Veronica Maria Sol Herrera

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Appointments

University of California, Los Angeles
Associate Professor (with tenure), Urban Planning and Political Science (by courtesy), UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs 2021-
Affiliated Faculty with UCLA's
Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IOES), Chicano Studies Research Center (Faculty Advisory Board); Latin American Institute (Faculty Advisory Board); Luskin Center for Innovation; UCLA Water Resources Group

Assistant Professor, Urban Planning, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs 2019-2021
University of Connecticut
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Connecticut, 2012-2019 (with tenure 2019)
Harvard University
Visiting Scholar, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Spring 2018
University of California, Berkeley
Visiting Scholar, Center for Latin American Studies, 2011-2012

Education
Ph.D., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2011
Fields: Comparative Politics, Latin America, and Research Methods
M.A., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2005
B.A., Political Science, Swarthmore College, 2003 (High Honors)

Refereed Books

2024. *Slow Harms and Citizen Action: Environmental Degradation and Policy Change in Latin American Cities*. Studies in Comparative Energy and Environmental Politics. Oxford University Press. Hardcover, Paperback, E-Book. Oxford University Press.

- Winner of the Dennis Judd Best Book Award, Urban and Local Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2025.
- Reviewed in *Social Change*, *Urban Studies, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Latin American Politics and Society, Mobilization;* Featured in Sur Urbano Podcast, "Pollution, Slow Harms, and Citizen Action with Veronica Herrera," August 2025. Listen on Spotify.
- Subject of *Author Meets Critic* panel at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (with Kent Eaton, Rebecca Abers, Meg Mullin and Isabella Alcaniz).

2017. Water and Politics: *Clientelism and Reform in Urban Mexico*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press. Hardcover 2017; Paperback and E-book. 2019.

- Winner of the Dennis Judd Best Book Award, Urban and Local Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2018.

- Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics, Latin American Politics & Society, Latin American Research Review, Journal of Development Studies, Environment and Urbanization, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Hispanic American Historical Review, Bulletin of Latin American Research.* Recommended in *Choice,* Noted in *Environmental History.*
- Interviews and Press Coverage: *World Policy Journal, New Book Network Podcast, Wayne Norman Wii 1400 AM Interview, The Nature of Cities Must Read Books List, Washingtonpost Monkey Cage, The Conversation, UCONN Today, Swarthmore Bulletin, Blog.i2owater.com.*

Refereed Articles

(12) 2026. "Waste Warriors: The Fight for Waste Equity and Participatory Rights in the City," *Urban Affairs Review*. Online First. (Open Access).

(11) 2026. "Plastic Pollution Hotspots: Global Waste Trade and Environmental Risk in Latin America," *Environmental Research Letters*. (with Paula Muñoz Chirinos and Isai Silva Zarate). Online First. (Open Access).

(10) 2024. "Citizen-Led Environmental Governance: Regulating Urban Wetlands in South America," *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Special Issue on Subnational Environmental Governance in Latin America, edited by Moises Arce and Maiah Jaskoski. February. (Open Access)

- Honorable Mention, Best Paper Award, Urban and Regional Politics Section, APSA, 2023.

(9) 2022. "Transparency for Text-Based Sources: From Principles to Practice." *Perspectives on Politics* April. 21 (4). (with Nikhar Gaikwad). 1240-1257.

(8) 2021. "The Qualitative Transparency Deliberations: Insights and Implications," *Perspectives on Politics*. March: 19 (1). 178-208. (lead authors: Alan Jacobs, Tim Buthe; coauthored with all QTD working group members).

(7) 2020. "How do Legal Strategies Advance Social Accountability? Evaluating Mechanisms in Colombia." *Journal of Development Studies.* 56 (8). 1437-1454 (with Lindsay Mayka).

(6) 2019. "Reconciling Global Aspirations with Local Realities: Challenges Facing the Sustainable Development Goals for Water and Sanitation." *World Development.* Special Issue on the UN Millennium Sustainable Development Goals, co-edited by Lorenza Fontana and Johan Oldekop. June. 106-117. (Open Access).

(5) 2019. "The Case for Public Policy Expertise in Political Science." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 52 (3). (July): 476-480 (with Alison Post).

(4) 2017. "From Participatory Promises to Partisan Capture: Local Democratic Transitions and Citizen Water Boards in Mexico." *Comparative Politics*. 49 (4). (July): 479-499.

- Winner of Best Paper Award, Urban and Local Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2014.

(3) 2014. "Can Developing Countries both Decentralize and Depoliticize Urban Water Services? Evaluating the Legacy of the 1990s Reform Wave." *World Development*. Volume 64 (December): 621-641 (with Alison Post).

(2) 2014. "Does Commercialization Undermine the Benefits of Decentralization for Local Services Provision? Evidence from Mexico's Urban Water and Sanitation Sector." *World Development.* Volume 56. (April): 16-31.

- Selected for inclusion in the National Science Foundation funded Qualitative Data Repository pilot project.

(1) 2012. "When Decentralization Matters: Subnational, Municipal, and New Inter-tier Relations." *Latin American Politics and Society.* 54 (2). 153-163.

Refereed Book Chapter

Forthcoming. "The Waste 'Inclusion-Sustainability Paradox' in Global South Cities," *The Routledge Companion to Planning Equitable and Sustainable Global South Cities*, edited by Victoria Beard and Christopher Silver. Routledge.

Selected Fellowships and Awards

- Dennis Judd Best Book Award, APSA, 2025
- Honorable Mention, Best Paper Award, Urban and Regional Politics Section, APSA, 2023.
- Swarthmore College, Arabella Carter Community Service Alumni Award, 2023
- Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Fellowship Office of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017-2018
- Harvard University, Visiting Scholar, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Spring 2018
- Dennis Judd Best Book Award, APSA, 2018.
- American Association of University Women Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2017-2018
- Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2016-2017
- Winner of Best Paper Award, Urban and Local Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2014.
- Clarence Stone Early Career Award, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2013
- SSRC Dissertation Completion Award, SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, 2010
- Simpson Memorial Fellowship, Institute for International Studies, UC Berkeley, 2008
- Dissertation Research Fellowship, UC Institute for Mexico and the United States, 2008
- Fulbright Fellowship, Institute for International Education, Mexico, 2007-2008
- Teaching Effectiveness Award, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley, 2007
- Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley, 2006
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2002-2003

Selected Grants

- P.I. (Veronica Herrera). Mapping the Plastics Burdened Community in California: Plastics Manufacturing. Resources Legacy Fund (RLF), 2026, $132,278
- P.I. (Veronica Herrera). Mapping the Plastics Burdened Community in California: Refineries and Well Exposures. Resources Legacy Fund (RLF), 2025, $108,171

- P.I. (Veronica Herrera). Mapping the Plastics Burdened Community in California: Landfills and Incinerators Exposure. Resources Legacy Fund (RLF), 2024, $70,000.
- P.I. (Veronica Herrera). Chicano Studies Research Center. "Plastics Pollution and Latino Communities in California." $20,000.
- P.I. (Veronica Herrera). UCLA Academic Senate Council Faculty Research Grant for "Environmental Sustainability without Social Justice? The Precarious Role of Waste Pickers in the Global Garbage Crisis," 2020-2021. $10,000.
- P.I. (Veronica Herrera). Competitive Large Grant, Research Excellence Program, Office of the Vice President, University of Connecticut, $24,403, 2015-2016.

Policy Reports

(4). 2026. ""What Defines a Plastic-Burdened Community?—Part III: Plastics Manufacturing, midstream in plastics supply chain, and inequitable exposure risks," with Dan Coffee. *Luskin Center for Innovation*.

(3) 2025. "What Defines a Plastic-Burdened Community?—Part II: Plastic, fossil fuels, and inequitable site-based exposure risks," with Dan Coffee. *Luskin Center for Innovation*.

(2) 2024. "What Defines a Plastic Burdened Community? Part I: An environmental justice framework for identifying exposure disparities and informing mitigation investment," with Dan Coffee. *Luskin Center for Innovation*.

(1) 2021. "Summary Report: Qualitative Transparency Deliberations Working Group Report on Text-Based Sources." *Perspective on Politics* (with Nikhar Gaikwad and Robert Mickey).

Op-Eds and Public Commentary

(6) 2026. "Garden Grove's chemical emergency is a warning for other communities near plastics factories." *Calmatters.* June 2026.

(5) 2025. "As oil and gas companies pivot to plastic, California neighborhoods become sacrifice zones again," *Calmatters.* (with Dan Coffee). December 17.

(4) 2018. "Beyond Climate Change: The Latin American Sewage Crisis and Environmental Injustice." *ReVista: The Harvard Review of Latin America.* Spring/Summer.

(3) 2018. "While Mexico plays politics with its water, some cities flood while others go dry." *The Conversation.* March 6.

(2) 2017. "Toxic Exposure and Grassroots Activism in Latin American Cities," *Just Environments Series, Items: Insights from the Social Sciences. Social Science Research Council,* August 8

(1) 2017. "It's not just lead that's poisoning the water. It's also politics." *Washington Post, Monkey Cage.* February 28

Book Reviews and Scholarly Commentary

(10) 2023. *Hispanic American Historical Review.* Review of *Water for All: Community, Property, and Revolution in Modern Bolivia* by Sarah Hines (University of California Press, 2022).

(9) 2021. *Urban Affairs Forum.* Review of *Demanding Development: The Politics of Public Goods Provision in India's Urban Slums* by Adam Auerbach (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

(8) 2020. "The Case for Studying Urban Environmental Politics in the Developing World," in Eugene Finkel, Adria Lawrence, and Andrew Mertha, ed, *Cities and Urban Politics.* Comparative Politics Newsletter. American Political Science Association. XXX:1. Spring. 43-50.

(7) 2014. Review of "Practical Authority: Agency and Institutional Change in Brazilian Water Politics" by Rebecca Neaera Abers and Margaret E. Keck. *Latin American Politics and Society.* Summer. 56 (2)

(6) 2017. "Understanding the User Experience: Lessons from an Active Citation Piloteer." *Qualitative Data Repository, Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry*, October 9

(5) 2015. Data for: "Does Commercialization Undermine the Benefits of Decentralization for Local Services Provision? Evidence from Mexico's Urban Water and Sanitation Sector." 2013. World Development, 56 (1): 16-31. Annotation for Transparent Inquiry. 10050. Syracuse, NY: Qualitative Data Repository.

(4) 2008. "Analyses of Private Participation of the Water and Sanitation Sector in Select Latin American Countries," 2008 OECD Working Paper, OECD Investment Division, Water Investment Project (with Céline Kauffmann)

(3) 2008. "New Actors, Old Problems: The Rise of Special Interests in Mexico," Center for Latin American Studies, UC Berkeley

(2) 2007. "The Persistence of Peronism," *Berkeley Review of Latin American Studies.* Center for Latin American Studies, UC Berkeley

(1) 2005. "Fujimori's Quiet Coup d'Etat and the Restoration of Peru's Constitutional Court," Center for Latin American Studies, UC Berkeley

Professional Activities

Invited Talks and Presentations

University of Pennsylvania, Development Lab, May 2025

UC Santa Barbara, February 2025

Colby College, April 2024 (zoom)

Columbia University, Lecture in Planning Series, Sept 2023

Harvard University, Mexico + H20: Challenges, Reckonings, and Opportunities, March 2023

Stanford University, Advancing Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Workshop at Doerr School of Sustainability, February 2023

American University, Government Department Seminar Series, Oct 2020 (zoom)

University of Pennsylvania, Perry World House Seminar Series, Sept 2020 (zoom)

UC Berkeley, Global Metropolitan Studies and Department of City and Regional Planning Speaker Series, Sept 2020 (zoom)

University of New Mexico, International Studies Institute Seminar Series, Sept 2020 (zoom)

Brown University, Watson Center, Development and Governance Seminar, April 2019

UCLA, Luskin School of Public Affairs, Latin American Cities Initiative, February 2019

Pomona College, Politics Series, February 2019

Harvard University, Visiting Fellows Speaker Series, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, April 2018

George Washington University, Dean's Lecture Series in the Humanities and Social Sciences, March 2018

University of Washington, Center for Environmental Politics Seminar Series, Jan 2018

Harvard University, Latin American Seminar Series, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Nov 2017

MIT, Latin American Politics Workshop, Nov 2017

Harvard Graduate School of Design, Emergent Urbanism Seminar, Urban Planning and Design Department, Oct 2017

Duke University, Environmental Institutions Seminar, Nicholas School of the Environment, April 2017

Harvard Graduate School of Design, Urban Infrastructure, Environment, and Sustainability Seminar, Urban Planning and Design Department, April 2017

Drexel University, Short Course, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Aug 2016

Invited Discussant, Book Manuscript Conference for Kyle Jaros (Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Ash Center), Jan 2016

Swiss Agency for Cooperation & Development, Urban Political Economy Workshop, Lima, Peru, Oct 2015

Woodrow Wilson Center, Short Course, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., Aug 2014

Brown University, Watson Center, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Oct 2013

Michigan State University, Global Urban Studies Program, Feb 2013

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China, Dec 2012

Stanford University, Center for Latin American Studies, Feb 2011

UC Berkeley, Comparative Politics Colloquium, April 2010

Internal Univ of Connecticut Research Awards

- Alan Bennett Honors Funds Research Assistant Grant, UConn Political Science, 2018 (Shanelle Jones)
- Humanities Institute Annual Residential Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 2017-2018 (declined)
- SHARE Award (Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Research Experience), UCONN, co-awarded to PI and undergraduate research assistant (Emily Steck, 2017; Renato Muguerza 2015)
- Humanities Institute Annual Residential Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 2016-2017 (declined)
- Collaborative Research Funds, UConn Political Science, 2016, with Kelly Delaney
- Alan Bennett Honors Funds Research Assistant Grant, UConn Political Science, 2013 (Ashley Palma), 2016 (Cheyenne Holliday, Isabel Blank)

Academic Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association: 2025, 2023, 2022, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009
Latin American Studies Association: 2020 (Covid-19 cancelled), 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2007
International Studies Association: 2018, 2017
Latin American Political Economy Network, REPAL: 2024 (Washington D.C.), 2023 (Quito, Ecuador), 2019 (New Orleans), 2017 (Lima, Peru)
Midwest Political Science Association: 2010
Western Political Science Association: 2020 (accepted but cancelled due to COVID-19)
Ford Foundation Conference of Ford Fellows Academic Exchange Session: 2018
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Conference: 2016

Additional Experience

Field Research: Peru (2017), Argentina (2017, 2016), Colombia (2016), Mexico (2012, 2008, 2007)

Contributor to Qualitative Data Repository Pilot Project, Consortium for Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research, Maxwell School of Syracuse University (NSF Funded), 2013-2014

Research Consultant, OECD Water and Sanitation Investment Division, 2009

Professional Service

Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Annals of the American Association of Geographers, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Governance, Environmental Research Letters, Global Environmental Change, Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of Human Rights, Journal of Latin American Studies, Journal of Politics, International Review of Administrative Sciences, International Studies Quarterly, Latin American Politics & Society, National Science Foundation*, Oxford Development Studies, Perspectives on Politics, Studies in Comparative International Development, Utilities Policy, Urban Affairs Review, Urban Studies, World Development, World Politics,* Arizona University Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press.

Advisory Board, *Urban Affairs Review*, 2023-

Dennis Judd Best Book Award Committee, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2026

Vice President, Qualitative and Multi-Method Section, American Political Science Association, 2021-2023

Bryan Jackson Dissertation Committee, Chair, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2023

Executive Committee, Urban and Local Politics Section, American Political Science Association 2020-2022

Division Co-Chair, Annual Meeting of American Political Science Association, Urban and Local Politics Section, Montreal, Quebec, 2022

Chair, Best Paper Award Selection Committee, Kendra Koivu Award, Qualitative and Multi-Method Section, American Political Science Association, 2021

Chair, Best Paper Award Selection Committee, Qualitative and Multi-Method Section, American Political Science Association, 2021

Qualitative Transparency Deliberations Committee Working Group Member on Text Based Sources, American Political Science Association's Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section (NSF Funded), 2016-2018

Best Paper Award Selection Committee, Political Institutions, Latin American Studies Association, 2016

Nominating Committee for Executive Council, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2016

Chair, Best Paper Award Selection Committee, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2015

PhD Committees:

Dr. Justin McBride (Urban Planning, UCLA), (Labor Studies, UCLA)
Dr. Aurora Echavarria (Urban Planning, UCLA), (Florida State University)
Dr. Alfredo Trejo (Political Science, UCLA) (Graduated)
Dr. Begona Peiro (Graduate School of Design, Harvard), Graduated
Dr. Gabriela Tafoya (Political Science, University of Connecticut) (Manchester University)
Dr. Kelly Delaney (Political Science, University of Connecticut), Graduated
Sebastian Solarte-Caicedo (Institute of Environment and Sustainability, UCLA), Current
Julia Lesnick (Social Welfare, UCLA), Current
Emily Gregory (Political Science, University of Virginia), Current
Jay Park (Urban Planning, UCLA) (field exams currently)

Zabdi Velasquez (Political Science, UCLA) (field exams currently)
Max McNally (Urban Planning, UCLA) (field exams currently)

PhD Advising (field exams only)
Abigail Farison (Political Science, UCLA)
Ashley Benitez (Geography, UConn)

UCLA, Luskin School of Public Affairs
Dean Search Committee, 2025-2026
Faculty Executive Committee Chair (2023-2024)
Faculty Executive Committee Vice-Chair (2022-2023)

UCLA, Urban Planning
Director of Master of Urban Planning Program (2024-present)
Chair, Search Committee in Masters of Global Public Affairs (2026-2027)
Chair, Regional and International Development Area of Concentration (2023-present)
PhD Admissions Committee, 2023, 2025

UCLA
Member, Global Advisory Council, Institute for International Education (2024-present)
Chicano Studies Research Center (Faculty Advisory Board)
Latin American Institute (Faculty Advisory Board)
UCLA Water Resources Group, Faculty Affiliate
Luskin Center for Innovation; Faculty Affiliate
Faculty Member, Latin American Cities Initiative Research Workshop, (2019-2020)

University of Connecticut
Faculty Advisory Board, Environmental Studies Program (2017-2019)
Faculty Affiliate Advisory Board, El Instituto: Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean and Latin American Studies (2015-2018)
Elected Member, Department Executive Committee, Department of Political Science (2014-2016)
Member, Political Science Comparative Politics Search Committee (2015)
Member, Political Science Colloquium Committee (2012-2015, 2018-2019)
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, (2018-2019)
Member, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, (2018-2019)

Member
American Political Science Association, Sections: Comparative Politics, Urban and Local Politics, Qualitative and Multi-Methods, Science, Environment & Technology
Latin American Studies Association, Section Membership: Political Institutions, Subnational Politics and Society, Environment
International Studies Association, Section: Environmental Studies

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Board of Directors, Los Angeles Waterkeepers, 2024-