

**Erica S. Simmons**  
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## **EDUCATION**

### **University of Chicago**

**Chicago, IL**

Ph.D. candidate in political science (comparative politics); accepted to candidacy January 2009; degree expected June 2011

*Qualifying fields:* comparative politics (Spring 2008), international relations (Fall 2007)

*Dissertation:* Markets, Movements, and Meanings: Subsistence Threats and Social Protest in Latin America

*Committee members:* Lisa Wedeen (chair), Dan Slater, Elisabeth Clemens, John Comaroff, Jorge Dominguez (Harvard University)

*Research interests:* contentious politics, social movements, nationalism, state-society relations, comparative historical analysis, interpretive methods, Latin America

Masters in Political Science, Spring 2007

*Masters thesis:* "Resource Rebellion: Social Movements, Subsistence Resources, and the Bolivian Water Wars"

### **Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University**

**Cambridge, MA**

Masters in Public Policy, June 2005; specialization in Political Economy and Development

*Masters thesis:* "The Corporate Challenge: Convincing Ecuadorian Businesses to Invest in Public Policy Reform"

### **Harvard College**

**Cambridge, MA**

A.B. Magna Cum Laude in Social Studies, June 1999; certificate in Latin American Studies

*A.B. honors thesis:* "From Washington to Juarez: International Theory in Institutional Practice, a Study of NAFTA's Border Environmental Institutions"

## **PEER REVIEWED AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

"Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents and Historical Causation." With Dan Slater. *Comparative Political Studies*, July 2010. Awarded the 2007 APSA Sage Award for best paper developing or applying qualitative methods.

"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. URL: [www.wilsoncenter.org/DesarrolloRuralMexicano](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/DesarrolloRuralMexicano).

Review of Donna Lee Van Cott's *Radical Democracy in the Andes*. *Foundations of Political Theory*. July 2009.

**PEER REVIEWED AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS (Continued)**

“Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents and Historical Causation.” With Dan Slater (a condensed version of the article noted above). *Qualitative Methods*. Spring 2008.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS**

“Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents and Historical Causation.” With Dan Slater. Presented at the American Sociological Association annual meeting August 2007 and the American Political Science Association annual meeting September 2007.

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

“The Politics of Tortilla Price and Protest.” Working Paper. Foundation for a workshop discussion at the Latin American Studies Association conference, October 2010.

**TEACHING**

- Winter 2011     **The University of Chicago, From Castro to Chiapas: Contentious Politics in Latin America**  
*Lecturer.*  
Designed the syllabus for, and will teach an undergraduate seminar on contemporary contentious politics in Latin America.
- Spring 2010     **University of Chicago, Comparative Politics of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Latin America**  
*Lecturer.*  
Designed the syllabus for, and taught an undergraduate seminar on the contemporary comparative politics of Latin America in cooperation with a graduate student colleague.
- Winter 2008     **University of Chicago, Latin American Civilization 162000**  
*Teaching Assistant.* Mauricio Tenorio, Professor.  
Taught a section of 28 students. Responsible for leading section discussion, grading all student work, and assisting in determining exam content.
- Spring 2005     **Harvard University, Social Analysis 78: Globalization and its Critics**  
*Teaching Fellow.* Larry Summers and Michael Sandel, Professors.  
Taught a section of 16 students. Responsible for leading section discussion, grading all student work, and developing paper topics and exam questions. Awarded the Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching for performance in the course.

**INVITED LECTURES**

- Fall 2009     “The Politics of People and Place in Latin America.” Lake Forest College. October 27, 2009.

**GRANTS/AWARDS**

- 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. To be 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 2008-2009 **Truman National Security Fellow.**
- 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.

**GRANTS/AWARDS (Continued)**

- 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.

**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.
- Fall 1999 **The Synergos Institute** **New York, NY**  
*Intern for Latin American Programs*  
 Intern at a nonprofit designed to support the growth of philanthropy and cross-sector collaboration in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

**SERVICE**

- 2009-2010 **Comparative Politics Hiring Committee, University of Chicago** **Chicago, IL**  
*Student Member. Lisa Wedeen and Dan Slater, Faculty Members.*
- 2007-2008 **Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago** **Chicago, IL**  
*Co-Coordinator. Steven Wilkinson and Lisa Wedeen, Faculty Sponsors.*
- 2007-2008 **University of Chicago Board of Trustees** **Chicago, IL**  
*Graduate Student Liaison.*
- 2007-2008 **University of Chicago Student Government Executive Cabinet** **Chicago, IL**  
*Member.*

**SERVICE (Continued)**

2008 (Winter) **University of Chicago Committee on Graduate and Professional School Student Experience** **Chicago, IL**  
*Member.*

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Fluent Spanish, Intermediate Portuguese.

**OTHER ACADEMIC TRAINING**

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.