

Jami Nelson-Nuñez

Ph.D., Department of Political Science
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

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Educational History

PhD. Political Science, August 2014

University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309

Fields: Comparative Politics, Research Methodology, and Public Policy

Dissertation: “Citizens, Government and NGOs: Is Three a Crowd?”

My dissertation addresses the debate about whether non-governmental organizations (NGOs) undermine or support democratic development. Drawing on household survey data collected with a three-year NSF grant in poor communities of Peru, qualitative work and analysis of cross-national data from the Latinobarometer, I find that the most pessimistic perspectives that NGOs are undermining local governments are overstated. While citizens prefer NGO services over government services, NGOs facilitate political participation and can stimulate investment in public services.

Dissertation Committee: Carew Boulding (Chair), David S. Brown, Krister Andersson, Andy Baker, and Karl Linden

M.A. Political Science, May 2009

University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309

B.A. International Affairs, *magna cum laude*, December 1999

University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309

Employment History Part I

Assistant Professor, January 2015- June 2015

Department of Political Science
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Research Associate, January 2015-June 2015

Research and Development
One Earth Future Foundation

525 Zang St. Suite A
Broomfield, CO 80021

Research Fellow, August 2013-December 2014
Research and Development
One Earth Future Foundation
525 Zang St. Suite A
Broomfield, CO 80021

Study Abroad Special Projects Coordinator, August 2007-May 2014
Office of International Education
University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309-0123

Graduate Assistant for the Latin American Studies Center, August 2012-May 2013
University of Colorado at Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309-0246

Research Assistant for ACE Internationalization Laboratory, May 2009-December 2009
Graduate School
University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309

Study Abroad Program Manager, August 2003-May 2007
Office of International Education
University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309-0123

Study Abroad Lead Advisor, August 1999-May 2003
Office of International Education
University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309-0123

Employment History Part II

Senior Fellow, August 2015-Present
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy
University of New Mexico

Consultant, June 2014-July 2015
CONAPAC
340 Avenida La Marina
Iquitos, Peru

Professional Recognition and Honors

- 2013 Fulbright Fellowship Alternate for Peru
2011 Fulbright Fellowship Alternate for Peru

Research, Teaching and Service Interests

My research focuses on comparative politics, with an emphasis on understanding poverty in developing countries. I use multiple methods to explore the challenges of development and extending basic services to the poor in developing contexts. In particular, I focus on the interactions between civil society groups and local governments in decentralized settings, exploring the impact of NGOs on political behavior and service provision and identifying obstacles to effective collaboration between NGOs and local governments.

As a policy area, my work investigates water and sanitation issues in developing countries. Recently, I have been working with a research team of engineers from CU-Boulder evaluating the sustainability of water and sanitation projects in Peru as part of an NSF-funded project. This work has involved the development of household surveys, technical analyses of infrastructure, and qualitative interviews with households, community leaders, elected officials and NGOs.

My research on NGOs in weak democracies initially began with a project looking at the effect of civil society on political stability in Bolivia. This work led to the recent publication in the *Latin American Research Review* of "Civil Society and Support of the Political System in Times of Crisis," in equal co-authorship with Carew Boulding. We find that participation in civil society organizations builds support for political systems in Bolivia even at a time of political upheaval, a finding we extend to other examples of political crises throughout Latin America.

I have also been involved with the One Earth Future Foundation (OEF) researching the linkages between basic services, political stability and economic growth in post-conflict areas. I seek to contribute to understanding how to create effective local governance capable of delivering key services, such as energy access, clean water, improved sanitation and services supportive to the development of small and medium enterprises. My projects with OEF have included an analysis of the prospects for renewable energy in Somaliland and the factors that contribute the employment of women and youth in post-conflict contexts.

My teaching interests reflect my research activities in the areas of poverty, development and government responsiveness. I seek to engage students, both in and out of the classroom, in the effort to understand and reduce poverty. I believe one of the most important contributions as a professor is to help students use their time and focus their energy on activities that will expand future opportunities. Through my experience teaching the Politics of Poverty and Inequality, Global Development, and Introduction to Comparative Politics, I have developed an active teaching style. I often employ simulations and classroom experiments to expand the way students are engaging material. I have also integrated experiential learning in policy brief assignments, helping students to conduct informational interviews with professionals working in the areas of their projects. Through informational interviews and guest speakers, I try to provide students with access to role models and help them see avenues through which to engage as volunteers, interns and ultimately, professionals.

My interest in service to the university revolve around two goals: to help internationalize the campus and to improve the probability that students will successfully use their degrees to gain meaningful employment. I hope to draw on ten years of experience in international education and area studies to expand international activities and engagement at the university.

Scholarly Achievements

Articles Published in Refereed Journals

Boulding, Carew and Jami Nelson-Nunez. 2014. "Civil Society and Support for the Political System in Times of Crisis," *Latin American Research Review*. Vol. 49 (1), 128-154.

Articles Appearing in Chapters in Edited Volumes

Andersson, Krister and Jami Nelson-Nunez. 2013. "Rural Development," in *The Oxford Companion to Comparative Politics*, eds. Craig Murphy, Margaret Crahan and Joel Krieger. New York: Oxford University Press, 332-334.

Other Scholarly Works

Nelson-Nunez, Jami. 2015. "Powering Progress: The Potential of Renewable Energy in Somalia." Research Report for the One Earth Future Foundation.

Works in Progress

In Preparation

"Cozy or Crowded? The Effect of NGOs on Interactions with Local Government"

"If you build it, will they come? Individual Use of Rural Water Resources" (with Ryan Mahoney, Simon Mostafa, and Karl Linden).

Contributed (un-refereed) Abstracts and Oral Presentations at Professional Meetings

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| 2015 | "The Effect of Conflict on WASH Outcomes" presented at the UNC Water and Health Conference, Chapel Hill, NC |
| 2015 | "NGOs and Political Participation in the Peruvian Amazon" presented at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference in San Francisco, CA |
| 2014 | "Meeting the MDGs in Access to Water: Why do some flourish while others lag behind?" presented at the UNC Water and Health Conference, Chapel Hill, NC |
| 2014 | "Responding to Health Epidemics: Determinates of State Response to HIV and AIDS" (with Ray Foxworth), presented at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference in Washington, D.C. |
| 2014 | "The Effect of NGOs on the Citizen-Government Relationship," presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL |
| 2013 | "Citizens, governments and NGOs: Is Three a Crowd?" presented at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL |
| 2013 | "Getting Local Government Involved in Rural Water Services," presented at the UNC Water and Health Conference, Chapel Hill, NC |

- 2013 “The Effect of NGOs on Attitudes toward Local Government,” presented at the Latin American Studies Association Congress, Washington D.C.
- 2012 “If you build it, will they come? Individual Use of Rural Water Resources” (with Ryan Mahoney, Simon Mostafa, and Karl Linden), presented at the UNC Water and Health Conference, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2012 “The Promise and Pitfalls of Household Ecological Sanitation” (with Josh Armstrong and Karl Linden), presented to the UNC Water and Health Conference in Chapel Hill, NC
- 2011 “Governance Conditions for Access to Water in Latin America,” presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL
- 2010 “Civil Society and Support for the Political System” (with Carew Boulding), presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL

Research Funding

Sustainability of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Peru

Role: Lead Research Coordinator

Principal investigator: Karl Linden, University of Colorado Boulder

National Science Foundation, IRES Grant

April 2011-August 2014

Dissertation Field Research

Bev Sears Graduate Research Grant

Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder

January 2013

Evaluating sustainability of rural water services in the Amazon

Engineering Excellence Fund

College of Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder

May 2012

Evaluating functionality and use of ecological sanitation in Iquitos, Peru

Engineering Excellence Fund

College of Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder

May 2011

Teaching

2015; Fall Semester; Politics of Poverty and Inequality; PSCI 300.009; 43 students

2012; Spring Semester; CU-Boulder, PSCI 4012: Global Development

2011; Spring Semester; CU-Boulder, PSCI 4012: Global Development

2011; Fall Semester; Teaching Assistant CU-Boulder, PSCI 7095: Advanced Political Data Analysis

2010; Spring Semester; Teaching Assistant CU-Boulder, PSCI 2012: Intro to Comparative Politics

2009; Spring Semester; Teaching Assistant CU-Boulder, PSCI 2012: Intro to Comparative Politics
2008; Fall Semester; Teaching Assistant CU-Boulder, PSCI 2012: Intro to Comparative Politics
2008; Spring Semester; Teaching Assistant CU-Boulder, PSCI 2012: Intro to Comparative Politics
2007; Fall Semester; Teaching Assistant CU-Boulder, PSCI 2012: Intro to Comparative Politics

Service

2015 Grants and Awards Committee, Latin American and Iberian Institute, University of New Mexico

2014 Coordinator of Annual Colorado Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Symposia, University of Colorado Boulder

2013 Coordinator and creator of Annual Colorado Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Symposia, University of Colorado Boulder

2011 Graduate Student Recruitment Coordinator, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado Boulder

2008-2009 Graduate Mentor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado Boulder