

Rebecca Hanson

Department of Sociology, Criminology, & Law
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, Joint Appointment in Department of Sociology, Criminology, & Law and Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, 2017 – present

Education

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Georgia, 2017

Committee: David Smilde (chair, Tulane University), Patricia Richards, Pablo Lapegna, Alice Goffman (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Dissertation: “Civilian Policing, Socialist Revolution, and Violent Pluralism in Venezuela”

M.A., Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2008

Committee: Mauricio Tenorio, Betty Farrell, Nick Dempsey
Magna cum Laude

B.A., Sociology, University of Montevallo, 2006

Summa cum Laude with Honors

Research Interests

Crime and Citizen Security; Latin America; Gender; Political Sociology; Urban Sociology; Social Movements and Citizen Participation; Qualitative Methods

Positions

Managing Editor, *Qualitative Sociology*, 2010-present

Publications

Rebecca Hanson. 2018. “Deepening Distrust: Why Participatory Experiments Aren’t Always Good for Democracy” *The Sociological Quarterly* 59(1): 145-147. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2017.1383145>

Rebecca Hanson and Pablo Lapegna. 2018. "Popular Participation and Governance in Kirchner's Argentina and Chavez's Venezuela: Recognition, Incorporation, and Supportive Mobilisation"* *Journal of Latin American Studies* 50(1): 153-182. doi:10.1017/S0022216X17000074

Rebecca Hanson and Patricia Richards. 2017. "Sexual Harassment and the Construction of Ethnographic Knowledge"* *Sociological Forum* 32(3): 587-609, doi:10.1111/socf.12350

Rebecca Hanson. 2018. "Introduction to Ethnographies of Security" *Qualitative Sociology* 41(2)
Guest Editor of Special Issue, "Ethnographies of Security"

Andrés Antillano, Iván Pojomovsky, Verónica Zubillaga, Chelina Sepúlveda, and Rebecca Hanson. 2015. "The Venezuelan Prison: From Neoliberalism to the Bolivarian Revolution" *Crime, Law, and Social Change* 65(3): 195-211

*Authors contributed equally to this publication

Under Review

"Poder Popular y Los Comités Ciudadanos de Control Policial en Venezuela," submitted to *Espacio Abierto: Cuaderno Venezolano de Sociología*

Working Papers

"Making Security Forces Insecure: How Political Alliances Between State Actors and Armed Civilian Groups Incentivize Police Violence" working title, to be submitted to *Latin American Research Review*

"Masculine Habitus and Marginality: Police Officers in Search of Respect" working title, to be submitted to the *American Sociological Review*

"Who is Responsible and What Should Be Done? Public Opinion on Crime and Citizen Security Reform in Venezuela" with David Smilde. book chapter in *The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela*

Book Projects

Ethnographic Fixations: What Sexual Harassment Can Teach Us about the Construction of Knowledge, with Patricia Richards. Under contract with University of California Press

The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela, with David Smilde and Veronica Zubillaga. Edited volume based on co-organized conference held at Tulane University, October 2015 and in Caracas, Venezuela, March 2017. Will be submitted for review by May 2018

Essays

Rebecca Hanson. 2017. "Protecting the Right to Life in Venezuela" *NACLA* 49(3): 309-314

Rebecca Hanson. 2015. "[Policing the Protests in Post-Chávez Venezuela: How Human Rights Legitimize Coercion](#)" Commissioned by Amy Cooper, Robert Samet and Naomi Schiller (eds) for "Hot Spots: Protests and Polarization in Venezuela after Chávez" *Cultural Anthropology*, February 5

Policy Publications and (selected)

["Venezuela Opposition's Police Reform Law Seeks Decentralization and Increased Firepower"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, December 11, 2016

["Why are Police Officers Dying in Venezuela?"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, September 20, 2016

["Human Rights Watch and PROVEA Release Devastating Report on Venezuelan Citizen Security Initiative"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, April 18, 2016

["Amid Crisis, Venezuela's National Assembly Proposes Security Reforms"](#) *Insight Crime*, February 10, 2016

["Venezuela's New Security Plan Turns Fight Against Crime into Battle Against Paramilitaries"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, July 24, 2015

["What's Behind Venezuela's Latest Police Reforms?"](#) *Insight Crime*, November 25, 2014

["The Quinta Crespo Siege and the Dilemmas of Combatting Police Violence"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, November 3, 2014

["La Desconfianza: The View from Western Caracas II"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, March 12, 2014

["Venezuelan Protests: The View from Western Caracas"](#) *Foreign Policy in Focus*, February 27, 2014

["Police Reform on a Political Tightrope: Citizen Security and Public Perceptions, Part 3"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, November 21, 2013

["What Should be Done to Reduce Crime in Venezuela?"](#) with David Smilde. *Insight Crime*, October 17, 2013

["Citizen Security Reform in Venezuela: Gun Control"](#) with David Smilde. *Insight Crime*, August 7, 2013

["The Impact of Plan Patria Segura on Police Reform in Venezuela"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, May 19, 2013

["Why did Maduro Adopt Crime as a Campaign Issue?"](#) *Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights*, May 3, 2013

["No Housing? No Problem: Some Venezuelans Support Chávez Despite Lack of Homes"](#) *Christian Science Monitor*, September 21, 2012

Media Interviews and News Articles

[“Behind the scenes of Venezuela’s deadly prison fire”](#), with Leonard Gómez Núñez, The Conversation April 4, 2018

“Philadelphia's Freddy Galvis has one eye on home and the other on home plate” ESPN.com May 26, 2017

“The state of violence in Venezuela” Efecto Cocuyo March 29, 2017

[“Venezuelan student protestors seek to woo poor”](#) *AP Press*, by Frank Bajak, March 19, 2014

“Civil unrest in Venezuela” Let Your Voice Be Heard! Radio, WHCR 90.3FM New York City, March 9, 2014

[“Chávez cult no match for Venezuela’s crisis”](#) *AP Press*, by Joshua Goodman, March 2, 2014

Book Reviews

We Created Chávez: A People’s History of the Venezuelan Revolution, by George Ciccariello-Maher, Duke University Press. *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe* 25 (2): 133-135, 2014

Ongoing Research Projects

“Community Policing and Public Trust: A Field Experiment in Colombia,” Co-Investigator with Dorothy Kronick, Eric Arias (PI), and the Agencia de Cooperación e Inversión de Medellín y el Área Metropolitana. This is a project bringing scholars of police reform and participation together with policy-makers to evaluate new citizen security strategies. It is part of a multi-country project, with teams in Uganda and Pakistan led by Guy Grossman and Jacob Shapiro.

“La Operación de Liberación del Pueblo, la violencia policial, y la reorganización del crimen organizado: Un estudio comparativo” with Leonard Gómez. In this project we use survey and interview data to analyze the impacts of the “Operación de Liberación del Pueblo”, Venezuela’s most recent militarized security initiative, on citizens’ perceptions of security, police officers’ perceptions of militarization, and how these kinds of initiatives reorganize criminality in urban areas.

Active Grants

2018	Development Bank of Latin America (with Eric Arias and Dorothy Kronick) \$15,000
2017	Development Bank of Latin America (with Leonard Gómez Nuñez) \$10,000
2017	Evidence in Governance and Politics (with Eric Arias and Dorothy Kronick) \$170,878

2017 Economic Development and Institutions (with Eric Arias and Dorothy Kronick)
\$120,510

Past Grants & Fellowships

2010 Tinker Foundation Grant
\$1300

2009-2014 Presidential Fellowship, University of Georgia
\$24,000/yr.

Invited Presentations

Author-Meets-Critics: Enrique Desmond Arias' *Criminal Enterprises and Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 2018

“Policing Violent Democracies: Understanding New Relations of Power and Police Violence in Plurally Violent Contexts” *Unequal Security in the Americas*, Brown University, April 2016

“Quién es el Responsable y Qué Debería Pasar? Opinión Publica Sobre La Inseguridad y Las Reformas de Seguridad Ciudadana en Venezuela” with David Smilde, *Crimen y Violencia en Venezuela: Insumos para la Formulación de Políticas Públicas*, Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración, Caracas, Venezuela, November 2015

“The Bolivarian Revolution and Citizen Security Reform: Taking Stock of ‘Socialist-Humanist’ Security Six Years In” *Venezuela After Chávez: Challenges of Democracy, Security, and Governance*, Brown University, April 2014

Conferences Organized

“Ethnographic Horizons of the Americas: Method, Evidence, Aesthetics” at University of Florida, Spring 2020. Co-organized with Richard Kernaghan. Supported by the Center for Latin American Studies

“The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: A Comparative Approach I” at Tulane University, October 2015. Co-organized with David Smilde and Veronica Zubillaga. Supported by The Center for Inter-American Policy and Research and the Roger Thayer Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University

“The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: A Comparative Approach II” in Caracas, Venezuela, March 2017. Co-organized with David Smilde and Veronica Zubillaga. Supported by the Development Bank of Latin America, the Canadian Embassy, and Tulane University

Conference Presentations

“Democratic Means, Authoritarian Ends” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Barcelona, May 2018

Special Session Organizer/Chair. “The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: Crime, Violence and the Left Wing Citizen Security” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Barcelona, May 2018

“The Trump Administration and the War on Drugs: Empire's Waning Influence in Latin America” Southern Sociological Society, April 2018

“Gendered Bodies and Field Research” with Patricia Richards, Sociologists for Women in Society, Atlanta, GA, February 2018

Special Session Organizer/Chair. “Sexual Harassment and the Production of Ethnographic Knowledge” American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, August 2016

“Policing Violent Democracies: Understanding New Relations of Power and Police Violence in Plurally Violent Contexts” American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, August 2016

Panel organizer. “Padding the Iron Fist? Ethnographic Approaches to Ongoing Criminal Justice and Citizen Security Reforms in Latin America” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, New York, May 2016

Presented: “Padding the Iron Fist: How Community Policing Legitimizes Mano Dura Logic”

“Who is Responsible and What Should be Done? Public Opinion on Crime and Citizen Security Reform in Venezuela” with David Smilde. The Paradox of Violence in Venezuela: A Comparative Approach, Tulane University, October 2015

“Sexual Harassment and the Construction of Ethnographic Knowledge” with Patricia Richards, American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 2015

Panel organizer. “Trust, Intimacy, and Sexual Harassment: What Doing ‘Good’ Qualitative Research Means for Women in the Field” Sociologists for Women in Society, Washington, D.C., February 2015

“When Participation ‘Fails’: The Implications of Struggling Organizations for Participatory Democracy” American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August 2014

Panel Organizer. “Beyond the Dichotomous Divide” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Chicago, May 2014

Presented: “States Controlling Citizens Controlling the Police: Negotiating Citizen Participation and its Institutionalization within Venezuela’s Police Reform”

Panel Chair. “Policing Democratic Latin America: A Comparative Perspective” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Chicago, May 2014

Panel Organizer. “Emerging Political Subjectivities and Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution” with Donald Kingsbury, Latin American Studies Association International Congress, San Francisco, May 2012

Presented: “Co-Constitutive Subject Formation in Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution: The Case and Non-Case of the Communal Councils”

“Policing 21st Century Socialism: Community Policing in Caracas.” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Washington, D.C., May 2013

“Clients of the State: How Social Policies Shape Social Movements and Civil Society in South America” with Pablo Lapegna, Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Gainesville, FL, March 2012

“Deepening or Extending Democracy? The Contestation over Space and Equality in Venezuela's 21st Century Socialism” American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV, August 2011

“Avoiding Participation: An Ethnographic Perspective on Mobilization in Venezuela's Participatory Democracy” Southern Sociological Society, Jacksonville, FL, April 2011

“Defend Your Civic Center! The Symbolic Struggle over Space in 21st Century Socialism” American Sociological Association, Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA August 2010.

Professional Associations

American Sociological Association, Latin American Studies Association, Sociologists for Women in Society

Professional Service

Co-coordinator of the Crime, Law, and Governance specialization and working group, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida. 2017 – present

Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Human Rights, Peace & Transitional Justice position, Center for Latin American Studies, 2018

Moderator and Contributor to the Washington Office on Latin America blog [Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights](#), 2012-2017

Reviewer for *Cultural Anthropology*, *Latin American Research Review*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *International Journal of Conflict and Violence*

Community Engagement

Panel Participant, University Forum on Policing Post Ferguson, University of Montevallo, August 30, 2014

Organizer, Public Forum on Prison Reform in Alabama, University of Montevallo, February 26, 2014

Languages

English: Native

Spanish: Advanced reading, writing, speaking