

Erica S. Simmons

University of Wisconsin–Madison
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U.S. Citizen

Academic Appointments

University of Wisconsin–Madison Madison, WI
Department of Political Science
Associate Professor (with tenure), 2018-Present
Department of Political Science Board of Visitors Professor, 2016-Present
Assistant Professor, 2012-2018
Lyons Family Faculty Scholar, 2012-2015
Department of Sociology
Courtesy Appointment, August 2014-Present
International Studies Major
Director, 2018-Present

University of Chicago Chicago, IL
Research Fellow, Chicago Center on Contemporary Theory, September 2011-June 2012

Education

University of Chicago Chicago, IL
Ph.D. Political Science, 2012
M.A. Political Science, 2007

Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University Cambridge, MA
M.P.P., 2005

Harvard College Cambridge, MA
A.B. Social Studies, Magna Cum Laude, certificate in Latin American Studies, 1999

Books

Meaningful Resistance: Market Reforms and the Roots of Social Protest in Latin America. Cambridge University Press, 2016.

- Recipient of the 2017 Charles Tilly Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award, awarded by the Collective Behavior and Social Movements section of the American Sociological Association.

Perceptions of Protest: States, Grievances, and Social Movements. [Writing in progress; prospectus available upon request.]

Rethinking Comparison in the Social Sciences. Edited volume with Nicholas Rush Smith. [In initial stages; prospectus available upon request.]

National Imaginaries and Resource Extraction: Development and Belonging in Bolivia. [Still in data collection stage; proposed summary available upon request.]

Peer Reviewed Publications

“Targets, Grievances, and Social Movement Trajectories.” *Comparative Political Studies*. Online First, November 2018.

“The Case for Comparative Ethnography” (with Nicholas Rush Smith). Accepted for publication at *Comparative Politics*.

“Rethinking Comparison in the Social Sciences” (with Nicholas Rush Smith and Rachel Schwartz). *Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research*. Fall 2018.

“Comparison with an Ethnographic Sensibility” (with Nicholas Rush Smith). *PS: Political Science and Politics* 50:1 (January 2017), pp. 26-30.

“Corn, Markets, and Mobilization in Mexico.” *Comparative Politics* 48:3 (April 2016), pp. 413-431.

“Market Reforms and Water Wars.” *World Politics* 61:1 (January 2016), pp. 37-73.

- Recipient of the 2017 Best Paper Award from the Science, Technology and Environmental Politics section of APSA. Awarded to the best paper published in the previous two years.

“Grievances Do Matter in Mobilization.” *Theory and Society* 43: 5 (September 2014), pp. 513-536.

“Coping by Colluding: Political Uncertainty and Promiscuous Power Sharing in Indonesia and Bolivia” (with Dan Slater). *Comparative Political Studies* 46: 11 (November 2013), pp. 1366-1393.

“Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents and Historical Causation” (with Dan Slater). *Comparative Political Studies* 43:7 (July 2010), pp. 886-917.

Book Chapters and Other Publications

“The Case for Comparative Ethnography” (with Nicholas Rush Smith). *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Newsletter* 13:2 (Fall 2015), pp. 13-18.

“Bolivian Water, Mexican Corn: State Responses to Subsistence Protests.” *Protestors and Their Targets*. James Jasper and Brayden King, editors. Temple University Press. Forthcoming

“How do we explain protest? Social science, grievances, and the collective action puzzle.” *Protest and Democracy*. Moises Arce and Roberta Rice, editors. University of Calgary Press. Forthcoming.

“Después del TLCAN, los precios de la tortilla no reflejaban directamente los precios internacionales del maíz.” In *Subsidios para la desigualdad: las políticas públicas del maíz en México a partir del libre comercio*, Jonathan Fox and Libby Haight, eds. Santa Cruz: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2010, p. 50.

“Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents and Historical Causation” (with Dan Slater). *Qualitative Methods* 6:1 (Spring 2008), pp. 6-13.

Book Reviews

Review of *Elucidating Social Science Concepts: An Interpretivist Guide* by Frederic Charles Schaffer. *Perspectives on Politics* 14:4 (December 2016), pp. 11-12.

Review of *We Created Chávez: A People’s History of the Venezuelan Revolution* by George Cicariello-Maher. *Latin American Politics and Society* 55:4 (Winter 2014), pp. 208-211.

Review of *Reactions to the Market: Small Farmers in the Economic Reshaping of Nicaragua, Cuba, Russia, and China* by Laura Enriquez. *Latin American Politics and Society* 54:1 (Spring 2012), pp. 213-216.

Review of *Radical Democracy in the Andes* by Donna Lee Van Cott. *Foundations of Political Theory*. Online publication, July 2009.

Working Papers, Presentations, and Panels

“Ethnography and Participant Observation” (with Jillian Schwedler and Nicholas Rush Smith). Qualitative Transparency Deliberations Working Group Report. Under Review for a special symposium at *Perspectives*.

“Making the Nation-State: Migration, Social Mobilization, and State-Building in the Long Nineteenth Century” (with Margaret E. Peters). Presented at Lund University, May 2016; presented at APSA 2016, Philadelphia, PA.

“Comparison and Ethnography: What Each Can Learn From the Other” (with Nicholas Rush Smith). Presented at APSA 2015, San Francisco, CA. Recipient of the Sage Paper Award for the best paper applying or developing qualitative methods presented at APSA 2015.

“States and Subsistence Protest.” Presented at the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Pre-ASA Mini Conference. August 2015, Chicago, IL.

APSA 2014 Roundtable Organizer, “Beyond Mill’s Methods: New Approaches to Comparison.”

“Sin Maíz No Hay País: Cooperation, Participation, and Community in the Mexican Tortillazo Protests.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2013, Chicago IL; Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2014, Chicago IL; and the Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting, May 2014, Chicago, IL.

APSA 2013 Panel Organizer, “Interpreting Contention: Social Mobilization and Political Resistance in Comparative Perspective.”

“Resource Rebellion: Water and Community in the Bolivian Water Wars.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2013, Chicago IL.

“The Next French Revolution? Explaining State Response to Subsistence Protests.” Presented at the American Political Science Association annual meeting September 2011, Seattle, WA, the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting April 2013, Chicago IL, and the Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting May 2013, Washington, D.C.

“Coping by Colluding: Political Uncertainty and Promiscuous Power Sharing in Indonesia and Bolivia.” With Dan Slater. Presented at the Social Science History Association annual meeting, November 2011, Boston MA.

“Meaning Making and Mobilization: Re-conceptualizing the Role of Grievances in Social Movement Theory.” Presented at the American Political Science Association annual meeting September 2011, Seattle, WA.

APSA 2011 Panel Co-Organizer, “Social Movements and Political Mobilization: New Approaches.” With Jennifer Hadden.

“Resource Rebellion: A Theory of Subsistence Resources and Social Protest.” Presented at the Young Scholars in Social Movements conference, Notre Dame, April 28, 2011, South Bend, IN.

“Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents and Historical Causation.” With Dan Slater. Presented at the American Sociological Association annual meeting August 2007, New York, NY and the American Political Science Association annual meeting September 2007, Chicago, IL. Awarded the 2007 APSA Sage Award for best paper developing or applying qualitative methods.

“Resource Rebellion: Social Movements, Subsistence Resources, and the Bolivian Water Wars.” Presented at the Comparative Politics Workshop, Spring 2007. Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting April 2008, Chicago IL and the American Sociological Association annual meeting August 2009, San Francisco, CA.

Grants and Awards

- 2018 William H. Kiekhofers Teaching Award. Awarded annually to one assistant or associate professor in the faculty of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin–Madison to recognize a distinguished contribution to undergraduate teaching.
- 2017 Charles Tilly Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award. Collective Behavior and Social Movements section of the American Sociological Association. Awarded to the best book published in 2016. *Meaningful Resistance: Market Reforms and the Roots of Social Protest in Latin America*.
- 2017 Best Paper Award. Science, Technology and Environmental Politics section of APSA. Awarded to the best paper published in the previous two years. “Market Reforms and Water Wars,” *World Politics* 2016.

- 2017 National Science Foundation. “Rethinking Comparison in the Social Sciences.” Award #MSN203325. \$49,944 to fund research on qualitative comparative methods.
- 2017-2018 University of Wisconsin–Madison Fall Competition. \$26,069 to fund salary support and additional research expenses.
- 2016 Sage Paper Award. Best paper developing or applying qualitative methods, APSA 2015. “Comparison and Ethnography: What Each Can Learn from the Other.”
- 2016-2017 Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Research Fellowship. Funding to support collaborative research with a University of Wisconsin–Madison undergraduate. The grant is co-awarded; \$3,000 for the undergraduate and \$1,000 in faculty support)
- Spring 2016 Honored Instructor Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2016-2017 University of Wisconsin–Madison Fall Competition. \$35,711 to fund salary support and additional research expenses.
- Fall 2015 University of Wisconsin–Madison Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program Nave Faculty Publication Supplement Grant. \$2000 towards publication subvention for *Meaningful Resistance: Market Reforms and the Roots of Social Protest in Latin America*.
- Fall 2015 Honored Instructor Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2015-2016 University of Wisconsin–Madison Fall Competition. \$33,726 to fund research assistance and travel.
- 2014-2015 University of Wisconsin–Madison Fall Competition. \$30,444 to fund one course release and additional research expenses.
- 2013 Latin American Studies Association Martin Diskin/Oxfam Dissertation Award for best dissertation involving a combination of scholarship and activism in 2013.
- 2013 Global Studies Course Development Grant. \$3000 to develop the course *Food and Water in an Age of Globalization*.
- 2013-2014 University of Wisconsin–Madison Fall Competition. \$43,950 to fund one course release, travel, and research assistance.
- 2010-2011 Mellon Foundation Dissertation-Year Fellowship. Twelve-month stipend to support dissertation writing.
- Spring 2010 Martín Barró Prize Lectureship. Awarded a prize lectureship in Latin American Studies to teach an undergraduate course with a human rights emphasis. Taught in Winter 2011.

- Spring 2010 Grodzins Prize Lectureship. Awarded a prize lectureship in the Department of Political Science to develop the syllabus for and teach an undergraduate course, "From Castro to Chiapas: Contentious Politics in Contemporary Latin America." Declined.
- 2009-2010 Janco Travel Grant. Travel, stipend, and research expenses for fieldwork in Bolivia.
- 2009-2010 Overseas Dissertation Research Award. Stipend and research expenses for fieldwork in Bolivia.
- Summer 2009 Tinker Foundation and Center for Latin American Studies Field Research Grant. Travel and living expenses to support six weeks of dissertation research in Mexico.
- Spring 2009 Grodzins Prize Lectureship. Co-awarded a prize lectureship in the Department of Political Science to develop the syllabus for and teach an undergraduate course, "Comparative Politics of 20th Century Latin America." Taught in Spring 2010.
- 2008-2009 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award. Travel and living expenses to support twelve months of dissertation research in Mexico City, Mexico and La Paz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. Due to political unrest the award was delayed until February 2009-February 2010.
- Fall 2008 Political Science Dissertation Research Award. Fellowship awarded by the Political Science department to a limited number of students in support of dissertation research.
- Summer 2008 Provost's Summer Fellowship. Fellowship awarded by the Provost's office to support a limited number of graduate students for summer research.
- Summer 2008 Tinker Foundation and Center for Latin American Studies Field Research Grant. Travel and living expenses to support pre-dissertation research in Cochabamba, Bolivia.
- Summer 2007 Sage Award. Best paper developing or applying qualitative methods, APSA 2007. "Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents and Historical Causation."
- Fall 2007 University Fellowship. Tuition and stipend, 2007-2008 academic year. University of Chicago.
- Fall 2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS or Title VI) fellowship to study Portuguese for the 2006-2007 academic year. University of Chicago.
- Summer 2006 Foreign Language Enrichment Program Summer Fellowship (declined).
- Fall 2005 University Fellowship. Tuition and stipend, 2005-2006 academic year. University of Chicago.
- Spring 2005 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching. Globalization and its Critics.
- Fall 2004 David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. Masters thesis research grant.
- Summer 1998 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, undergraduate thesis research fellowship.

- Summer 1998 David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, undergraduate thesis research grant.
- Summer 1998 Radcliffe College, undergraduate thesis research grant.
- 1998 John Harvard Scholarship, awarded for undergraduate academic excellence.
- 1995-1999 Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Certificate of Merit, awarded for undergraduate academic excellence.

Teaching

The University of Wisconsin–Madison

Qualitative methods (graduate)
Contentious Politics (graduate)
Introduction to International Studies (undergraduate)
Introduction to Contentious Politics (undergraduate)
Mobilizing for Social Change in Latin America (undergraduate)
Social Movements and Revolutions in Latin America (undergraduate)
Food and Water in an Age of Globalization (undergraduate)

The University of Chicago

Introduction to Contemporary Global Issues II (Lecturer)
From Castro to Chiapas: Contentious Politics in Latin America (Lecturer)
Comparative Politics of 20th Century Latin America (Lecturer)
Latin American Civilization 162000 (Teaching Assistant)

Harvard University

Social Analysis 78: Globalization and its Critics (Teaching Fellow)

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- Fall 2018 Princeton University. Qualitative Research Colloquium invited lecture. “Comparison, Ethnography, and Resistance to Market Reforms.
- Fall 2017 University of Toronto. Invited lecture. “Targets, Grievances, and Social Movement Trajectories.” November 7.
- Spring 2017 Northwestern University. Comparative Historical Analysis Workshop invited lecture and paper workshop. “Targets, Grievances, and Social Movement Trajectories.” April 21.
- Winter 2017 University of New Mexico. Distinguished Speaker Series Invited Lecture. “Comparison, Ethnography, and Resistance to Market Reforms.” February 13.

- Winter 2017 London School of Economics. Invited Lecture. “Comparison, Ethnography, and Resistance to Market Reforms.” January 5.
- Fall 2016 Colby College. Invited Lecture. “Water, Community, and Privatization in Cochabamba, Bolivia.” November 3.
- Spring 2016 Purdue University. Symposium on Diversity and Inclusion. Featured participant in “Social Movements” panel. April 4.
- Winter 2016 University of Minnesota. Methods Colloquium. Invited workshop presentation. “Comparison and Ethnography: What Each Can Learn from the Other.” January 27.
- Fall 2015 Cornell University. Latin American Studies Program Seminar Series. Invited lecture. “Water, Privatization, and Community in Cochabamba, Bolivia.” November 8.
- Spring 2015 Harvard University. Conference in Honor of Jorge Domínguez. Invited presentation. “Sin Maíz No Hay País: Corn, Markets, and Mobilization in Mexico.” May 8.
- Fall 2014 University of Wisconsin–Madison. La Follette School of Public Affairs. Invited lecture. “Water, Privatization, and Community in Cochabamba, Bolivia.” December 2.
- Fall 2014 University of Notre Dame. Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Invited lecture. “Water, Privatization, and Community in Cochabamba, Bolivia.” September 30.
- Spring 2014 University of Chicago. “Extraction and Protest in Evo’s Bolivia.” Presentation and round-table discussion. May 9.
- Spring 2014 University of Wisconsin–Madison, guest lecture for “Introduction to Environmental Studies.” May 6.
- Spring 2014 University of Wisconsin–Madison, guest lecture for “Issues in Food Systems.” April 17.
- Spring 2014 George Washington University. Comparative Politics Workshop presentation. March 21.
- Spring 2014 Yale University Law School, invited lecture. “Privatizing Essential Resources: Water Markets and the Commodification of Subsistence.” March 7.
- Spring 2014 Yale University Law School, guest lecture for “Markets, Morals, and the Law.” March 6.
- Winter 2014 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Yi-Fu Tuan Invited Lecture, Department of Geography. “Water, Privatization, and Community in Cochabamba, Bolivia.” February 28.
- Fall 2013 University of Wisconsin-Madison, invited lecture, Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Center, “Sin Maíz No Hay País: Cooperation, Participation, and Community in the Mexican Tortillazo Protests.” December 3.

- Spring 2013 Palo Alto, CA. Workshop on the dynamics of authoritarianism in the post-Arab Spring Middle East, invited workshop participant. Talk entitled, “Constructing Oppositional Identifications.” April 26-27.
- Fall 2012 University of Wisconsin-Madison, invited lecture. Sociology of Economic Change and Development Seminar. November 2.
- Fall 2011 Lake Forest College, invited lecture. “The History and Culture of Corn in Mexico.” September 27.
- Spring 2011 Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference, University of Notre Dame, invited conference participant. “Resource Rebellion: A Theory of Subsistence Resources and Social Protest.” April 29.
- Spring 2011 Harvard University David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, invited lecture. “¡El Agua es Nuestra, Carajo!: Why Bolivia Erupted in 2000 and What it Means for the Marketization of Water.” April 19.
- Fall 2009 Lake Forest College, invited lecture. October 27, 2009. “The Politics of People and Place in Latin America.

Professional Experience

- Summer 2004 The Foundation of the Americas Washington, DC
Strategic Planning Consultant
Directed efforts to refine the mission of a new foundation created to further social development goals in Latin America through catalyzing strategic alliances between corporate, nonprofit and government sectors. Worked directly with the Executive Director and members of the Board of Directors to hone the Foundation’s focus and intended impact.
- 2001-2003 The Bridgespan Group Boston, MA
Associate Consultant
Analyst position in a nonprofit strategy consulting firm. Activities include primary and secondary research on the nonprofit sector, detailed financial modeling and in-depth market analyses. All work takes place in a team-focused environment. Extensive client contact required for most activities.
- 2000-2001 Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío Irapuato, Mexico
Director of Institutional Development
Directed the design and implementation of marketing, fundraising and institutional strengthening strategies for a young community foundation in Central Mexico.

Service

Service to the Discipline (Political Science, Sociology, and Latin American Studies)

- Reviewer *American Political Science Review, World Politics, American Sociological Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Journal of Peace Research, Latin American Politics and Society*
- 2018 American Sociological Association, Collective Behavior and Social Movement Section, Charles Tilly Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award, *Selection Committee Member*
- 2017 American Political Science Association, Qualitative and Multi-Methods Section, Sage Paper Award, *Selection Committee Member*
- 2016-2018 Latin American Studies Association, Economic and Social Policy Track, *Co-Chair*
- 2016-Present Committee on Concepts and Methods, International Political Science Association, *Board Member*
- 2016-Present Qualitative Transparency Deliberations. Ethnography Working Group, *Co-Chair*
- 2013-Present Visiting Committee to the Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago, *Member*

Service to the University of Wisconsin–Madison

- 2017 Selection Committee for the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- 2016-Present Steering Committee, Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Center, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- 2013-2017 Steering Committee, Mellon Human Rights Program, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- 2013-2015 Land and Water Group, Mellon Human Rights Program, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- Spring 2014 International Institute Graduate Recruitment Award Selection Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- Spring 2014 Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- Spring 2013 Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*

Service to the International Studies Major, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- 2018-Present International Studies Major, *Director*
- 2017-2018 Faculty Search Committee, International Studies Major, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- 2012-Present Steering Committee, International Studies Major, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- Winter 2017 Newman Award Selection Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- Winter 2016 Newman Award Selection Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- Winter 2015 Newman Award Selection Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- Fall 2013 International Studies Major Hiring Committee for Undergraduate Advisor Position, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*

Service to the Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- 2015-Present Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, *Member*
- 2015-Present Lectures and Colloquia Committee, *Member*
- 2012-Present Joel Dean Reading Room Committee, *Member*

Other Service

- 2009-2010 Comparative Politics Hiring Committee, University of Chicago, *Student Member*
- 2007-2008 Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago, *Co-Coordinator*
- 2007-2008 University of Chicago Board of Trustees, *Graduate Student Liaison*
- 2007-2008 University of Chicago Student Government Executive Cabinet
- 2008 (Winter) University of Chicago Committee on Graduate and Professional School Student Experience.

Language Skills

Fluent Spanish, Intermediate Portuguese.

Other Academic Training

- Fall 2016-Spring 2017 Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence Program Faculty Fellow Madison, WI

Erica Simmons

Selected to participate in a year-long program of weekly trainings aimed at improving faculty effectiveness in the classroom.

January 2008

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR). Tempe, AZ
Two-week training on qualitative methods conducted by the Consortium for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research.