

MARIA AKCHURIN

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago	2019–present
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Inter-American Policy & Research/ Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University	2017–2019
Postdoctoral Fellow, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University	2015–2017
Visiting Scholar, Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile	2012
Visiting Scholar, Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina	2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D	Sociology, University of Chicago	2015
	Dissertation: The Politics of Water: Privatizing Water and Sanitation Utilities in Argentina and Chile	
	Committee: Elisabeth Clemens (Chair), Andrew Abbott, Cheol-Sung Lee, Tianna Paschel	
	Special Fields: Political Sociology (with Honors), Qualitative Methods	
M.A.	Sociology, University of Chicago	2009
B.A., cum laude	International Studies, Johns Hopkins University Specialization in Latin American Studies	2004

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental sociology, political sociology, urban sociology, global and comparative sociology

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles:

Akchurin, Maria and Gabriel Chouhy. Forthcoming. “Designing Better Access to Education? Unified Enrollment, School Choice, and the Limits of Algorithmic Fairness in New Orleans School Admissions.” **Qualitative Sociology**.

Vivas Bastidas, Juanita, Maria Akchurin, Dana Garbarski, and David Doherty. 2024. "How Local Perceptions Contribute to Urban Environmental Activism: Evidence from the Chicago Metropolitan Area." **The Sociological Quarterly** 65(1): 38-60.

Akchurin, Maria. 2023. "Environmental Justice at the Environmental Courts? Mining, Socioenvironmental Conflicts, and Environmental Litigation in Northern Chile." **Extractive Industries and Society** 15, part of special issue on the Politics of Policy Implementation, edited by Zarái Toledo Orozco and Eduardo Silva.

Akchurin, Maria. 2023. "Contested Infrastructures: Water, Privatization, and Place-Based Protest in Greater Buenos Aires." **City & Community** 22(3): 171-194.

Akchurin, Maria. 2020. "Mining and Defensive Mobilization: Explaining Opposition to Extractive Industries in Chile." **Sociology of Development** 6(1): 1–29.

Silva, Eduardo, Maria Akchurin, and Anthony Bebbington. 2018. "The Consequences of Social Resistance to Extractive Development in Latin America." **European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies** 106: 25–46.

Akchurin, Maria. 2015. "Constructing the Rights of Nature: Constitutional Reform, Mobilization, and Environmental Protection in Ecuador." **Law and Social Inquiry** 40(4): 937–968.

* Co-Winner, ASA Environmental Sociology Section, Marvin E. Olsen Award

Akchurin, Maria and Cheol-Sung Lee. 2013. "Pathways to Empowerment: Repertoires of Women's Activism and Gender Earnings Equality." **American Sociological Review** 78(4): 679–701.

Edited Special Issues:

Silva, Eduardo, Anthony Bebbington, and Maria Akchurin, Editors. 2018. *Special Collection: Mega-Projects, Contentious Action, and Policy Change in Latin America*. **European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies No. 106**.

Book Reviews:

Akchurin, Maria. Forthcoming. Erik Kojola (2023), *Mining the Heartland: Nature, Place, and Populism on the Iron Range*. **Contemporary Sociology**.

Akchurin, Maria. 2023. Peter Little (2021), *Burning Matters: Life, Labor, and E-Waste Pyropolitics in Ghana*. **Contemporary Sociology** 52(3): 255-257.

Akchurin, Maria. 2018. Erica Simmons (2016), *Meaningful Resistance: Market Reforms and the Roots of Social Protest in Latin America*. **American Journal of Sociology** 123(4): 1228–1230.

Akchurin, Maria. 2017. Gonzalo Delamaza (2015), *Enhancing Democracy Public Policies and Citizen Participation in Chile*. **International Journal of Comparative Sociology** 58(1): 91–96.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Level

Environmental Justice: From Sacrifice Zones to Sustainable Cities 2022
 Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago

Urban Sociology 2020
 Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago

Undergraduate Level

Environmental Sociology 2019–2023
 Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago

Power in Society 2020,
 Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago 2022–23

Cities, Suburbs, and Beyond 2019–2021
 Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago

Environment, Politics, and Society 2016–2017
 Department of Sociology, Northwestern University

Law, Mobilization, and Social Change 2014
 Human Rights Program, University of Chicago

Power, Identity, and Resistance 2010
 Social Sciences Collegiate Division, University of Chicago

Academic and Professional Writing 2009
 University of Chicago

SELECTED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND PRESENTATIONS

“Unjust Pasts, Uncertain Futures: Lithium, Water, and Socioenvironmental Conflicts in the Atacama Desert.” **Social Science History Association** Conference, Washington, DC. 2023

“Mining, Water, and Scientific Uncertainty in Northern Chile.” **Latin American Studies Association** Congress (virtual). 2022

“Contested Futures: Lithium, Water, and Environmental Uncertainty in the Atacama Desert.” Navigating Uncertain Futures: Social Engagement and Transformative Change in Global Socio-Ecological Systems. **ASA Environmental Sociology** section and **International Sociological Association Environment and Society** group (virtual). 2022

“Algorithms and the Promise of Access to Quality Schools” (with Dr. Gabriel Chouhy) at the **Center for Educational Justice, Pontifical Catholic University**, Santiago, Chile. 2022

- “Centralized Enrollment Algorithms, School Choice, and Contested Meanings of Fairness in New Orleans School Admissions” (with Dr. Gabriel Chouhy). Sociology of Culture Section Panel, **American Sociological Association** Annual Meeting (virtual). 2021
- “Environmental Justice at the Environmental Courts? Mining, Socioenvironmental Conflicts, and Environmental Compliance in Chile.” **Latin American Studies Association** Congress (virtual). 2021
- “Los Derechos de la Naturaleza: Reforma constitucional, movilización social, y la protección del medio ambiente.” Guest lecture, **Universidad de Chile** (virtual). 2021
- “The Judicialization of Environmental Conflicts: The Possibilities and Limits of Chilean Environmental Courts.” Panel on Politics and the Environment, Sociology of Development Conference, **University of Notre Dame**, IN. 2019
- “Mining and Defensive Mobilization: Analyzing Sources of Local Opposition to Mining Projects in Post-Authoritarian Chile.” **Latin American Studies Association** Congress, Barcelona, Spain. 2018
- “Contested Narratives and Institutional Change from Privatization to Re-Nationalization in Greater Buenos Aires.” Argentina in Sociological Perspective Conference, **University of Texas-Austin**, Austin, TX. 2017
- “Environmental Conflicts and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making in Post-Authoritarian Chile.” Development in the Face of Global Inequalities Conference, **Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals**, Barcelona, Spain. 2017
- “Agua Pública, Agua Privada: Experiencias con la Privatización de Agua Potable y Saneamiento en Argentina y Chile.” Colloquium, **CONICET-CEIL and Universidad Nacional de Lanús**, Greater Buenos Aires, Argentina. 2017
- “How Water Became Political: Water Resources, Environmental Conflict, and Mobilization in Chile.” **Social Science History Association** Conference, Chicago, IL. 2016
- “Water and Development: Water Supply and Sanitation Projects in International Development Organizations, 1980s to the Present.” **Social Science History Association** Conference, Chicago, IL. 2015
- “Revisiting New Social Movement Theory: Toward a Comparative Framework,” **American Sociological Association** Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 2014
- “An Elusive Commodity: Expert Knowledge and the Commodification of Water in Chile, 1981-2010,” **American Sociological Association** Annual Meeting, New York, NY. 2013
- “Water as Social Policy: Market Models, State-Society Relations, and Water Privatization in Post-Authoritarian Chile,” Capitalism, the Politics of Inequality, and Historical Change Mini-Conference, **Columbia University**, New York, NY. 2013

- “Water Privatization and Social Protest in Latin America,” Water, Environment, and Health: Addressing Knowledge, Capacity, and Governance Challenges, Workshop on International Organization Studies, **Academic Council on the United Nations System**, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. 2012
- “Granting Legal Rights to Nature: Environmentalism, Development, and Legal Mobilization in Ecuador.” **American Sociological Association and Society for the Study of Social Problems** Annual Meetings, Las Vegas, NV. 2011
- “Pathways to Empowerment: Repertoires of Women’s Activism and Gender Earnings Equality in Comparative Perspective” (with Dr. Cheol-Sung Lee), **American Sociological Association** Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV. 2011

OTHER RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Researcher, “Identity, Networks, and the Origins of Participatory Democracy in Argentina, Brazil, South Korea, and Taiwan” (Argentina component, PI: Dr. Cheol-Sung Lee), **University of Chicago**, NSF Grant 1260191 2014–2015
- Researcher, “Recursivity of Global Normmaking: A Sociolegal Agenda” (Dr. Terence Halliday), Center on Law and Globalization, **American Bar Foundation**, Chicago, IL 2009
- Researcher/Program Assistant, Projects on local government reform and participatory budgeting in Russian Federation, Moldova, Georgia, and Honduras, Center on International Development and Governance, **Urban Institute**, Washington, DC 2006–2007
- Program Associate, Projects on public health and monitoring/evaluation in Central Asia and Honduras, International Health and Development **CAMRIS International**, Rockville, MD 2004–2006
- Researcher, World Health Day/Road Traffic Injury Prevention in Latin America **Pan American Health Organization**, Washington, DC 2004
- Researcher, Mexico Institute **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**, Washington, DC 2004
- Researcher, Landmine Monitor/Arms Division **Human Rights Watch**, Washington, DC 2002

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

- St. Ignatius of Loyola Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee 2020
- Research Grant, Co-PI with Gabriel Chouhy Algorta, “School choice, algorithms, and selective admissions: Designing and implementing ‘fair’ centralized enrollment systems 2020

in Chile and New Orleans” (Grant #202000160), Spencer Foundation Small Research Grants Program

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| Department of Sociology Photography Prize for “Marcha por la igualdad y la diversidad sexual (LGBTQ Pride Parade), Santiago de Chile,” University of Chicago | 2014 |
| Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, “Dynamics of Water Governance: Civil Society and Expert Knowledge as Agents of Change” (Grant #1335473), National Science Foundation | 2013 |
| Markovitz Dissertation Fellowship for Economy and Society, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago | 2013 |
| Human Rights Program Research Grant for fieldwork on water privatization in Argentina and Chile, University of Chicago | 2012 |
| Marvin E. Olsen Best Student Paper Award for “Constructing the Rights of Nature: Environmentalism, Indigenous Politics, and Legal Mobilization in Ecuador, 1970-2008,” Environmental Sociology Section, American Sociological Association | 2011 |
| Latin American Studies Tinker Field Research Grant for “From Ecological Debt to the Legal Rights of Nature: Environmentalism and Economic Development in Ecuador,” Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago | 2010 |
| Francis X. Kinahan Award for Excellence in Teaching Undergraduate Writing, University of Chicago | 2009 |

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Loyola University Chicago

Academic Council, Fall 2022–present

Sociology Department Graduate Program Development Committee, 2021–2022

Sociology Department Colloquium Committee, 2019–present

Sociology Department Job Search Committee, Fall 2021

Fulbright Committee, Fall 2021

Public Service Affinity Group, 2022–present

University of Chicago

Associate Editor, **American Journal of Sociology**, Sept. 2011–Aug. 2012

Coordinator, Social Theory and Evidence Workshop, Sept. 2010–June 2011

American Journal of Sociology Student Manuscript Board, Sept. 2009–Aug. 2010

National and International

Communications Director, Political Sociology Section, American Sociological Association (ASA),
Aug. 2018–Aug. 2021

Co-Organizer, Section Roundtables, Comparative Historical Sociology Section, ASA Annual
Meeting, 2020

Newsletter Co-Editor, ASA Sociology of Development Section, Aug. 2018–Aug. 2020

Member, Best Faculty Article Award Committee, ASA Sociology of Development Section, Spring
2018

Manuscript Reviewer, **American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Problems, City &
Community, Contexts, Mobilization, Persona y Sociedad, International Journal of
Comparative Sociology, Sociology Compass, Journal of Human Rights and the Environment,
Socio-Economic Review, Law and Society Review, Environmental Sociology, Journal of Maps,
Salud Colectiva, Sociology of Development, Polity Press**

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Latin American Studies Association
Social Science History Association

LANGUAGES

English, Russian, Spanish