

LAURA ACOSTA

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, and Affiliate Scholar, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, 2023-2025.

Teaching Fellow, Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 2022-2023.

Visiting Predoctoral Researcher, School of Sociology, University College Dublin, Ireland, 2022.

Visiting Predoctoral Researcher, Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland, 2021.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA, 2023.
Dissertation Title: *Social Origins of Perpetual Civil War*

Master of Arts, Sociology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA, 2018.

Master of Arts, Social Science Research, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA, 2015.

Bachelor of Arts, Management and Organizations, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, 2010.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

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

***Winner, Outstanding Published Article Award**, American Sociological Association – Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section

Mahoney, James, and Laura Acosta. 2022. "A Regularity Theory of Causality for the Social Sciences" *Quality & Quantity*, 56, pp. 1889-1911.

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

***Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award**, American Sociological Association – Sociology of Human Rights Section

***Winner, Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper**, American Sociological Association – Sociology of Culture Section

***Honorable Mention, Outstanding Published Article Award**, American Sociological Association – Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section

***Honorable Mention, Best Graduate Student Paper Prize**, American Sociological Association – Theory Section

***Winner, Robert F. Winch Award for Best 2nd Year Paper**, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology

Other academic writing

Acosta, Laura, and Nicolas Torres-Echeverry. 2022. “The End of an Era?: The Colombian Elections in Retrospect and Prospect” August 6 *Critical Historical Sociology Blog: History, Theory and Sociology in an Age of Crisis*.

Acosta, Laura, and Robert Braun. 2021. “Did War Make the Nation? The Role of Military Networks in WWI and WWII Belgium” September 21 *Conflict(ed): The PWSC Official Blog*.

Under review and in preparation

Acosta, Laura. *The Enemy Foretold: National Deception, Self-Fulfilling Prophecies, and Perpetual Civil War in Colombia and Mexico*, book manuscript in preparation.

Acosta, Laura. “Reinventing the Nation’s Fault Line: The Imagined Third and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies in Colombia’s Civil War,” under review (available upon request).

Acosta, Laura, Nicolas Torres-Echeverry, and Kristin Foringer. “When Crisis Becomes Stasis: War-Peace Convergence and its Self-Reinforcing Qualities in Long Civil Wars,” in preparation.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Awards

Winner, Outstanding Published Article Award, American Sociological Association – Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, 2023.

Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association – Sociology of Human Rights Section, 2021.

Winner, Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, American Sociological Association – Sociology of Culture Section, 2021.

Honorable Mention, Outstanding Published Article Award, American Sociological Association – Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, 2021.

Honorable Mention, Best Graduate Student Paper Prize, American Sociological Association – Theory Section, 2021.

Winner, Robert F. Winch Award for Best 2nd Year Paper, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology, 2021.

Winner, Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf Peace Prize 2018, Northwestern University—Department of Sociology, 2018.

Fellowships and grants

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (declined), 2023-2024.

Conference Travel Grant, Buffet Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University, 2022.

Dissertation Research Travel Award, Buffet Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University, 2022.

Fieldwork Research Fellowship, Sociology Department, Northwestern University, 2022.
Conference Travel Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University, 2022.
Fieldwork Research Fellowship, Sociology Department, Northwestern University (declined), 2021.
Graduate Fellowship, Buffet Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University, 2020-2021.
External Education/Training Grant, Sociology Department, Northwestern University, 2018.
Associate Program, War and Society Research Group, Northwestern University, 2018.
Dispute Resolution Research Center Grant, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, 2018.
Second Year Paper Research Grant, Sociology Department, Northwestern University, 2017.
Mellon Cluster Fellowship in Comparative and Historical Social Science, Comparative and Historical Research Cluster, Northwestern University, 2016.
Graduate Scholarship, The Graduate School, Northwestern University, 2016-2021.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited presentations and lectures

American Sociological Association, “Perpetual Civil Wars,” Political Sociology Section (Election Series), March 28, 2024.

Trinity College Dublin, “Fault Line Transformation in Civil War: The Symbolic Third and Conflict Reemergence in Colombia,” Department of Sociology (Seminar Series), January 25, 2023

University College Dublin, “Fault Line Transformation in Civil War: The Symbolic Third and Conflict Reemergence in Colombia,” School of Sociology (Seminar Series), November 23, 2022.

Social Science Research Center Berlin, “Fault Line Transformation in Civil War: The Symbolic Third and Conflict Reemergence in Colombia,” Department of Migration Integration and Trans-Nationalization (MaD Colloquium), October 19, 2022.

Universidad de Los Andes, “El Tercero Simbólico y el Resurgimiento de la Guerra Civil en Colombia,” Department of Sociology (Coloquio de Sociología), October 14, 2022.

Universidad de Los Andes, “¿Qué puede hacer el método comparado que los métodos cuantitativos o cualitativos no pueden hacer?” Department of Sociology (Pro-Seminario de Métodos), March 17, 2022.

University of Tennessee, “Social Origins of Perpetual Civil Wars,” Department of Sociology (UTK Social Science Research Workshop), June 30, 2021.

Harvard University, “A Regularity Theory of Causality for the Social Sciences.” Departments of Sociology and Philosophy (Working Group on Causality), February 19, 2021.

Yale University, “A Regularity Theory of Causality for the Social Sciences.” Department of Sociology (Working Group on Comparative-Historical Analysis), February 16, 2021.

American Sociological Association, “Incongruent Boundaries: How Intergroup Antagonism Persists in Times of Structural Change, Colombia 1958-2017,” Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section (Virtual Coffee Hours), October 20, 2020.

The University of Chicago, “Social Roots of Perpetual Civil Wars: War Cultures and Civil Conflict in Mexico and Colombia,” Department of Sociology (Politics, History, and Society Workshop), February 2020.

Conference presentations

American Sociological Association: 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2017.

War & Society Mini-Conference: 2023.

The Crisis of History and the History of Crisis, Mini-Conference: 2018.

University of Notre Dame, The Center for the Study of Social Movements

Young Scholars in Social Movements Mini-Conference: 2024.

American Political Science Association: 2022.

The Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism: 2024, 2022.

Association of Sociology of Ireland: 2022.

Latin American Studies Association: 2019.

Social Science History Association: 2018.

Chicago Area Comparative Historical Conference: 2018.

Chicago Ethnography Conference: 2018.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Selection Committee, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section Outstanding Published Paper Award, 2024.

Co-organizer, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section Mentorship Initiative, 2024.

Elected Student Representative, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, 2023-2024.

Co-organizer, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section Mentorship Initiative, 2023.

Presider, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Roundtables, 2023.

Selection Committee, American Sociological Association, Theory Section Best Graduate Student Paper Award, 2022.

Nominations Committee, American Sociological Association, Sociology of Culture Section, 2022.

Nominations Committee, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, 2022.

Presider, American Sociological Association, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Roundtables, 2022.

Co-organizer, American Sociological Association, Culture Section Roundtables, 2021.

Invited Chair, panel on “Public Goods Provision During War: Evidence from the Colombian Case,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2020.

Co-organizer, panel on “Post-Conflict Transitions in Colombia,” Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2019.

Co-organizer, 2nd Chicago Area Comparative Historical Conference, Northwestern University, Co-organizer, 21st Chicago Ethnography Conference, Northwestern University, 2019.

Co-organizer, I Chicago Area Comparative Historical Conference, Northwestern University, 2018.

Invited reviewer

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

Service at Northwestern University

Member, Sociology Student Council, Department of Sociology, 2022.

Coordinator, Ethnography Workshop, Department of Sociology, 2018-2019.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Courses taught as instructor of record

Brown University

How can activists change the world? The dynamics of power and collective resistance (undergraduate)

Trinity College Dublin

Quantitative Research Methods (graduate)

Power, State, and Social Movements (undergraduate)

Social Stratification and Inequality I and II (undergraduate)

Capstone Module (undergraduate)

Northwestern University

College Teaching (graduate)

Set-Theoretic Methods (graduate)

Teaching assistant

Brown University

Foundations of Development (undergraduate)

Northwestern University

College Teaching (graduate)

Social Problems (undergraduate)

Law & Society (undergraduate)

Cities in Society (undergraduate)

Family & Society (undergraduate)

Sociological Analysis (undergraduate)

Introduction to Sociology (undergraduate)

Advising at Brown University

Undergraduate Dissertation

Annie Schwerdtfeger (Public Affairs), "Effective Service Providers: Rebel Groups in Complex Emergencies," 2024.

**Winner of the Watson Outstanding Thesis Award*

Alexandra Lehman (Public Affairs), “Imagined Bodies in Imagined Communities: (Re)Producing the Nation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” 2024.

Advising at Trinity College Dublin

Master’s Theses

Zachary Porter, “Does the Proposal Matter? A Case Study of Collective Decision-Making in a Decentralised Autonomous Organization,” 2023.

Silvana Ovalle, “‘El Estallido’ from abroad: a case study of the Chilean diaspora in Germany,” 2023.

Undergraduate Dissertation

Sam Lett (Sociology), “Why is ‘Lizzie in a Box’? The Blame Game Within Irish Memory,” 2023.

Clara Kingsbury (Sociology), “The Real Deal,” 2023.

Adina Bocotan (Sociology), “A Mixed-Methods Study Exploring Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in Ireland: Investigating the Role of Trust in Government Institutions,” 2023.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Research training

Summer School on “Nations and Nationalism in the Contemporary World,” Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, Zadar, Croatia, 2022.

Seminar on Qualitative Comparative Analysis, University of California, Irvine, 2018.

Research experience

University of California, Berkeley, Research Assistant to Robert Braun on war commemoration and military networks, Department of Sociology, 2018-2019.

Northwestern University, Research Assistant to Robert Braun on children’s stories and the transmission of racism, Department of Sociology, 2016-2018.

Northwestern University, Research Assistant to Benjamin Frommer on ethnic segregation and violence during the Holocaust, Department of History, 2017.

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

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

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Conifer Research, Research Associate, Chicago, IL, 2015-2016.

The Invisible Institute, Researcher for the Youth/Police Project, Chicago, IL, 2015-2016.

LATAM Airlines, Manager of Strategy and Performance, Bogota, Colombia, 2012-2014

Dividendo por Colombia, Consultant, Bogotá, Colombia, 2011.

STRATCO Consultores Asociados, Bogotá, Colombia, 2009-2012.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent – native speaker), English (fluent), German (intermediate)