

## Dr. Mneesha Gellman

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

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### Education

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**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

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**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

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

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

**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

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Gellman, Mneesha. (forthcoming November 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**

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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."](#) Colombia 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**

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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: 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 Bontrovato, 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.

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### **Invited Book Reviews**

Gellman, Mneesha. (2023). "יִיִּדישׁ לֵעַבֵּט/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.

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### **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.

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### **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

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

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**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**

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**External:** Cathy Ames Turner (PhD committee, external reviewer, Fielding University, 2021-2022)

### **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**

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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. Chabreja 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**

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**Expert Witness, United States Immigration Courts**

2016-present

Provide country conditions in more than 100 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**

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**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 ally** 2016-2018

Emerson College

**Ad hoc Committee on US and Global Diversity** 2015-2019

Member, Emerson College

### **Departmental Service**

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**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)

**Emerson College** 2019

Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committee (fall 2019)

**History Search Committee** 2015-2016

Member, Emerson College

### **Professional Service and Affiliations**

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**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