

Erin Beck

Associate Professor of Political Science

University of Oregon

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EMPLOYMENT

2018-present Associate Professor of Political Science

University of Oregon

2012-2018 Assistant Professor of Political Science

University of Oregon

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2012 **Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

Political Science: Comparative Politics and International Relations

M.A. 2007 **Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

Political Science

RESEARCH INTERESTS: gendered violence and access to justice, feminist theories of the state, anthropology of the state, gendered violence and migration, intersectional approaches to justice, ethnography, gender and development, non-governmental organizations in the global South, Latin American politics and development, anthropology of development, Guatemala

TEACHING INTERESTS: Latin American politics, comparative politics, social movements in comparative perspective, states and societies, international development, gender politics in the developing world, non-governmental organizations in the developing world, gendered violence in comparative perspective

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Books

2017 *How Development Projects Persist: Everyday Negotiations with Guatemalan NGOs*. Duke University Press.

Winner of the American Sociological Association Sociology of Development's 2018 best book award

Edited Peer-reviewed Journal Special Issues

2017 Special Issue: New Takes on Gender and Development. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 52 (2): 139-260.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2018 "Who Benefits? The Interactional Determinants of Microfinance's Varied Effects." *Journal of Development Studies* 54 (2): 235-255 (with Michael Aguilera and James Schintz).

- 2017 "What a Feminist Curiosity Contributes to the Study of Development." *Studies of Comparative International Development* 52 (2): 139-154.
- 2017 "Reconsidering Women's Empowerment: The Contradictory Effects of Microfinance for Guatemalan Women." *Studies of Comparative International Development* 52 (2): 217-241.
- 2017 "Tracing Microfinancial Value Chains: Beyond the Impasse of Debt and Development." *Sociology of Development* 3 (2): 116-142 (with Smitha Radhakrishnan).
- 2016 "Repopulating Development: An Agent-Based Approach to Studying Development Interventions." *World Development* 80: 19-32.
- 2014 "Countering Convergence: Agency and Diversity Among Guatemalan NGOs." *Latin American Politics and Society* 56 (2): 141-162.

Book Chapters (non peer-reviewed)

- 2011 "Las ONG y las Mujeres: Los pros y las contras de las ONG en Guatemala" in Rohloff, Peter, Anne Kramer Díaz, and Juan Ajsivinac Sian, eds. 2011. *Más que Desarrollo: Memorias de la Primera Conferencia Bienal sobre Desarrollo y Acción Comunitaria*. Guatemala: Editorial Wuqu' Kawoq.

UNDER REVIEW

"Reforming the State to Address Violence Against Women: The View from the Margins." Submitted June 5, 2018.

Drawing on feminist and anthropological theories of the state, this article explore how new laws criminalizing violence against women (VAW) and new specialized institutions to increase victims' access to justice filter down to effect the daily lives of women that occupy the geographic and socioeconomic margins. It reveals that on the ground, marginalized communities and populations experience a much more ambiguous, contradictory state than is portrayed by national-level reforms.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Creating Opportunities and Mobilizing against Gendered Violence in Guatemala"

Historically the Guatemalan state has ignored, or actively contributed to, gendered violence and impunity in the country – leading to one of the highest rates of violence against women (VAW) in the world. How then can we explain Guatemala's passage of region's most comprehensive pieces of VAW legislation and the creation of an internationally recognized specialized court system to address VAW? This article answers this question by tracing the history of feminist mobilizing that spanned multiple decades. Contra the social movement literature's depiction of "political opportunity structures," as external to the movement and structural in nature, this analysis demonstrates that in Guatemala political openings were agential and linked to mobilization in that they were the results of earlier feminist waves of mobilization.

“Counting Violence and Calculating Justice: the Double-edged Nature of Bureaucratic Responses to VAW”

This paper explores the bureaucratic impulses associated with criminal justice responses to violence against women, which carve up complex social realities into discrete, commensurable, and quantifiable parts in order to fit the constraints of legal and statistical categories. While such processes allow women’s experiences to be translated in ways that hold offenders accountable and put pressure on the state to do more to protect women, they also can have dehumanizing effects for victims, their families, and those who work in the criminal justice system.

“Legislative Reform and Media Frames of Violence against Women in Guatemala” (with Janeth Villa)

This article explores the interaction between the legal reform and media framing through a study of how legislative and institutional reforms related to violence against women (VAW) in Guatemala have shaped newspaper coverage of VAW over time. Drawing on content analysis of over 200 articles related to VAW in one of the country’s top newspapers and interviews with activists and reporters, the article compares newspaper coverage of VAW before and after the passage of Guatemala’s landmark 2008 Law against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence Against Women. Analyzing word choice, images, context, and sources, it finds that the 2008 law shaped the language used to describe VAW. Additionally, the subsequent creation of specialized institutions provided reporters with ready access to more varied sourcing, contextualizing data, and focal points that encouraged them to keep the issue of VAW in the press even beyond the coverage of particular incidents of violence.

HONORS AND GRANTS

Honors

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| 2018 | co-winner of American Sociological Association Sociology of Development’s best book award for <i>How Development Projects Persist: Everyday Negotiations with Guatemalan NGOs</i> |
| 2017-2018 | Wayne Morse Resident Scholar, University of Oregon for “Gender-based Violence, Migration, and Justice: Indigenous Women’s Search for Safety and Justice from Guatemala to Oregon” (\$8000) |
| 2010-11 | Brown University Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship |
| 2008 | P. Terrence Hopmann Award for Excellence in Teaching, Brown University |

Field Research Grants

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| 2018 | Office of the Vice President for Research’s Incubating Interdisciplinary Initiatives Grant for “Gendered Justice: From Guatemala to Oregon,” with Lynn Stephen (\$50,000), to support field research on gendered violence and access to specialized systems of justice in Guatemala and the US |
| 2016 | Faculty Research Grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation for “City of Lights: Building on New Trends in |

- International Development” (\$6,796), to support field research on public-private partnerships in Guatemala, June 2016
- 2016 Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) Faculty Collaboration Seed Grant for “Intersectional Gender Justice: From Guatemala to Oregon,” with Lynn Stephen (\$1540), to support field research on violence against women and specialized justice in Guatemala, June 30-July 9, 2016
- 2016 Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS) Research Interest Group Innovation Grant for “Intersectional Gender Justice: From Guatemala to Oregon,” with Lynn Stephen and Gabriela Martínez (\$5400), to support field research on violence against women and specialized justice in Guatemala, June 30-July 9, 2016
- 2013 Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) Faculty Collaboration Seed Grant for “The Long-term Effects of a Credit-Plus Approach,” with Fundación Namaste Guatemaya (\$3,000), to conduct surveys on the impact of microfinance on women in Guatemala
- 2009-10 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship, to support 13 months of research on development projects in Guatemala, July 2009-August 2010

On-campus Organizing Grants

- 2015 Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS) Research Interest Group Innovation Grant for “Thriving in the Academy,” with the Americas Research Interest Group (Americas RIG) (\$3000), to organize and support professional development activities for underrepresented faculty and graduate students at the University of Oregon
- 2015 College of Arts and Sciences Program Grant for “Thriving in the Academy,” with the Americas RIG (\$3080), to organize and support professional development activities for underrepresented faculty and graduate students at the University of Oregon
- 2014 Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS) Research Interest Group Innovation Grant for “The Borders Within,” with the Americas RIG (\$4360), to organize a series of events on gender, borders and belongings in the Americas at the University of Oregon
- 2013 Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS) Research Interest Group Innovation Grant for “Gender and (Un)civil Society,” with the Americas RIG (\$3500), to organize a series of events on gender and civil society in the Americas at the University of Oregon

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Reforming the State to Address Violence Against Women: The View from the Margins”
 American Political Science Association Conference
 Boston, MA, September 1, 2018

“Transnational Gender Justice in the Trump Era: Guatemala and the U.S.”

Organizer and presenter of invited session
 Guatemala Scholars Network Conference
 Antigua, Guatemala, July 2017

“Recycling Empowerment: From the Green Revolution to Social Entrepreneurship and Public-Private Partnerships in Guatemala”

Development in the Face of Global Inequalities
 Barcelona, Spain, May 11, 2017

“Theorizing Microfinance: Beyond Debt and Development”

Eastern Sociological Society
 Boston, MA, March 17, 2016

“Gender, Development and Inequality”

McGill University’s Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID)
 “New and Old Inequalities in the Era of Sustainable Development Goals”
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 10-12, 2016

“Repopulating Development: Agency and Diversity in Development Interventions”

Sociology of Development Conference
 Providence, RI, March, 2015

“Neoliberalism’s Uneven Reach: Agency and Diversity among Guatemalan NGOs”

Latin American Studies Association Conference
 “Neoliberalism and its Aftermaths” panel co-organized with Nicholas
 Copeland
 San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 2015

“Studying Development from the Bottom-up: The Value of Ethnography of NGOs”

American Sociological Association’s Sociology of Development Conference
 Salt Lake City, UT October 24, 2013

“Empowered or Oppressed: Indigenous Women’s Participation in Evangelical organizations in Guatemala”

International Studies Association
 San Francisco, CA, April 6, 2013

“Recapturing Complexity: The Evolving and Varied Roles of Guatemalan NGOs”

New York State Political Science Association
 Niagara University, New York, April 7, 2011

“NGOs and Women/Las ONG y las Mujeres”

Beyond Development: Building Collective Future in Guatemala
 Santiago Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, October 25, 2010

INVITED TALKS

“How Development Projects Persist”

Invited Talk at the Watson Institute for International Study
 Brown University, Rhode Island, March 7, 2018

“Unpacking and Contextualizing Participation”

Invited Talk in Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment
 Wesleyan University, Connecticut, April 6, 2011

“Ethical Research Practices”

Invited Talk in Radical Politics of Child Birth
University of California Santa Cruz, California, May 28, 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Oregon, Department of Political Science (September 2012-present)

- PS 330: Introduction to Latin American Governments and Politics
- PS 380: Gender in Developing Countries
- PS 607: Seminar in Social Movements
- PS 628: States and Society

SERVICE

Departmental Service

- Job Search Committee, Comparative Politics and International Relations (2016-17)
- Honors and Awards Committee (2016-17)
- Course-load Adjustment Committee (2015-16; 2016-17)
- Curriculum Committee (2013-14; 2014-2015)

University Service

- Graduate Student Fellowship Selection Committee
University of Oregon, Center for Study of Women in Society (Winter 2017)
- Director Search Committee
University of Oregon, Center for Study of Women in Society (Spring 2017)
- Graduate Student Fellowship Selection Committee
University of Oregon, Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (2013-2016)
- Coordinator of the Américas Research Interest Group (September 2013-present)
University of Oregon, Center for the Study of Women in Society
- Participating Faculty and Executive Board Member (September 2012-present)
University of Oregon, Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies
- Participating Faculty Member (October 2012-present)
University of Oregon, Department of International Studies

Discipline-wide Service

- Reviewer, *Latin American Research Review* for Special Issue, *Inequality and Inclusion in Latin America* (August 2016)
- Reviewer, W. W. Norton & Company for *Women & Men in US Politics* (September 2016)
- Organizer of the *Globalization, Gender and Development Conference* (October 2014, University of Oregon)

MENTORSHIP

Dissertation Committees

- Angelita Chávez (Political Science): The Politics of Innocence & Immigrant Construction in the United States (ongoing)
- John Bedan (History): The Price of Progress: Guatemala and the United States in the 1960s (defended 2018)

- Jeslyn Lemke (School of Journalism and Communication): Let the Ivoirian Journalists Speak: A Content Analysis of Framing and Media Imperialism in the Cote d'Ivoire's 2010-2011 Civil War (defended 2018)
- Endalkachew Chala (School of Journalism and Communication): Diaspora Media and Political Influence in Ethiopia (defended 2018)
- Ricardo Valencia (School of Journalism and Communication): Well-off for the revolution: A network analysis of the public relations' strategies of the Committee in Solidarity with El Salvador (CISPES) between 1981 and 1991 (defended 2018)
- Jolene Fischer (School of Journalism and Communication): Digital Disruptions in Development: Video Games, Women, and Developing the Neoliberal Subject (defended 2016)