

THEA RIOFRANCOS
Curriculum vitae

Providence College
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EMPLOYMENT

2015 - Present **Providence College**
Associate Professor of Political Science

EDUCATION

2008 - 2014 **University of Pennsylvania**
Ph.D. in Political Science

2002 - 2006 **Reed College**
B.A. in Political Science, Phi Beta Kappa

FELLOWSHIPS

2020 - 2023 **Carnegie Corporation**
Andrew Carnegie Fellowship

2020 - 2021 **Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University**
Radcliffe Institute Fellow

2014 - 2015 **Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame**
Visiting Fellow

AWARDS

2021 **Charles Taylor Book Award**, American Political Science Association (winner)

2022 **Bryce Wood Book Award**, Latin American Studies Association (honorable mention)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Under Contract *Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism*, W.W. Norton.

2020 *Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador*. Duke University Press.

2019 with Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battisoni, and Daniel Aldana Cohen. *A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal*. Verso Books.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2023 “The Security-Sustainability Nexus: Lithium Onshoring in the Global North.” *Global Environmental Politics*, 23.1, 20-41.

2018 with Tulia Falleti, “Endogenous Participation: Prior Consultation in Extractive Economies.” *World Politics* 70.1, 86-121.

2017 “Scaling Democracy: Participation and Resource Extraction in Latin America.” *Perspectives on Politics* 15.3, 678-696.

2017 “*Extractivismo* Unearthed: A Genealogy of a Radical Discourse.” *Cultural Studies* 31:2-3, 277-306.

Policy Papers

2023 “Achieving Zero Emissions Transportation with More Mobility and Less Mining.” *Climate and Community Project* (Intellectual lead and co-author).

2021 “A New Era of Public Power.” *Climate and Community Project* (Co-led and co-authored).

2020 “A Green Stimulus to Rebuild Our Economy” *Medium*, March 22 (Co-authored with 10 other policy experts).

2020 with Daniel Aldana Cohen. “Green Industrial Policy for Domestic and Global Justice is Popular.” *Data for Progress*.

Book Chapters (Solicited)

Forthcoming “What Green Costs” (Reprint from *Logic Magazine*, 2019) in Jamie Cross, Dustin Mulvaney and Benjamin Brown eds., *Capitalising on the Sun: Land, Labor, Waste in the Global Solar Economy*, Johns Hopkins University Press.

2021 “From Cases to Sites: Studying Global Processes in Comparative Politics” in Erica Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith eds. *Rethinking Comparison*, Cambridge University Press.

2017 “El proyecto Mirador en el contexto nacional de (neo)extractivismo” in K. Van Teijlingen, E. Leifsen, C. Fernández-Salvador, and L. Sánchez-Vázquez (Eds.), *La amazonía minada: minería a gran escala y conflictos en el sur del Ecuador*. Quito: Editorial USFQ and Ediciones Abya-Yala.

Book Reviews (Solicited)

2021 Contribution to *H-Diplo* Roundtable on Duncan Kelly’s *Politics and the Anthropocene*.

- 2019 “Agency, critique, and complicity in *The Extractive Zone*.” *Cultural Dynamics*. 31.1-2, 140–150.
- 2018 “The Ideology of Creole Revolution.” *Political Theory*. (Available online, forthcoming in print.)
- 2017 “Precarious Politics: On Butler’s *Notes Towards a Performative Theory of Assembly*.” *Theory & Event* 20.1.
- 2017 “Populism’s Power” *Perspectives on Politics*. 15.3, 865-867.

Working Papers

- 2016 “Proleptic Protest: Local Resistance to New Extractive Projects in Ecuador.” *Kellogg Institute Working Paper* No. 415.

Public Writing

- 2023 “Electric vehicles alone won’t take us to a decarbonized future” *The Hill*, February.
- 2022 “Where Should the Climate Movement Go Next?” *The Nation*, August.
- “Chile: White Gold Rush.” Chatham House’s *The World Today*, May.
- with David Adler “Gabriel Boric and Latin America’s new pink tide.” *New Statesman*, March.
- “Shifting Mining from the Global South Misses the Point of Climate Justice. *Foreign Policy*, February.”
- 2021 “The rush to ‘go electric’ comes with a hidden cost: destructive lithium mining.” *The Guardian*, June.
- with Mark Paul “Biden risks botching a key chance to fight climate change.” *The Washington Post*, June.
- “Extractivism and Extractivismo.” *Global South Studies, Key Concepts*.
- 2020 “Seize and Resist: The Global Supply Chain Is Up for Grabs.” *The Baffler*, Fall Issue.
- “Field Notes from Extractive Frontiers.” *Center for Humans and Nature*, September 28.

“It’s a Tough Time for the Left. But I’m More Optimistic Than Ever.” *The New York Times*, August 10.

“Latin America Can Only Thrive with a New Eco-Social Pact.” *International Politics and Society*, July 16.

with Daniel Aldana Cohen. “Latin America’s Green New Deal.” *NACLA – Report on the Americas*, Vol. 52, No. 2. (Introduction to our co-edited issue.)

“Featured Q&A: Should State Firms Redirect Efforts Away from Oil?” *Energy Advisor* (Inter-American Dialogue), May 22.

“Reclaiming Populism: The View from Latin America.” *Boston Review*, April 29.

“I’m a Political Scientist. Here’s Why Climate Activists Need to Keep Turning Up the Heat on Joe Biden.” *Earther*, April 28.

with Johanna Bozuwa, “COVID-19 makes clear energy and water are public goods.” *The Hill*, March 27.

2019 “What Green Costs.” *Logic Magazine*. Fall Issue.

“Plan, Mood, Battlefield - Reflections on The Green New Deal.” *Viewpoint Magazine*.

with Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battisoni, and Daniel Aldana Cohen. “A Green New Deal can give us the freedoms to allow humanity to flourish.” *The Guardian*, February 7.

“What Comes After Extractivism?” *Dissent*, Winter Issue.

2018 “Populism Without the People.” *n+1 Magazine*.

with Marc Becker. “A Souring Friendship, a Left Divided.” *NACLA – Report on the Americas*, Vol. 50, No. 2.

with Daniel Denvir. “Zombie Liberalism.” *n+1 Magazine*.

2017 “Digging Free of Poverty.” *Jacobin Magazine*, Issue 26.

“The State of the Left in Latin America” (contributor), *NACLA*, July.

“Ecuador After Correa.” *n+1 Magazine*, Issue 29.

“Democracy Without the People.” *n+1 Magazine*, Issue 28.

with Daniel Denvir. “The “Identity Politics” Debate Is Splintering the Left. Here’s How We Can Move Past It.” *In These Times*.

2015 “Beyond the Petrostate: Ecuador’s Left Dilemma.” *Dissent*, Summer Issue.

INVITED TALKS, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS (Selected)

2023 “Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism”, Havens Wright Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March.

“Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism”, Cornell University, March.

“Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism”, Centre for Climate Justice, University of British Columbia, February.

“Climate Change and Technology Workshop,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, February.

2022 “Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism”, Environmental Studies Seminar, State University of New York – ESF, October.

“The Geopolitics of Stuff”, Jain Family Institute, October.

“Resource Nationalism and Decarbonization”, Jain Family Institute, July.

“Energy Histories and Geographies”, Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization, University of Chicago, February.

“Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism”, Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago, January.

2021 “Resource Extraction and Justice”, Breach Collective, February.

“Green Technology Supply Chains and a Planetary Just Transition”, Climate and Inequality Workshop, Utrecht University, February.

“The Endless Frontier: Green Technologies, Geopolitics, and Planetary Extraction, Critical Approaches to Critical Materials,” University of Pennsylvania, April.

“Brine to Batteries: The Extractive Frontiers of the Global Energy Transition,” Radcliffe Institute, April.

“Green Energy, Green Mining, Green New Deal?” MiningWatch Canada, May.

“The Endless Frontier: Green Technologies, Geopolitics, and Planetary Extraction”” Worlds in Contention conference, University of Ohio, May.

Latin American Studies Association, “Extractivisms” Roundtable, May.

“A Pan-American Green New Deal,” University of Pennsylvania, May.

“Green Technology Supply Chains and a Planetary Just Transition” Climate Solutions, Money and Politics conference Princeton, June.

“The Security-Sustainability Nexus: Statecraft, Capital, and Protest Along the Global Lithium Frontier” University of Minnesota Political Theory Workshop, October.

Expert Panelist at California government’s “Lithium Valley Commission” October.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), Galletin School, New York University, New York City, February 18.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), Wagner School, New York University, New York City, February 2.

2020

“A Globally Just Green New Deal?” Tufts University, Boston, November.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), Loughborough University, Leicestershire, December 16.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), Rhodes Center, Brown University, Providence, December 3.

Feinberg Distinguished Lecture Series, “Environmental Policy in Historical Perspective” (invited talk), University of Massachusetts - Amherst, November 12.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), University of Massachusetts, Amherst, October 16.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), Center for 21st Century Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, October 9.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), Clark University, Worcester, October 2.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador” (invited talk), McGill University, Montreal, September 25.

“As Bold as We Need to Be! Left Utopianism and Its Future” (invited panelist) *The World Transformed* Conference, September 20.

“Contention and Democracy” (invitation-only theme panel), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 10-12.

“Pacto del Sur-Pacto del Norte” (invited panelist), Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (Andean office), Quito, July 8.

“Resource Radicals: From Petro-Nationalism to Post-Extractivism in Ecuador,” Jain Family Institute Research Session, August 21.

Speaker Series, Political Science Department and the Murphy Institute, Tulane University, New Orleans, March 13. [Rescheduling, TBD]

“A Green New Deal for Climate Safety and Global Justice.” College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, February 17.

“A Globally Just Green New Deal,” (invited talk), Fordham University, NYC, February 3.

2019

“Industrial Policy and the Green New Deal” (invited speaker), European Parliament, Brussels, December 12.

“A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal” (book launch), Verso Books, New York City, Nov. 16.

For the Many Symposium (invited presenter), University of Chicago, Chicago, Oct. 25.

“Latin America in a Globalizing World” (invited talk), Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Oct. 15.

“Left Populism in Latin America” (invitation-only theme panel), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Aug 29. - Sept. 1.

“Green New Deal: Cambio climático, extractivismo y un futuro post-capitalista” (invited talk), Universidad de Diego Portales, Santiago, April 18.

Red May: Radical Art and Thought (invited speaker), Seattle, May 17-18.

2018

We, the Sovereign Book Launch (invited commentator), New York University, NYC, Nov. 19.

“The Future of the Left in the Americas” (invited presenter), The New School for Social Research, NYC, Oct. 5-6.

“Democracy in Decline? The Challenge of Global Populism” (invited presenter), University of Delaware, Newark, May 3-4.

“Unsettled Spaces” (invited presenter), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 20.

“Thinking the Global South” (invited presenter), Penn State, State College, March 16-17.

2017

“Rethinking the Single Case Study” (invited presenter), Rethinking Comparison Workshop, CUNY, New York City, October 20-21.

“What’s Next for Latin America’s Left?” (Organized by *NACLA/ Jacobin Magazine*), Left Forum, NYC, June 3.

“The Specter of Populism: Learning the Wrong Lessons from Latin America” (invited talk), Keynote Address, Greater Philadelphia Latin American Studies Consortium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 18.

2016 “Scaling Democracy: Participation and Resource Extraction in Latin America” (invited talk), The Watson Institute, Brown University, Providence, March 14.

CONFERENCES

Conferences Organized

2020 “Latin America’s Green New Deal,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, October 8.

2018 “Climate Futures, Design, and the Just Transition,” RISD, Providence, November 9-10.

2018 “Populism in the Americas: Theory and Methods from the Ground Up,” Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Cambridge, March 2.

Papers Presented

2022 “Panel on “A ‘Green Deal’ for Who?” Latin American Studies Association, May 5.

“What Is Next in the Political Economy of Resource Extraction?”, Latin American Studies Association, May 6.

2020 *Resource Radicals*, Author Meets Critics Panel, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 10-12.

“Democracy and Autocracy in America” Invited Participant, Symposium at American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 10-12

2019 “From *Los Pueblos* to *El Pueblo*: Indigenous Movements and Left-Populist Mobilization in Ecuador” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., August 29.

“Fossil Fuel Empires and Resistance: Mapping the Contours of Alternative, Just, Renewable Futures” (Roundtable), Boston, May 27.

Resource Radicals, Author Meets Critics Panel, Red Latinoamericana de Economía Política, Tulane University, New Orleans, May 12.

“Resource Radicalisms: The Conditions and Consequences of Popular Critique,” International Conference for the Study of Political Thought, Yale, New Haven, May 10.

- 2018 “A Genealogy of the Comparative Method”, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, September 1.
- “Populism from the Ground Up”, Latin American Studies Association, Barcelona, May 23-26.
- “The Political Contradictions of Extractive Development” (Roundtable Organizer), Latin American Studies Association, Barcelona, May 23-26.
- 2017 “The Many Voices of the State: An Ethnographic Approach to the State as Conflictual Terrain”, Northeast Political Science Association Meeting, Philadelphia, November 11.
- “The Demos in Dispute: Radical Democracy, Constituent Power, and Resource Extraction in Ecuador”, Radical Democracy, The New School, New York City, May 5.
- “Radical Resource Imaginaries in Ecuador (1981-Present)”, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston, April 8.
- 2016 “Radical Resource Imaginaries in Ecuador (1981-Present)”, Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Nov 19.
- 2016 “Discursive Institutionalization: Theory and Method”, *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, September 1.
- “Proleptic Protest: The challenge of resisting a new extractive sector in Ecuador”, Western Political Science Association, San Diego, March 26.
- 2015 “Missing, Misleading, and False: “Information” Discourse and Large Scale Mining in Ecuador”, International Studies Association Northeast Meeting Providence, November 7.
- “State-making, Corporate Strategies, and the Politics of Resource Extraction in Post-neoliberal Ecuador”, Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 29.
- 2014 “Extractivism, Post-extractivism, and the Debate Over Large Scale Mining in Ecuador”, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., August 28.
- “Extracting Democracy: The Politics of Representation and the Debate over Large Scale Mining in Ecuador”, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., August 30.
- 2013 “(Post)Extractivismo: The Problematic of Continuity and Transition in the Debate Over Large-Scale Mining” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 24.

“Contesting Extraction: Constitutional Politics and Visions of Democracy in the Debate over Mining in Ecuador”, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 29.

“The Right to Prior Consultation: Indigenous and Subnational Territorial Conflict in Bolivia and Ecuador”, paper with Tulia Falletti, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 29.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015 - 2020 Assistant Professor of Political Science
Latin American Politics; The Politics of Energy; The Politics of Oil; Introduction to Comparative Politics; Democratic Theory; Model Organization of American States; Research Methods

VISITING APPOINTMENTS

2020 Visiting Researcher, Nucleo milenio de investigación en energía y sociedad
Santiago, Chile

2011-2012 Visiting Researcher, Programa de Políticas Públicas
Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – Sede Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Peer reviewer: *Comparative Politics; Perspectives on Politics; World Politics; Constellations; Geoforum*

2023 Program Chair, Interpretive Methods and Methodologies, American Political Science Association.

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Current: Latin American and Latino Studies Program, Affiliated Faculty and Advisory Committee Member; Graduate School Mentor (Political Science Department)

Past: Cleary Lecture Committee, Member; Department Speakers and Events Committee (chair); Faculty Development committee

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish