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### **Education**

Ph.D. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN: Summer 2005  
B.A. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH: Spring 1998

### **Specialization**

Comparative Politics: The development of civil society; constructing support for the rule-of-law; Mexican and Latin American politics.  
Public Policy: The provision and production of public goods and services at the municipal level; public participation in the policy process.  
Minor: Latin American Studies

### **Current Position**

Bradley Postdoctoral Fellow. Georgetown University  
Project Coordinator. The Culture of Lawfulness Project. The National Strategy Information Center

### **Previous Position**

Visiting Scholar. The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies. University of California, San Diego

### **Dissertation**

*Title:* Thickening Civil Society: Nonprofits and Water and Sanitation Problems along Mexico's Northern Border

#### *Abstract:*

A flood of scholarship has demonstrated the importance of civil society to democratic transitions, democratic consolidation, and making democracy work. However, if civil society is important for democracy, what are the implications for countries where the state has historically controlled societal forms of organization? This dissertation attempts to understand how civil society organizations grow and develop in Mexico, a country with a traditionally weak third sector.

The study examines civil society organizations that operate in the broad policy arena of water and sanitation in four Mexican border cities. I find that civil society organizations rarely emerge spontaneously, but are highly dependent on their network ties and often require the incubating support of social infrastructure, such as the U.S. nonprofit community. Such Incubating support is necessary given limited legal, governmental, and private sector support for the sector.

Recognizing the importance of civil society organizations' network ties for both their emergence and impact, I compare the construction of network ties to the U.S. nonprofit community and the Mexican private, for-profit sector. I find that the physical U.S.-Mexico border is actually easier to cross than the more amorphous division between the nonprofit and for-profit sectors, and I use the Institutional Analysis and Development Framework to examine variation in the extent of cooperation across these two divisions. Given that state control has been the historical obstacle to an autonomous civil society, the research examines the extent to which political opportunities exist for autonomous civil society organizations and seeks to explain variation in such opportunities. I find that neither local level electoral competition nor opposition party government by themselves guarantees a strong third sector; however, the continuation of one-party rule in the absence of electoral competition creates a sizable overlap between political and civil society and limits the development of the latter.

*Dissertation Committee:* Elinor Ostrom (chair), Kenneth Bickers, Kristen Grønberg, Amber Levanon Seligson.

## **Publications**

"Building Bridges: Binational Civil Society Cooperation and Water-Related Policy Problems." *The Journal for Environment and Development*. 2005. Vol 14(4): 463-485

"Dependence, Rules, and Culture: Civil Society Cooperation across the U.S.-Mexico Border." forthcoming in the *Politics and Policy*. 2006. Vol 34(3).

"The Border Bottleneck: Drug Trafficking and Incentives for Police Corruption." forthcoming in Harlan Koff ed. 2006. *Deceiving (Dis)Appearances: Analyzing Current Developments in Europe and North America's Border Regions*. Brussels: PIE/Peter Lange

## **Working Papers**

"Building Civil Society: Nonprofit Emergence in Mexico" under review at *Voluntas*

"Stuck in the Transition from Clientelism to Citizenship: *Colonia* Politics in Mexico" under review at the *Journal of Comparative Politics*

"Change and Continuity: Accountability in Mexican Public Administration" under review at *Governance*

## **Conference Presentations:**

"Stuck in the Transition from Clientelism to Citizenship." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. September 1-4, 2005

"Crossing Borders: Binational Civil Society Cooperation to Address Problems of Water and Sanitation." Paper presented at the Second Conference of the Border Water Project. January 27-29, 2005.

"Explaining Civil Society Emergence: Nonprofits along Mexico's Northern Border." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. September 2-5, 2004.

"Creating Opportunity: Civil Society-Government Relations along Mexico's Northern Border." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. September 2-5, 2004

"Creating Civil Society? Official Neighborhood Committees in Ciudad Juárez." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 15-19, 2004.

"Civil Society – Government Network Integration: Water and Sanitation Policy Networks." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 15-19, 2004.

"Coentrepreneurship: A Matter of Scarce Resources." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 18-21, 2002.

"Private Sector Participation and Improving the Water and Sanitation Sector." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. November 7-10, 2001.

### **Awards**

- Fulbright García-Robles Fellowship
- Tinker Foundation Predissertation Research Award (two years)
- Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis Fellowship
- Association of Borderlands Study Best Graduate Student Paper Award
- Nomination for the Westview Press Best Graduate Student Paper Award
- Indiana University Graduate Student Conference Best Public Policy Paper

### **Teaching Experience**

Instructor, Y102 International Political Controversy, Indiana University, Spring 2003  
Associate Instructor, Y103 Introduction to American Politics, Indiana University, Fall 2002  
Associate Instructor, Y200 September 11: Before and After, Indiana University, Spring 2002  
Associate Instructor, Y304 Constitutional Law, Indiana University, Fall 2001  
Instructor, Institute for International Cooperation and Development, 06/1999-08/2000

### **Professional Activities**

Member of the American Political Science Association  
Member of the Midwest Political Science Association  
Member of the Latin American Studies Association  
Member of the Border Water Project

### **References**

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