

Dr. Mneesha Gellman

Associate Professor, Political Science, Emerson College/Director, Emerson Prison Initiative
Emerson College

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Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 2008-2013
PhD, Political Science, International Relations

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia 2006-2007
MA, International Studies/Peace and Conflict Resolution

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 1999-2003
BA, Political Studies, Latin American and Iberian Studies

Permanent Appointments

Associate Professor of Political Science 2019-Present
Emerson College, Marlboro Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies, Boston, MA
Teaching in the following Minors: Political Science, Peace and Social Justice, Global and Postcolonial Studies, and Latin America and Latinx Studies

Founder and Director, Emerson Prison Initiative 2016-Present

Assistant Professor of Political Science 2015-2019
Emerson College, Marlboro Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies, Boston, MA

Fellowships and Visiting Appointments

Visiting Research Associate Spring 2018; Spring 2022; Spring 2026
Department of Politics, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, Arcata, CA

Senior Fellow, Georg Arnhold Program on Education for Sustainable Peace 2022
Leibniz Institute for Educational Media, Braunschweig, Germany

U.S. Fulbright Scholar, García Robles Fellowship, Mexico 2020
Universidad Autónoma “Benito Juárez” de Oaxaca, Oaxaca de Juárez, Mexico

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Global Cooperation Research 2014-2015
Käte Hamburger Kolleg, University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany

Books

Gellman, Mneesha. (2025). [*Learning to Survive: Yurok Well-being in School*](#). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

McDevitt, Justin & Mneesha Gellman, eds. (2024). [*Unlocking Learning: International Perspectives on Education in Prison*](#). Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press.

Reviewed in: [British Journal of Criminology](#) (2024)
Interviewed on the book in [Inquest](#), (2024)

Gellman, Mneesha. (2024). [Misrepresentation and Silence in United States History Textbooks: The Politics of Historical Oblivion](#). London: Springer Nature, Palgrave MacMillan.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2023). [Indigenous Language Politics in the Schoolroom: Cultural Survival in Mexico and United States](#). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Reviewed in: [ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America](#) (2023); [Nationalism and Ethnic Politics](#) (2023)

Gellman, Mneesha, ed. (2022). [Education Behind the Wall: How and Why We Teach College in Prison](#). Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press.

Reviewed in: [AAUP's Academe](#) (2024)

Gellman, Mneesha. (2017). [Democratization and Memories of Violence: Ethnic Minority Rights Movements in Mexico, Turkey, and El Salvador](#). New York & UK: Routledge.

Reviewed in: [Latin American Research Review](#) (2022); [Nationalism and Ethnic Politics](#) (2021); [Political Psychology](#) (2020); *Humanity and Society* (2017)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Bishop, Sarah, and Mneesha Gellman. (2025). "[Hidden in Plain Sight: The In/Visibility of Human Rights in El Salvador's Prisons Under the State of Exception](#)." *Latin American Research Review*. Online first view 7/4/25.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2025). "[State Inability to Protect: Expert Witnessing in Mexican Asylum Cases](#)." *Latin American Perspectives*. 52(2). 1-32.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2025). "[Public education and language rights: youth identity in the United States and Mexico](#)." *Human Rights Education Review*. Preprint published 1/13/25, 1-21.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2023). "[Speaking Up: The Politics of School Climate in the Trump Era and Afterward](#)." *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*. 1(44), 28-40.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). "[Collaboration as Decolonization?](#)" *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*. 20(2), 8-13.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). "[El Salvador's Democracy in Crisis](#)." Columbia University, Center for Mexico and Central America Studies, *Expert Paper Series*.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). "[Unsettling Settler Colonialism in Words and Land: A Case Study of far Northern California](#)." *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies*. 15(1), 22-40.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2021). "[No nos importaba a nadie": Navegando en la búsqueda del éxito académico en Oaxaca, México](#)." *Polis: Revista Latinoamericana*. 20(59), 59-78.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2021). "[Collaborative Methodology with Indigenous Communities: A Framework for Addressing Power Inequalities](#)." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 54(3), 535-538.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2020). "[Mother Tongue Won't Help You Eat: Language Politics in Sierra Leone](#)."

African Journal of Political Science and International Relations. 14(4), 140-149.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2019). ["The right to learn our \(m\)other tongues: Indigenous languages and neoliberal citizenship in El Salvador and Mexico."](#) *British Journal of Sociology of Education*. 40(4), 523-537.

Gellman, Mneesha & Michelle Bellino. (2019). ["Visible yet Invisible: Indigenous Citizens and History in El Salvador and Guatemala."](#) *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies Journal*. 14(1), 1-23.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2015). ["Teaching Silence in the Schoolroom: Whither National History in Sierra Leone and El Salvador?"](#) *Third World Quarterly*. 36(1), 147-161.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2013). ["Remembering Violence: The Role of Apology and Dialogue in Turkey's Democratization Process."](#) *Democratization*. 20(4), 1-24.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2010). ["World views in peace building: A post-conflict reconstruction challenge in Cambodia."](#) *Development in Practice*. 20(1), 85-98.

Gellman, Mneesha & Mandi Vuinovich. (2008). ["From Sulha to Salaam: Connecting local knowledge with international negotiations for lasting peace in Palestine/Israel."](#) *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*. 26(2), 127-148.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2008). ["No Justice, No peace: Cambodia's Post-Conflict Reconstruction Challenges."](#) *Asian Perspective*. 32(2), 37-57.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2007). ["Powerful Cultures: Indigenous and Western Conflict Resolution Processes in Cambodia."](#) *Peace, Conflict and Development*. Issue 11, 1-28.

Invited Book Chapters

Gellman, Mneesha (2025). "Integration as a practice of pluralism: Challenges in migration and education." In Marcus Otto and Tania Saeed (Eds.), [Critical Perspectives on Integration in Education](#). London: Bloomsbury Academic. P. 141-149.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2024). "Considering Collaboration as Part of Your Research Design." In Sara Wallace Goodman & Jennifer Cyr (Eds.), [Doing Good Qualitative Research](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gellman, Mneesha, Matthew C. Ingram, Diana Kapiszewski, and Sebastian Karcher. (2022). "Balancing Expectations for Research Transparency: Institutional Review Boards, Funders, and Journals." In Kevin G. Lorentz II, Daniel J. Mallinson, Julia Marin Hellwege, Davin Phoenix, J. Cherie Strachan (Eds.), [Strategies for Navigating Graduate School and Beyond](#). American Political Science Association, 110-117.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2020). ["Higher Education Access and Parity: The Emerson Prison Initiative's Bachelor of Arts Program."](#) In Dani McMay, V. & Rebekah Kimble, D. (Eds.), *Higher Education Accessibility Behind and Beyond Prison Walls*. Hershey, PA, USA: IGI Global, 47-66.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2016). ["Only Looking Forward: The Absence of National History in Sierra Leone."](#) In Denise Benvotato, Karina V. Korostelina, and Martina Schultze (Eds.), *History Can Bite: History Education in Divided and Post-War Societies*. Göttingen: V&R Unipress.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2014). "Insurgents and advocates: women's claim-making in El Salvador." In Sara Poggio and María Amelia Viteri (Eds.), *Cuerpo, educación y liderazgo político: una mirada desde el género y los estudios feministas/Bodies, education and political leadership: a gender and feminist perspective*. Quito, Ecuador: FLACSO, 37-64.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2008). "Justice or Reconciliation? The Khmer Rouge Tribunal." In Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra & Seema Shekhawat (Eds.), *Afro-Asian Conflicts: Changing Contours, Costs and Consequences*. Delhi, India: New Century Publications, 101-127.

Invited Book Reviews

Gellman, Mneesha. (2023). "יִיִּדִישׁ לֵעֵבֶט/ Yiddish Lives On: Strategies of Language Transmission." Book review, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. Online 10/8/23, 1-2.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2021). "Protecting Human Rights and Building Peace in Post-Violence Societies." Book review, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. 26(4), 454-456.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2021). "Debate or Dialogue: Narratives, Contention, and the Politics of Memory." Book review, *Political Psychology*. 0(0), 1-8.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2020). "The Politics of Memory: What Future for Transitional Justice?" Book review, *Latin American Research Review*. 54(2), 524-531.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2017). "Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-Racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil." Book review, *Humanity & Society*. 41(3), 405-7.

Additional Academic Publications

Gellman, Mneesha (2025). "[Research Shows Policy to Remove People from the U.S. to El Salvador Threatens Immigrant Well-Being](#)." in Collaboration with The Im/migrant Well-Being Scholar Collaborative. May, 2025.

Firchow, Pamina, & Mneesha Gellman, eds. (2021). "Collaborative Methodologies: Why, For Whom, and How?" Symposium on collaborative methodology, *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 54(3), 525-529. doi:10.1017/S1049096521000330

Gellman, Mneesha. (2017). "El Salvador." Entry for *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*. Paul Joseph, General Editor. *SAGE Reference*, Golson Media.

Popular Publications

Gellman, Mneesha (2025). "[The State Department is lying about El Salvador](#)." *The Hill*. 8/23/25.

Gellman, Mneesha (2025). "[The 'World's Coolest Dictator' Visited the White House](#)." *Jacobin*. 4/15/25.

Gellman, Mneesha and Sarah Bishop (2025). "[Beatings, overcrowding and food deprivation: US deportees face distressing human rights conditions in El Salvador's mega-prison](#)." *The Conversation*. 3/17/25.

Gellman, Mneesha (2024). [“Salvadorans Have Traded Their Rights for Uncertain Security.”](#) *Jacobin*. 3/2/24.

Gellman, Mneesha (2024). [“Safety For Whom?: The Cost of El Salvador’s Latest Quest for Peace.”](#) *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*. 2/21/24.

Gellman, Mneesha (2024). [“Freedom of Expression Under Attack in Bukele’s El Salvador.”](#) *NACLA: North American Congress on Latin America*. 1/3/24.

Gellman, Mneesha (2024). [“El Salvador voters set to trade democracy for promise of security in presidential election.”](#) *The Conversation*. 1/29/24.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2023). [“As Second Chance Pell Grant program grows, more incarcerated people can get degrees – but there’s a difference between prison-run and college-run education behind bars.”](#) *The Conversation*. 4/17/23.

The Boston Foundation (2022). [“Unlocking College: Strengthening Massachusetts’ Commitment to College in Prison.”](#) Signatory.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). [“Indigenous languages make inroads into public schools.”](#) *The Conversation*. 11/3/22.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). 1) [“Educational Access in Prison and Afterwards: The Emerson Prison Initiative Story.”](#) 2) [“Facilitating Successful Reentry: EPI Reentry and College Outside Program \(RECOUP\) Staff Perspective.”](#) 3) [“From Incarcerated Person to College Graduate: The Emerson Prison Initiative’s First Graduation.”](#) 4) [“Reentry Support for College Students Leaving Prison: The Emerson Prison Initiative’s Reentry and College Outside Program.”](#) Blog posts, IIE Centennial Fellowship.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). [“How college in prison is leading professors to rethink how they teach.”](#) *The Conversation*. 10/19/22.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). “Diversify the Curriculum.” *North Coast Journal*, Letter to the Editor. 5/26/22. Available at: <https://www.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/diversify-the-curriculum/Content?oid=23647550>.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2021). [“El Salvador’s façade of democracy crumbles as president purges his political opponents.”](#) *The Conversation*. 6/4/21.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2021). “Reflexiones sobre el trabajo, el activismo y la maternidad.” In Lourdes García Barranca & Rocío García Bustamante (Eds.), *Ser mujer, reflexiones sobre la maternidad, el trabajo y la vida afectiva* (pp. 11-16). Colectivo de Mujeres, Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2021). Pelton, Lee, & Gellman, Mneesha. [“State Should Expand College Education for the Incarcerated.”](#) *Boston Globe*. 2/2/21.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2020). [“COVID-19 and the Opportunity of Un-Schooling Harmful Myths.”](#) *The Globe Post*. 8/18/20.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2020). [“Covid-Closures: When School Cancellation Means Return to a War Zone/Cierres por Covid. Cuando la cancelación de la escuela significa el regreso a una zona de guerra.”](#) *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*. 6/9/20.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2020). "[Landmark femicide case fails to fix El Salvador's patriarchy.](#)" *The Globe Post*. 2/6/20.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2020). "[Deported to death: US sent 138 Salvadorans home to be killed.](#)" *The Conversation*. 2/6/20.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2019). "[Documentary provides rare look at higher education in prison.](#)" *The Conversation*. 11/22/19.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2019). "[US will send migrants to El Salvador, a country that can't protect its own people.](#)" *The Conversation*. 10/10/19.

Gellman, Mneesha. (2019). "[The Trump administration keeps making it harder to claim asylum. Here's how — and why.](#)" *The Monkey Cage - The Washington Post*. 8/15/19.

Grants and Awards

Ascendium Education Group, Emerson Prison Initiative 2025-2026
"Identifying and Scaling Technical Assistance Resources in Higher Education in Prison" (\$324,000)

Global Community for Women's Leadership 2025-2026
Institute for International Education (\$2,500)

American Political Science Association Diversity and Inclusion 2025
Advancing Research Grant for Indigenous Politics (\$2,000)

Betty Nesvold Women and Politics Award for best paper, Western Political Science Association 2023
"Inability to Protect: Mexican State Capacity and Expert Witnessing in United States Asylum Claims."

Georg Arnhold Senior Fellow, Education for Sustainable Peace 2022
Leibniz Institute for International Educational Media, Germany (Summer residency, Fall non-residency)

Huret Faculty Excellence Award 2022
Emerson College, one semester research leave (Spring 2022)

Cummings Foundation 2022-2024
Emerson Prison Initiative, Reentry and College Outside Program (\$130,000)

Centennial Fellowship 2021-2022
Institute for International Education, Emerson Prison Initiative Reentry and College Outside Program, (\$25,000)

Sociological Initiatives Foundation 2021-2023
Second two-year grant for *Indigenous Language Politics* project, (\$20,000)

Phillips Fund for Native American Research 2020-2021
American Philosophical Society, (\$3,500)

Fulbright U.S. García Robles Scholar, Mexico 2020
Six-month fellowship, *Indigenous Language Politics* research

Sociological Initiatives Foundation	2019-2021
Two-year grant for <i>Culture Kids: Cultural Competency and Language Politics</i> project (\$19,900)	
Spirit of Emerson Award for civic engagement	2019
Emerson Prison Initiative, Emerson College	
Alma Ostrom and Leah Hopkins Awan Civic Education Fund	2018-2019
Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs, American Political Science Association, (\$2,000)	
Norma and Irma Mann Stearns Distinguished Faculty Award	2018-2019
Emerson College, Language Politics Project, (\$3,000)	
Office of Academic Engagement and Community Action, Service-Learning Grant	2017
Emerson College, Emerson Prison Initiative, (\$1,000)	
Faculty Advancement Fund Grant	2016-2017
Emerson College, Language Politics Project, (\$5,000)	
Dispute Resolution Research Center, Research Grant	2012
Northwestern University, El Salvador fieldwork, (\$4,500)	
Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, Summer Research Grant	2012
Mexico fieldwork, (\$2,500)	
Graduate Research Grant	2012
The Graduate School, Northwestern University, Mexico fieldwork, (\$3,000)	
Keyman Modern Turkey Research Grant	2011
Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University, (\$4,500)	
Critical Language Scholarship, US Department of State	2010
Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey, (fully funded summer language immersion)	
Dispute Resolution Research Center, Research Grant	2010
Northwestern University, (\$2000)	
Keyman Modern Turkey Research Grant	2009
Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University, (\$5,000)	

Selected Invited Speaker and Media Contributions

2025 | **Radio YSUCA, El Salvador.** “[La invisibilidad de los derechos humanos en las cárceles de El Salvador bajo el Estado de Excepción.](#)” Interviewed by Gerardo Reynaldo. 8/6/25

WBUR, “[U.S. wants to deport FBI informant who was set to testify in gang case in Mass.](#)” Interviewed by Jesús Marrero Suárez, 6/27/25

Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment, “[Concerned Jewish Faculty](#)”

[Speak Out.](#)” Panelist. 5/28/2025

On Point, WBUR, NPR. “[What life is really like in El Salvador under Bukele’s ‘iron fist’.](#)” Interview with Megna Chakrabarti and Nelson Rauda Zablah. 5/22/2025

Here and Now, WBUR, NPR. “[What’s inside El Salvador’s megaprison?](#)” Interview with Deepa Fernandes. 4/23/2025

The Guardian, “[We don’t know how any of this will play out’: what’s next for US deportees in El Salvador.](#)” Singh, Maanvi, 3/20/2025

France24, “Bukele’s agreement with Rubio to receive deported inmates from the US in El Salvadorian prisons,” English-language French live television, 2/5/2025

The New York Times, “[El Salvador’s Prisons Are Notorious. Will They House Trump’s Deportees?](#)” Correal, Annie and Emiliano Rodríguez Mega. 2/4/2025

CNN International “[El Salvador offers to house violent US criminals and deportees of any nationality in unprecedented deal.](#)” Pozzebon, Stefano, Jessie Yeung, Marlon Sorto and Lex Harvey. 2/4/2025.

The New York Post, “[Inside El Salvador’s mega-prison where president has offered to hold ‘dangerous’ US citizens and criminal migrants.](#)” Reyes, Ronny. 2/4/2025

USAID and LACLEARN. “Democratic Backsliding in El Salvador and Mexico.” Invited panelist, USAID country office staff conference. Miami, Florida. 3/10/25 (Canceled because of USAID budget cut)

Universidad de los Lagos, Centro de Estudios de Cohesión y Conflicto Social, Universidad de la Frontera. [Escuela Doctoral de Métodos.](#) “Metodología Colaborativa.” Workshop expert and mentor. Osorno, Chile. 1/7/25-1/11/25

2024 | **UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison,** Montreal International conference on education in prison, keynote speaker, Montreal, Canada, 10/17/24

University of the Southeast Philippines, 3rd Annual conference on persons deprived of liberty’s transformative education for successful re-entry, keynote speaker, Davao City, Philippines, 10/09/24

Pokornowski, Ess (2024). “Exploring the Landscape of College and Community Reentry Partnerships,” Ithaca S+R. 30 September 2024. <https://doi.org/10.18665/sr.321356>.

Boston Business Journal, “[Letter to the editor: Jobs for returning citizens are critical,](#)” 5/17/24

Latin American Advisor, “[Will Constitutional Changes Help Keep Bukele in Power?](#)” 5/16/24

Boston University, Graduate methods seminar guest speaker, “Collaborative Methodology.” Boston, MA 4/11/24

American Association for the Advancement of Science, panelist, “Human Rights, Ethics, and

the Importance of Evidence Based Research,” virtual, 3/21/24

Latin American Advisor, “[What will a ruling party supermajority bring El Salvador?](#)” 3/4/24

University of Vermont, “Indigenous Language Politics.” Book talk, Burlington, VT. 2/21/24

Bard Prison Initiative, “Unlocking Learning.” Virtual panel with Justin McDevitt. 2/16/24

Emerson College Teach-in on Race, panelist. “The Power of Education in Prison.” Boston, MA, 2/8/24

2023 | **New Books Network**, Dr. Christina Gessler, podcast, “[Education Behind the Wall.](#)” 11/30/23

Latin American Advisor, “[Can El Salvador’s Bukele Be Defeated in Next Year’s Vote?](#)” 10/18/23

University of Southern California, The Center for International Studies, [Discussant for Cher Chen and Alison Dundes Renteln: *International Human Rights: A Survey*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Pilsen Community Books, in conversation with Bill Ayers, “Indigenous Cultural Survival on Indigenous Peoples’ Day.” 10/9/23

The Boston Globe, Ivy Scott, “[Federal Pell Grants expansion for prisoners is 'lifechanging'.](#)” 8/21/23

Le Presse, Janie Gosselin, “[Une méthode forte critiquée au Salvador.](#)” 8/4/23

Sorry Not Sorry, Alyssa Milano podcast, “[The Importance of Education for Incarcerated People.](#)” 6/5/23

Latin American Advisor, “[Why Did Mexico’s Justices Reject Some Electoral Reforms?](#)” 5/22/23

Charlotte West, “[Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in prisons. Here’s how cultural education could help.](#)” OpenCampus. 5/21/23

Harvard University, “[Scholarship & Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference.](#)” faculty panelist. Cambridge, MA, 4/15/23

Boston College, “Indigenous Language Politics.” Chestnut Hill, MA, 3/2/23

WBZ-TV/CBS-Boston, “[Education as Labor of Love.](#)” Morning news show. 2/17/23

American Philosophical Society, “Learning to Survive.” Virtual, 2/9/23

Temple Sinai, “Education as a human right.” Brookline, MA, 2/3/23

Universidad de los Lagos, Centro de Estudios de Cohesión y Conflicto Social, Programa [Escuela Doctoral de Métodos](#). “Política Indígena” y “Metodología Colaborativa.” Keynote speaker and workshop expert. [TV Interview in Spanish](#). Osorno, Chile. 1/10/23-1/14/23

- Academic Minute**, [“How does cultural survival happen? One word at a time.”](#) WAMC radio and online. 1/10/23
- 2022 | **WGBH**, [“Mass. leaders push benefits of college-in-prison programs to the incoming administration.”](#) 12/1/22
- Commonwealth High School**, “Education in Prison as Equity Intervention.” Boston, MA, 12/1/22
- Temple Israel**, [“Education in prison as public safety.”](#) Boston, MA, 12/1/22
- Latin American Advisor**, [“AMLO’s Electoral Reforms in Mexico.”](#) 3-4. 11/29/22
- Lost Coast Outpost**, [“Emerson College Professor Examines the Transformative Power of Yurok Language Courses in Local High Schools.”](#) 11/16/22.
- Newshub New Zealand**, [“Calls for better education in prison to tackle New Zealand's 'high' reoffending rates.”](#) 11/14/22
- New Zealand Discovery Channel AM News**, “Education in prison.” 11/13/22
- Youth Today**, [“Q&A on Indigenous languages in public schools.”](#) 10/25/22
- University of Notre Dame**, Kellogg Center. [“Indigenous Language Politics.”](#) 10/25/22
- University of Iowa**, “Issues in Research and Education in Prison.” 10/24/22
- Latin American Advisor**, [“How can Bukele run again?”](#) 4. 10/3/22
- Leibniz Institute for Educational Media**, [“Misrepresentation in US history textbooks.”](#) 8/24/22
- California State Polytechnic Institute, Humboldt**, “Unsettling Settler Colonialism.” 4/29/22
- Criminal Justice Reform Caucus**, Legislative briefing on college in prison. 3/9/22
- Revolutionary Spaces**, panelist. [“Revolution, Memory, and Violence.”](#) 3/2/22
- 2021 | **Emerson College Teach-in on Race**, panelist. “Mass Incarceration.” Virtual, 10/29/21
- iNews**, interview. “Who is Nayib Bukele? The ‘cool, millennial dictator’.” 9/23/21
- Criminal Justice Reform Caucus**, Legislative briefing on EPI. 6/30/21
- Emerson College Teach-in on Race**, panelist. “Learning in Prison.” 3/19/21
- Social Justice Academy**, Emerson College. “What Matters to Me and Why.” 1/28/21
- 2020 | **Problem Solving Incubator High School**, FL. “Human Rights in Global Context.” 9/14/20
- Northwestern University**, Political Science Department. “Fieldwork Issues from Ethics to Data Organization.” 7/16/20

- Wallethub.com**, expert contributor. [“The economic impact of immigration on states.”](#) 1/20/2020
- Emergency Committee for Rojava**, panel speaker. [“Lessons from Comparative Indigenous Struggles.”](#) People’s Forum. New York City. 12/3/19.
- 2019 | **Emerson College Teach-in on Race**, moderator. “Disrupting Mass Incarceration” panel, Boston, MA, 10/18/19
- Commonwealth High School**, keynote speaker for Model Congress. “Mass Incarceration in Global Perspective.” Boston, MA, 4/14/19
- Brandeis University**, invited panelist. “Higher Education in Prison.” Waltham, MA, 4/10/19
- WERS Radio**, “You Are Here” program. Interviewed about EPI. 4/7/19
- Emerson College, Author Celebration**, keynote speaker. “Democratization and Ethnography.” Boston, MA, 4/4/19
- Emerson College, Innovation Forum**, keynote speaker. “Innovating for College in Prison.” Boston, MA, 3/27/19
- 2018 | **Clark University, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies**, invited speaker. “Democratization and memories of violence.” Worcester, MA, 10/2018
- San Pablo Cultural Center**, invited speaker. “Education citizen formation, and cultural resilience: The politics of language and memory in Mexico and California.” Oaxaca, Mexico, 6/8/2018
- Autonomous University “Benito Juarez” of Oaxaca**, invited speaker. Department of Tourism and Sustainable Development. “Cultural Competency and Indigenous Language Politics.” Oaxaca, Mexico, 5/17/2018
- Autonomous University “Benito Juarez” of Oaxaca**, invited speaker. Department of Languages. “Education Policy and Citizen Formation: Comparative Analysis of Mexico and California,” Oaxaca, Mexico, two talks on 3/14/2018 (Masters students) and 6/9/2018 (PhD students)
- University of Arizona, Center for Latin American Studies**, invited speaker. “Democratization and memories of violence.” Tucson, AZ, 1/2018
- 2017 | **University of Chicago, Center for Latin American Studies**, invited speaker. “Democratization and memories of violence.” Chicago, IL, 2/2017
- Northwestern University, Department of Political Science**, invited speaker. “Inclusive teaching and academic survival.” Evanston, IL, 2/2017
- Loyola University Chicago**, invited panelist. “War Wounds: The Future of Restorative Justice Symposium.” Chicago, IL, 2/2017
- 2016 | **Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies**, invited speaker. “Shaming and Claiming for Cultural Rights: Memory and Social Movements.” Cambridge, MA, 11/2016

- Bowdoin College**, invited speaker. “Ethnic Politics in Sierra Leone.” Brunswick, ME, 4/2016
- 2014 | **Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology**, Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast Working Group Retreat. “Unifying Tongue, Unified Nation? Language Politics in Sierra Leone.” Düsseldorf, Germany, 7/16/2014
- Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Colloquium**, “Teaching Silence in the Schoolroom: Whither National History in Sierra Leone and El Salvador?” Duisburg, Germany, 7/1/2014
- Northwestern University**, invited lecturer. Global Engagement Summer Institute. “The Political Economy of Nicaragua,” Chicago, IL, 6/22/2011
- 2011 | **University of Toronto**, invited panelist. Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. Community Approaches to Peace Conference, “Cambodian Reconciliation Strategies,” Canada, 1/2011
- 2007 | **University of Queensland**, guest speaker. “Peacebuilding Funding Proposals,” Australia, 8/2007
- Australia Center for Peace and Conflict Studies**, seminar speaker. “Conflict in Cambodia’s Reconstruction,” Australia, 8/2007
- University of the South Pacific**, seminar speaker. “Indigenous Epistemologies,” Fiji, 7/2007
- Rotary World Peace Symposium**, plenary paper presenter. “The Prospects and Challenges of Conflict Resolution: A Case Analysis of Contemporary Cambodia,” Salt Lake City, UT, 6/2007

Teaching Experience

Faculty, Emerson College, Boston, MA 2015-Present

Regular courses

PL222, *Human Rights*; PL230, *The US and Latin America*; PL310, *Collective Action and Identity Politics*; PL322, *Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation*

Additional courses

IN213, *Introduction to Global Studies*; IN154, *Power and Privilege*; IN370, *Politics and Society in Cuba*; Global Pathways study abroad, (May 2017); IN300, *Directed Study, Research and Grant-writing* (Advisor, Spring 2017); HI395, *Directed Study, Native American Narratives* (Advisor, Fall 2018)

Faculty, Emerson Prison Initiative

Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Norfolk Fall 2023

PL230 United States and Latin America

Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Concord Fall 2017

IN154 Power and Privilege

Visiting Lecturer, University of Sierra Leone, Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone 2013-2014

Social Research Methods

Instructor, Northwestern University, School of Continuing Studies, Evanston, IL Fall 2011

Political Science 356, US-Latin America Relations

Students Supervised

External

2021-2022 | Cathy Ames Turner, PhD committee, external reviewer, Fielding University

Emerson Undergraduate Research

2025 | Dana Guterman Levy

Emerson Honors BA Thesis Supervisor

2020-2021 | Talia Colten
Madison Brooks
Michelle Gaudet
Quinn Lattimore
Madison Lynch
Grace Tepper
Alyssa Tschirgi
2019-2020 | Viviana Bonomie
Cierra DeVos
Chantal Encalada
David Fadul
Ava Feneberger
Kathryn Garelli
Abigail Hibbard
Phoebe Loew
Olivia Williams
Gina York
2018-2019 | Lindsey Belcher
Jordana Brody
Allison Hagan
Maya Kaczor
Lily Milman
Dev Patil
Aaron Van Leesten
Kira Venturini
Erin Wetzler
Aaron Wizenread

Selected Conference Presentations

2026 | **Latin American Studies Association Conference**, “Expert Witnessing in Immigration Court.”
Panelist. Paris, France. Forthcoming May 26, 2026.

Western Political Science Association, Author meets critic on *Learning To Survive*; panelist on
“Best Practices for College in Prison.” San Diego, CA. Forthcoming April 1-3 2026.

2025 | **American Political Science Association**, “Author meets critic” round table on my *Indigenous
Language Politics* book; Methods Café expert, panelist on Research Ethics. Vancouver, Canada.

Law and Society Association, “Education and Human Rights.” Panelist. Chicago, IL.

2024 | **American Political Science Association**, “College-in-prison programs,” Panelist; “Collaborative Methodology” Methods Café expert; Human Rights Section business meeting chair. Philadelphia, PA.

Latin American Studies Association Conference, “El Salvador’s Carceral Regime,” Panelist; Author on Author Meets Critics round table on *Indigenous Language Politics* book. Bogotá, Colombia

American Political Science Association, Human Rights Section mini-conference on current events, organizer, moderator, and presenter “Democratic backsliding in El Salvador,” Virtual.

2023 | **American Political Science Association**, poster session discussant, Human Rights Section Program Co-Chair, Virtual.

Latin American Studies Association Conference
“Expert witnessing in asylum cases.” Panelist, Virtual.

University of South Florida, Im/migrant Well-Being Research Center Conference, panelist. St. Petersburg, FL.

2022 | **Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples**, Latin American Studies Association Section Conference. “Identidad e indigeneidad.” Panelist, Mexico City, Mexico.

Alliance for Higher Education in Prison, National Conference
“Why and How We Teach College in Prison.” Panelist, Virtual.

Leibniz Institute for Educational Media, **Conference on Education for Sustainable Peace**
“Peace Collaboration as Decolonization?” Panelist, Braunschweig, Germany

Andrássy Universität, **Research group on economics, policy analysis, and language**
“Rules and incentives in language policy and planning: Economic, legal and sociolinguistic approaches.” Panelist, Budapest, Hungary.

Latin American Studies Association Conference
“Asylum Experts in Immigration Courts.” Panel organizer, chair, and panelist. Virtual.

2021 | **Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research**
“Collaboration and power.” Panelist, Northwestern University.

American Political Science Association
“Indigenous Education” Panelist and discussant for two panels on education and Indigenous politics, and chair for two panels on identity and immigration. Virtual.

Latin American Studies Association Conference
“Expert Witnessing.” Round table organizer. Virtual.

2020 | **American Political Science Association**
“Comparative Education Politics.” Panelist and chair. Virtual.

Latin American Studies Association Conference
“Indigenous Languages and Cultural Survival,” Organizer and panelist and “Expert Witnessing”

panel discussant. Virtual.

2018 | **Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research**

“Collaborative methodology.” Panelist, U.C. Santa Cruz.

New England Council of Latin American Studies Conference, “Indigenous Youth Politics in Oaxaca, Mexico.” Panelist, Clark University.

American Political Science Association

“Language Politics in California and Mexico.” Panelist, Boston, MA.

2017 | **Latin American Studies Association Conference**

“Solidarity methodology.” Panel Organizer and Panelist. Lima, Peru.

2016 | **International Political Science Association**

“Language Politics in Sierra Leone.” Panelist, plus discussant for Turkish language politics panel. Poznan, Poland.

Columbia University Teacher’s College

Education in the Americas: Knowledges and Perspectives Conference, “Teaching the violence past in Central America.” Panelist, New York, NY.

Latin American Studies Association Conference

“Teaching the Violent Past in El Salvador and Guatemala.” Panel Organizer and Panelist. New York, NY.

2014 | **Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology**

Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast Conference, “Unifying Tongue, Unified Nation? Language Politics in Sierra Leone.” Panelist, Halle, Germany.

Georg Arnhold International Summer School on Education for Sustainable Peace

“Only Looking Forward: The Absence of National History in EL Salvador and Sierra Leone.” Panelist, Braunschweig, Germany.

Latin American Studies Association Conference

“Making citizens at school: Tensions in pluri-cultural education.” Panel Organizer and Panelist, Chicago, IL.

2013 | **Social Science History Association**

“Comparative Claim-Making.” Co-chair and Panelist, Chicago, IL.

American Political Science Association

“Ethnic Minority Rights Mobilization in Mexico, Turkey and El Salvador.” Panelist, Chicago, IL.

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research

Participant, Syracuse University, NY

Latin American Studies Association Conference

“El Salvador’s New Social Contract.” Panel Organizer, Chair, and Panelist, Washington D.C.

Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, International Doctoral Workshop

“The Politics of Multiculturalism in Turkey: Kurdish Language Rights.” Panelist, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey.

2012 | **Latin American Studies Association Conference**

“Vamos a Regresar: The Right to Autonomy in San Juan Copala, Oaxaca, Mexico.” Panelist and panel co-chair, San Francisco, CA.

2011 | **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference**

“Ethnic Minority Rights Claims in Democratization.” Panelist, Chicago, IL.

International Praxis Conference on Cultural Memory and Coexistence

“Apology and Dialogue in Turkey.” Panelist, Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey.

2010 | **Latin American Studies Association Conference**

“Memories of Violence: Women’s Quest for Claim-Making in El Salvador.” Panelist, Toronto, Canada.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference

“Divergent Collective Memories: The Role of Apology and Dialogue in Turkey’s Democratization Process.” Panelist, Chicago, IL.

2009 | **Peace and Justice Studies Association Annual Conference**

“Apology Within and Among Nations: The Role of Apology and Dialogue in Turkey.” Panelist, Marquette University, WI.

Conference on Truth and Memory

“Truth without Justice? The Impact of El Salvador’s Truth Commission.” Panelist, University of Colorado-Boulder, CO.

International Society for Cultural History

“Apology, Turkey, and the European Union Membership Application.” Panelist, University of Queensland, Australia.

Notre Dame Conference on Peace

“From *Sulha* to *Salaam*: Connecting Local to Global for lasting peace in Palestine/Israel.”
Workshop Presenter, University of Notre Dame, IN,

Non-Academic Work Experience

Expert Witness, United States Immigration Courts

2016-present

Provide country conditions in more than 140 cases for people from Mexico and El Salvador

National Opinion Research Center, Research consultant

2022

University of Chicago

Khmer Institute of Democracy, Conflict Manager

2006-2007

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Designed comprehensive training program for Cambodian Commune Councilors and citizen volunteers in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Trained NGO staff in non-violent communication.

Organization of American States, Elections Observer

2006

Sucre, Bolivia

Monitored 28 voting precincts in Chuquisaca Province, documented complaints, ensured compliance with electoral regulations and participated in diplomatic meetings.

United Nations Development Programme, Conflict Analyst 2006

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Monitored current Bolivian political developments, analyzed potential conflict sources, and made intervention recommendations via internal reports to UN personnel.

Mainstream Media Project, Associate Producer 2003-2005

Arcata, CA

Produced over 100 hour-long radio programs of nationally syndicated show, "A World of Possibilities."

Collegewide Service

Emerson Prison Initiative 2016-2021, 2023-Present

Founder and Director, Emerson College

Emerson Prison Initiative Advisory Council 2017-2021, 2023-Present

Chair, Emerson College

Panel Organizer, Chair, and Panelist, Inauguration Week Events 2017

Emerson College, Democracy (1/18/2017) and Immigration (1/19/2017)

Understanding National Immigration Through Education (UNITE), Faculty advisor 2016-2018

Emerson College

Ad hoc Committee on US and Global Diversity 2015-2019

Member, Emerson College

Departmental Service

Latin American and Latinx Studies Minor, Advisor 2023-2025

Liberal Arts Council, Equity and Justice Committee 2021

Member (in ad hoc form 2018-2021), co-chair (fall 2021)

Political Science Minor, Advisor 2018-2019, 2020-2021

Emerson College 2019

Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committee (fall 2019)

History Search Committee 2015-2016

Member, Emerson College

Professional Service and Affiliations

European Research Council, Grant Proposal Reviewer 2023, 2025

Fulbright-COMEXUS Expert Panel Reviewer 2021-2025

Interviewing Fulbright applicants for fellowships, annual service

American Political Science Association 2021-Present
Human Rights Section (President 2023-2024) (Section Vice President and Program Co-Chair (2022-2023)
Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (Steering Committee member 2023)
Centennial Research Awards Reviewer (2022)
Education Politics and Policy Section, publication award committee (2021)
APSA Life Member
Section Member: Education Politics and Policy; Migration and Citizenship; Race, Ethnicity, and Politics;

Latin American Studies Association 2019-Present
Bryce Wood Book Award Committee, member (2023-2024)
Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples Section (council member 2021-2023)
Expert Witness Section: co-founder (2019), Interim Chair (2019-2020), Council Member (2020-2023), publication award committee (2021)
Development Committee Member (2018-2021)
LASA Life Member; Section Member: Central America; Mexico; Otros Saberes; El Salvador Studies Working Group.

International Political Science Association
Member, RC50 Language Politics 2016-Present

Expert Witness, United States Immigration Court 2016-Present
Preparation of written affidavits and oral testimony on country conditions for certain categories of more than 100 Salvadoran and Mexican asylum cases heard in U.S. immigration courts

Book and Article Reviewer 2010-Present
Perspectives on Politics (editorial board member), University of Michigan Press, Cambridge University Press, Routledge, *Frontiers in Political Science*, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, *Polis*, *Revista de Estudios Sociales*, *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Development in Practice*, *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies*, *Asian Journal of Social Sciences*, *Open Psychology Journal*, *Social Sciences*, *Sustainability*, *Qeios*.

Tenure and Promotion Reviewer 2024-Present
External reviewer for multiple dossiers

Community Service

Massachusetts Director's Council on College in Prison 2022-Present

Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium, Member, MA 2019-Present

Centro Romero, Domestic Violence Support Group Facilitator, Chicago IL 2009-2010

Languages

Advanced Spanish; Intermediate French; Intermediate Turkish; Market Krio; Basic German