

SONIA CARDENAS

Dean of Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives
Professor of Political Science
Trinity College

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Positions at Trinity College

2017- Dean of Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives

2015-16 Dean of Academic Affairs (July 2015 – December 2016)
Interim Dean of the Faculty (November 2015 – June 2016)

2013-15 Associate Academic Dean, Office of the Dean of Faculty

2013-present Professor of Political Science

2011-2013 Charles A. Dana Research Associate Professor of Political Science

2007-2013 Director, Human Rights Program

2005-2013 Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

2001-2005 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

Education

August 1999 University of Virginia. Ph.D., Government.

Summer 1995 Oxford University. Certificate, International Human Rights Law Programme.

January 1991 University of Virginia. M.A., Foreign Affairs.

May 1989 Tulane University. B.A., International Relations and French.
American University in Paris, France (Spring 1988).

Research and Teaching Appointments

June 2006 University of Cambridge, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Visiting Fellow.

2000-2002 Harvard Univ., Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government.
Post-Doctoral Fellow (2000-01); Affiliate (2001-02).

1999-2000 University of Notre Dame, IN, Department of Political Science. Visiting Assistant Prof.

Spring 1999 Adelphi University, NY, Department of Political Science, Instructor.

Fall 1994 University of Virginia, Department of Politics, Instructor.

Publications

BOOKS

- 2014 *Chains of Justice: The Global Rise of State Institutions for Human Rights*, UPenn Press.
- 2010 *Human Rights in Latin America: A Politics of Terror and Hope*, UPenn Press.
- 2007 *Conflict and Compliance: State Responses to International Human Rights Pressure*.
University of Pennsylvania Press. Paperback edition, 2010.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- 2016 "Human Rights in Comparative Politics" in *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, Michael Goodhart, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 3rd revised edition.
1st edition, 2009; 2nd revised edition, 2013.
- 2012 "Ethics, Politics, and the Democratic 'War on Terror,' Special Issue on David Forsythe's Contributions to Human Rights," *Journal of Human Rights* (August): 350-55.
- 2011a "State Compliance and National Human Rights Institutions," in *Multidisciplinary Perspectives on National Human Rights Institutions, State Compliance, & Social Change*, Ryan Goodman and Thomas Pegrum, eds. (Cambridge University Press), 29-51.
- 2011b "Forking Paths and Social Complexity: Rethinking Human Rights Progress in Latin America," Special Issue on Human Rights in Latin America, *Zeitschrift fuer Menschenrechte* (Journal of Human Rights, Germany) 5, 2: 11-25.
- 2010a "Human Rights and the State," in *International Studies Encyclopedia*, Robert Denemark, ed. (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing), [10,000 words].
- 2010b "The Geneva Conventions and the Normative Tenor in International Relations," in *The Geneva Conventions under Assault*, Sarah Perrigo and Jim Whitman, eds. (London: Pluto Press), chapter 1.
- 2009a "Mainstreaming Human Rights: Publishing Trends in Political Science."
PS: Politics and Political Science (January): 161-166.
Subject of "Political Scientists and Human Rights," *Inside Higher Education*, Jan. 20, 2009.
- 2009b "Sovereignty Transformed? The Role of National Human Rights Institutions," in *Negotiating Sovereignty and Human Rights: Actors and Issues in Contemporary Human Rights Politics*, Noha Shawki and Michaelene Cox, eds. (Ashgate Publishing).
- 2006 "Violators' Accounts: Hypocrisy and Human Rights Rhetoric in the Southern Cone."
Journal of Human Rights 5, no. 4 (October-December): 439-451.
- 2005a "Constructing Rights? Human Rights Education and the State."
International Political Science Review 26, no. 4 (October): 363-379.
- 2005b "National Human Rights Institutions in the Middle East," co-authored with Andrew Flibbert. *Middle East Journal* 59, no. 3 (July): 411-436.

- 2004 "Norm Collision: Explaining the Effects of International Human Rights Pressure on State Behavior." *International Studies Review* 6, no. 2 (June): 213-231.
- 2003a "Transgovernmental Activism: Canada's Role in Promoting National Human Rights Commissions." *Human Rights Quarterly* 25, no. 3 (August): 775-790.
- 2003b "Emerging Global Actors: The United Nations and National Human Rights Institutions." *Global Governance* 9, no. 1 (Winter): 23-42.
- 2000 "Combining Legal and Political Approaches: Recent Scholarship on Human Rights in Latin America." *Latin American Research Review* 35, no. 3 (Spring): 252-267.
- 2001 "Adaptive States: The Proliferation of National Human Rights Institutions." Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Working Paper Series T-01-04, 56 pages.
- 2002 "National Human Rights Commissions in Asia," in *Sovereignty under Challenge: How Governments Respond*, John D. Montgomery and Nathan Glazer, eds. (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press, 2002).
- * Reprinted in *Human Rights Review* 4, no. 1 (Winter 2003): 30-51.
- 1996 "The Contested Territories of Ceuta and Melilla." *Mediterranean Quarterly* 7, no. 1 (Winter): 118-131.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2016 Review of Impunity, Human Rights, and Democracy: Chile and Argentina, 1990-2005 by Thomas C. Wright, *American Historical Review*.
- 2012 Review of Reckoning with Pinochet: The Memory Question in Democratic Chile, 1989-2006 by Steve Stern, Duke University Press. *Human Rights Quarterly* (January): 285-89.
- 2011 Review of Skeletons in the Closet: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Europe, Monika Napela, Cambridge University Press. *Political Science Quarterly* (Spring): 163-165.
- 2009a "Localizing Rights: National Human Rights Institutions in Europe." Review of Human Rights Matters: Local Politics and National Human Rights Institutions by Julie Mertus, Stanford University Press. *H-Human Rights*.
- 2009b Review of Human Rights and Structural Adjustment by M. Rodwan Abouharb and David Cingranelli, Cambridge University Press. *Perspectives on Politics* 7, no. 2: 441-442.
- 2007 Review of The Pinochet Affair: State Terrorism and Global Justice by Roger Burbach, Macmillan; En el borde del mundo: memorias del juez que procesó a Pinochet by Juan Guzmán Tapia, Editorial Anagrama; and The Pinochet Effect: Transnational Justice in the Age of Human Rights by Naomi Rhot-Arriaza, University of Pennsylvania Press. *European Journal of International Law*, 18, no. 2: 367-373 [3,700 words].
- 2006a Review of Human Rights in the Arab World, edited by Amr Hamzawy and Anthony Chase. University of Pennsylvania Press. *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, October.

- 2006b Review of Democracy beyond Borders: Justice and Representation in Global Institutions by Andrew Kuper, Oxford University Press; and Which Rights Should Be Universal? by William Talbott, Oxford University Press. *Journal of Politics* 68, no. 1 (February): 227-229.
- 2004 Review of The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force by Martha Finnemore, Cornell University Press. *Ethics and International Affairs* 18, no. 1 (Winter): 103-104.
- 2003a Review of Human Rights and the Borders of Suffering: The Promotion of Human Rights in International Politics by M. Anne Brown, University of Manchester Press. *Perspectives on Politics* 1, no. 4 (December): 827.
- 2003b Review of Rethinking Humanitarian Intervention by Brian Lepard, Pennsylvania State University Press. *International Politics* 40, no. 2 (June): 299-301.
- 2002 Review of Human Rights: Politics and Idolatry by Michael Ignatieff, Princeton University Press. *Millennium* 31, no. 3 (July): 720-722.
- 2000 “Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries: International Relations Meets International Law.” Review of Custom, Power and the Power of Rules: International Relations and Customary International Law by Michael Byers, Cambridge University Press. *International Studies Review* 2, no. 1 (Spring): 147-149.

OPINION PIECES & ESSAYS

- 2017 “What I’m Reading: Shared Leadership in Higher Education,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, September.
- 2016 “Is There a Right to (Tuition-Free) Higher Ed?” *Huffington Post*, March 29.
- 2015 “Confronting Racism in the US: Are Civil Rights Enough?” *openGlobalRights*, Jan. 2015.
- 2012 “The Argentine Therapist,” Letter to the Editor, *The New York Times*, August 27.
- 2012 “Trials of Shame,” *Dissent* (online), January 31.
- 2011-13 *Erga Omnes*: A blog about the politics and human rights of universal jurisdiction.
- 2010 “Overcoming History and Human Rights at the UN.” *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, Roundtable, Invited Panelist (June).
- 2010 “Human Rights Pragmatism under Obama.” *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, Roundtable, Invited Panelist (May).
- 2010 “Genocide Myopia: How Reframing Mass Atrocity Could Backfire.” *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, Roundtable, Invited Panelist (April).
- 2009 “Why We Love to Hate Pirates: Truth and Consequences.” *CounterPunch*, May 22-24 (with Andrew Flisbert).
- 2009 “Clinton in China: Demoting Human Rights.” *International Herald Tribune*, Global edition of *The New York Times*, February 24.
- 2008 “McCain’s Rendezvous with Pinochet,” *Dissent* (online), October 31.

- 2008 "Who Counts? Refugees and the Politics of Indifference."
Human Rights & Human Welfare, Roundtable, Invited Panelist (August).
- 2008 "Mission Creep: De-Militarizing Humanitarian Protection."
Human Rights & Human Welfare, Roundtable, Invited Panelist (July).
- 2008 "The Myth of Membership: Reforming the U.N. Human Rights Council.",
Human Rights & Human Welfare, Roundtable, Invited Panelist (June).
- 2006 "Pinochet's Ironic Legacy, Energized Human Rights," *Hartford Courant* (December 12).
- 2005 "The Geneva Trap," *Foreign Policy in Focus*, March 25.
Reprinted in *Counterpunch* (March 29) and *Asia Times* (March 30).

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

- 2011-2013 Charles A. Dana Research Associate Professor.
- 2012-2013 Trinity College, Mellon Grant, Problem-Based Learning Project on Health and Human Rights (in collaboration with neuroscientist and biologist).
- 2008-2010/
2006-2007 Trinity College, Completion Grants.
- 2005-2008 Trinity College, Three-Year Faculty Research Grant.
- 2004-2005/
2002-2003 Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Faculty Affiliate.
- 2002-2003 Trinity College, One-Year Faculty Research Grant.
- Spring 2003 Trinity College, Center for Collaborative Teaching and Research, Fellow.
- 2001-2002 Canadian Studies Research Grant Program, Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada.
Grant for national human rights institutions project.
- 2000-2001 Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Pacific Basin Research Center/
Soka University. Grant for national human rights institutions project.
- 1997-1998 Civic Education Project/ Yale University, Tyumen University, Russia, Teaching
Fellowship (declined).
- 1992-1993 American University in Cairo, Egypt, Research Fellow.
- 1991-1995 University of Virginia, Philip Francis Du Pont Fellowship.

Invited Seminars and Workshops

- April 2011 Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar on Ethics and Globalization, opening remarks.
Duke University, Kenan Institute for Ethics.
- April 2009 Workshop on Human Rights Impact, Center for the Study of Human Rights.
Columbia University, NY.

- October 2008 Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Teaching Human Rights in the 21st Century American University. Columbia University, Center for the Study of Human Rights, NY.
- May 2008 Meeting on National Human Rights Institutions and the Academy. Harvard Law School, Human Rights Program, Cambridge, MA.
- June 2007 Working Meeting on National Human Rights Institutions. Harvard Law School, Human Rights Program, Cambridge, MA.
- January 2002 Workshop on Rebuilding Afghanistan and Beyond. Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA
- July-Aug 2000 Summer Workshop, Academic Council on the United Nations System & American Society of International Law, University of Warwick.

Selected Talks and Conference Presentations

- 2017 “Shifting the Human Rights Reporting Paradigm: From Description to Assessment.” Regional Consultation for North America, 2020 Review of the United Nations Treaty Body System,” Columbia University, New York, June.
- 2014 Discussant, “The Uses and Misuses of Human Rights.” International Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada, July.
- 2014 Panelist, Author’s Roundtable on *Chains of Justice: The Global Rise of State Institutions for Human Rights*. Academic Council on the United Nations System, Istanbul, Turkey, June.
- 2013 Discussant, “The Domestic Politics of International Human Rights Agreements.” Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University, November.
- 2013 Co-Organizer, Chair & Discussant, “The Protection of Human Rights: Institutions and Practices,” a conference sponsored by the human rights research committees of the International Political Science Association and the Russian Political Science Association, St. Petersburg, Russia, June.
- 2012 “The Torture Paradox: Human Rights Violations and the Logic of Increasing Returns.” British International Studies Association & International Studies Association Joint Conference. Edinburgh, Scotland, June.
- * International Political Science Association World Conference, Madrid, Spain, July.
- 2010 Chair and Discussant, “Aid, Trade, and Human Rights.” American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., September.
- 2009c “Social Science Perspectives on State Compliance and NHRIs.” Multi-disciplinary Perspectives on National Human Rights Institutions. Harvard Law School Human Rights Program & NYU Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. Cambridge, MA, September.
- 2009b Roundtable Participant, “Human Rights Commissions.” American Political Science Association. Toronto, Canada, September.
- 2009a Chair and Discussant, “The Geneva Conventions under Assault”; Chair, “Protecting the Individual in International Law.” International Studies Association. New York, NY February.

- 2008 Chair and Discussant. "Transitional Justice: The Role of Truth Commissions and Reparations." American Political Science Association. Boston, MA, September.
- 2007 "State Institutions for Human Rights: Latin America in Comparative Perspective." International Studies Association. Chicago, IL, February.
- 2003a "Regional Contagion? The Diffusion of International Human Rights Norms." American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA, August.
- 2003b "Constructing Rights: National Human Rights Institutions in Comparative Perspective." International Political Science Association. Durban, South Africa, July.
- 2002a Chair and Discussant. "Democratization and Human Rights." American Political Science Association. Boston, MA, September.
- 2002b "Commitment or Hypocrisy? International Norms and National Human Rights Institutions." American Political Science Association. Boston, MA, September.
- 2002c "Norm Makers and Breakers: The International Origins of National Human Rights Institutions." International Studies Association. New Orleans, LA, March.
- 2001a Chair and Discussant. "Translating Human Rights Norms into Policy and Practice." Northeast Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA, November.
- 2001b Chair. "Human Rights and Democracy in a Global Era." American Political Science Association. San Francisco, August-September.
- 2000a "NGOS and Governments: Conflict, Competition, and Cooperation." Woodbridge Speaker Series, Woodbridge Society. Harvard University, 20 November.
- 2000b "Who Reports? International Human Rights Treaties and State Practice." American Political Science Association. Washington, D.C., September.
- 1999 "Norms in Conflict: International Human Rights Influence Revisited." International Studies Association. Washington, D.C., February.
- 1998 "International Human Rights Pressure and Democratization: What's At Stake?" Hinman Symposium on Democratization and Human Rights. SUNY Binghamton, September.
- 1996 "Do International Norms Matter? Explaining State Responses to Human Rights Pressure." American Political Science Association. San Francisco, CA, September.
- 1995 "Beyond Compliance: Norms, Institutions, and the Human Rights Regime." International Studies Association. Chicago, IL, February.
- 1994 "International Human Rights Pressure and State Compliance." Northeast Political Science Association. Providence, RI, November.
- 1992 "A European Concept of Security for the Mediterranean: Evolving into the 1990s." Institute on Western Europe, Columbia University. New York, April.

Teaching

HUMAN RIGHTS COURSES

Introduction to Human Rights
First-Year Seminar: Debating Human Rights
The Politics of Human Rights in Latin America
International Human Rights Law
Human Rights in Global Politics (Notre Dame)
Human Rights Senior Seminar (Notre Dame)
Human Rights and International Relations (UVA)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

Introduction to Int'l Relations (Trinity, Notre Dame)
International Law (Trinity, Notre Dame)
International Organizations (Trinity, Notre Dame)
International Relations Theory
Senior Seminar: Transnational Networks
International Law and Organization (Adelphi)

Selected Professional Service

Board Memberships

2015-18 Advisory Board, Human Rights Law Implementation Project, Economic and Social Research Council (UK), a collaboration among four international human rights centers and the Open Justice Society Initiative.

2012-14/
2014-16 Executive Board, elected, International Political Science Association, Human Rights Research Committee.

2010- Editorial Board, *Human Rights Quarterly*.

2010- Editorial Board, *Journal of Human Rights*.

2011-13 Executive Council, At-Large Member, elected, International Studies Association, Human Rights Section.

2011-13 Editorial Board, International Studies Intensives, Paradigm Publishers, book series.

2007-10 Editorial Board, *Human Rights & Human Welfare*.

2006-07 Advisory Board, International Studies Association-Human Rights, Compendium Project.

Chair and Committee Service

2015-16 Co-Chair, Latin American Studies Association, Human Rights track, 50th Anniversary Meeting, New York City, May 2016 (2015-16).

2011-12 Co-Chair, Latin American Studies Association, Human Rights and Memory track, Annual Meeting, 2012, San Francisco.

2010-11 Chair, American Political Science Association, International Collaboration Division, Annual Meeting Program Committee, 2011, Seattle, WA.

2008-2009/
2004-2006 Selection Committee, Best Book Award, American Political Science Association-Human Rights Section.

2008 Steering Committee, Human Rights in the Academy Network (Columbia University).

External Reviews & Consultancies

- *Department & Program Reviews*: Bard College (Human Rights Program); Connecticut College (Political Science Department); University of Washington-Tacoma (BA, Human Rights); informal consultant to academic programs designing human rights curricula.
- *Grants Evaluator*: National Science Foundation (Law & Social Sciences Program); Swiss National Science Foundation.
- *Tenure and promotion cases*, liberal arts colleges and research universities.

Referee for Manuscripts**Journals**

American Historical Review
American Political Science Review
Comparative Political Studies
European Journal of Political Research
Global Governance
Human Rights & Human Welfare
Human Rights Review
Human Rights Quarterly
Intl Journal of Conflict & Violence
Intl Journal of Human Rights
International Organization
Intl Perspectives on Educ. & Society
International Politics

International Studies Quarterly
International Studies Review
Journal of Empirical Legal Studies
Journal of Human Rights
Journal of Peace Research
Journal of Politics
Law & Society Review
New England Journal of Pol Science
Nordic Journal of Human Rights
Policy & Politics
Social Forces
Social Problems
UNESCO Prospects: Review of Comp Educ
World Politics

Academic Presses

Cambridge University Press
 Georgetown University Press
 Kluwer Law

Longman
 Oxford University Press
 Palgrave/Macmillan
 University of Pennsylvania Press

TRINITY COLLEGE (pre-2013)

2012-2013 Financial Affairs Committee/ Planning & Budget Council, elected.
 2007-2013 Director, Human Rights Program (on leave, fall 2011).
 2012-2013 Grossman Committee, Center for Urban and Global Studies.
 2010-2011 Search Committee, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Chair in Urban Studies.
 2007-2010 Educational Policy Committee, elected (on leave, spring 2008).
 2009-2010 Ann Plato Diversity Fellowship, Selection Committee (spring 2009 & 2010).
 Spring 2010 Writing Center Advisory Board.
 2007-2012 Search Committees: Reitemeyer Professor of Pol Science; Pol Theory; Intl Pol Economy.
 2009 Faculty Advisory Board, Buenos Aires site.
 2007 Faculty Coordinator, Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science Honor Society).
 2006-2010 Presidential and Summit Scholars Committee.
 2006-2008 Faculty Adviser, Kellner Scholars.
 Fall 2007 First-Year Program Writing Assessment Pilot Project.
 2006-2007 College Affairs, elected.

- 2006-2007 Co-Coordinator, Trinity-in-Santiago Global Learning Site.
2005-2007 Co-Coordinator, Honors Theses, Department of Political Science.
Fall 2004 Cornerstone Advisory Committee on Diversity.
2003-2006 Committee on Committees, elected (on leave, 2004-2005).
Summer 2002 Search Committee: Social Sciences Data Librarian.
2002-2007 Faculty Advisory Board & Summer Fellows Selection Committee, Human Rts Program.

Foreign Languages

Spanish: Native fluency

French: 8 years of study

Italian & Portuguese: Reading

Egyptian Arabic: Basic (2-year residence & intensive summer course at the American University in Cairo)

Professional Academic Memberships

American Political Science Association (Human Rights Section)

International Studies Association (Human Rights Section)

American Society of International Law

Academic Council on the United Nations System

Latin American Studies Association