 2021. Sociology of Human Rights Section of the American Sociological Association (Co-Winner).

Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper 2021. Sociology of Culture Section of the American Sociological Association (Co-Winner).

Outstanding Published Article Award 2021. Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section of the American Sociological Association (Honorable Mention).

Best Graduate Student Paper Prize 2021. Theory Section of the American Sociological Association (Honorable Mention).

Robert F. Winch Award for Best 2nd Year Paper 2018. Department of Sociology, Northwestern University (Co-Winner).

Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf Peace Prize 2018. Department of Sociology, Northwestern University (Co-Winner).

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

Acosta, Laura. 2021. “Victimhood Dissociation and Conflict Resolution: Evidence from the Colombian Peace Plebiscite”, *Theory and Society*, 50(4), pp. 679–714.

Acosta, Laura & Robert Braun. 2022. "War Commemoration and Nationalism in Belgium, 1914-1945: The Role of Military Networks", [*Social Forces*, 100\(4\), pp. 1884—1909.](#)

Mahoney, James & **Laura Acosta**. 2022. "A Regularity Theory of Causality for the Social Sciences", [*Quality & Quantity*, 56, pp. 1889—1911.](#)

Manuscripts in Preparation

Acosta, Laura. "A Sociological Theory of Cleavage Transformation in Civil War: The Symbolic Third and Conflict Reemergence in Colombia, 1948—1964."

Acosta, Laura. "A Sociological Theory of Civil Wars."

Acosta, Laura. "A Civil War that 'Breeds Delinquents' and a Nation Trapped in It: A Longitudinal Analysis of the Mechanisms that Sustain the Colombian civil war, 1965—2017."

Other Writings

"The End of an Era?: The Colombian Elections in Retrospect and Prospect" (with Nicolas Torres-Echeverry), August 6, 2022, [*Critical Historical Sociology Blog: History, Theory and Sociology in an Age of Crisis*](#)

"Did war make the nation? The role of military networks in WWI and WWII Belgium" (with Robert Braun), September 21, 2021, [*Conflict\(ed\): The PWSC Official Blog*](#)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Buffet Institute for Global Affairs

Conference Travel Grant, 2022.

Dissertation Research Travel Award, 2022.

Graduate Fellowship, 2020—2021.

Sociology Department, Northwestern University

Fieldwork Research Fellowship, 2021 (declined) & 2022.

External Education/Training Grant, 2018.

Second Year Paper Research Grant, 2017.

War and Society Research Group

Associate Program, 2018.

Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Dispute Resolution Research Center Grant, 2018.

Comparative and Historical Research Cluster

Mellon Cluster Fellowship in Comparative and Historical Social Science, 2016.

The Graduate School, Northwestern University

Conference Travel Grant, 2022.
Graduate Scholarship, 2016—2021.

INVITED TALKS

School of Sociology, University College Dublin (2022), Department of Migration Integration and Trans-Nationalization, Social Science Research Center Berlin (2022), Department of Sociology, Universidad de Los Andes (2022), UTK Social Research Workshop, University of Tennessee (2021), Interfaculty Causality Initiative, Harvard University (2021), Comparative Research Workshop, Yale University (2021), Politics, History, Society Workshop, The University of Chicago (2020).

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Presentations

“The symbolic third and civil war reemergence in mid-twentieth century Colombia”

American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA, 5-9 August 2022.

ASEN Summer School, Zadar, Croatia 6-12 June 2022.

Association of Sociology of Ireland, Limerick, Ireland, 13-14 May 2022.

“War Commemoration and Nationalism in Belgium, 1914-1945: The Role of Military Networks.”

American Sociological Association, (online) 6-10 August 2021.

“A Regularity Theory of Causality for the Social Sciences.”

American Sociological Association, (online) 6-10 August 2021.

American Political Science Association, (online) 9-13 September 2022.

“Spatial Resonance and Electoral Mobilization: Urban Differences in the Colombian Peace Plebiscite.”

Latin American Studies Association Conference, Boston, MA, 24-27 May 2019.

“Victimhood Dissociation and the Effects of Violence on Conflict Resolution: Evidence from the Colombian Peace Plebiscite.”

Social Science History Association, Phoenix, AR, 8-11 November 2018.

The Crisis of History and the History of Crisis, CHS Mini-Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 10 August 2018.

“Using Victimhood for Doing Politics: Why the Colombian Peace Referendum Failed.”

1st Chicago Area Comparative Historical Conference, Evanston, IL, 11 May 2018.

20th Chicago Ethnography Conference, Chicago, IL, 17 March 2018.

“How Does War Affect the Social Structures of Local Communities? Empirical Evidence from Colombia.”

American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC, Canada, 12-15 August 2017.

Organized Panels and Conferences

Presider, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Roundtables, American Sociological Association (2022), Co-organizer, Culture Section Roundtables, American Sociological Association (2021), Invited Chair, Panel on “Public Goods Provision During War: Evidence from the Colombian Case”, American Political Science Association (2020), Co-organizer, “Post-Conflict Transitions in Colombia.” Latin American

Studies Association (2019), Co-organizer, 2nd Chicago Area Comparative Historical Conference, Northwestern University (2019), Co-organizer, 21st Chicago Ethnography Conference, Northwestern University (2019), Co-organizer, I Chicago Area Comparative Historical Conference, Northwestern University (2018).

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

Social Research Methods, Sociology Department (1st & 2nd Semester 2022/2023)

Social Stratification and Inequality, Sociology Department (1st & 2nd Semester 2022/2023)

Dissertation Module, Sociology Department (1st & 2nd Semester 2022/2023)

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Graduate Seminar on College Teaching, Sociology Department (Spring 2020)

Graduate Seminar on Set-Theoretic Methods, Sociology Department & Political Science Department (Winter 2020)

Teaching Assistant

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Graduate Seminar on College Teaching, Sociology Department (Spring 2021)

Social Problems, Sociology Department (Spring 2019)

Law & Society, Sociology Department (Winter 2019)

Cities in Society, Sociology Department (Fall 2018)

Family & Society, Sociology Department (Spring 2018)

Sociological Analysis, Sociology Department (Winter 2018)

Introduction to Sociology, Sociology Department (Spring 2017)

OTHER AFFILIATIONS AND TRAINING

University College Dublin, Ireland.

Visiting Ph. D. Student, 2022.

University of Zadar, Croatia.

ASEN Summer School on Nations and Nationalism in the Contemporary World, 2022.

Queens University Belfast, United Kingdom.

Visiting Ph. D. Student, 2021.

University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

Charles Ragin's Seminar on Qualitative Comparative Analysis, 2018.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.

Research Assistant to Robert Braun on war commemoration and military networks, 2018—2019.

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA.

Research Assistant to Robert Braun on children's stories and the transmission of racism, 2016—2018.

Research Assistant to Benjamin Frommer on ethnic segregation and violence during the Holocaust, 2017.

The University of Chicago, IL, USA.

Research Assistant to Cheol-Sung Lee on the effects of labor-civic solidarity and union-party alliance on welfare state expansion, 2016.

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

Research Assistant to Clemente Forero-Pineda on cooperation and wartime violence in Colombia, 2016.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Conifer Research, Chicago, IL, USA.

Research Associate, 2015—2016.

The Invisible Institute, Chicago, IL, USA.

Researcher for the Youth/Police Project, 2015—2016.

LATAM Airlines, Bogotá, Colombia.

Manager of Strategy and Performance, 2012—2014.

Director of Strategy and Performance (interim), 2013.

Dividendo por Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia.

External Consultant, 2011.

STRATCO Consultores Asociados, Bogotá, Colombia.

Senior Consultant, 2009—2012.

SERVICE

Occasional Reviewer

American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Theory and Society, Journal of Peace Research, International Sociology, Third World Quarterly.

American Sociological Association

Mentoring Committee for the PWSC Section, 2022—2023.

Committee Best Graduate Student Paper Award for the Theory Section, 2022.

Nominations Committee for the Sociology of Culture Section, 2022.

Nominations Committee For the PWSC Section, 2021.

Sociology Department, Northwestern University

Member, Sociology Student Council, 2022.

Coordinator, Ethnography Workshop, 2018—2019.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Native speaker), English (Fluent), German (Intermediate)