

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & SOCIOLOGY  
**CONNECTICUT COLLEGE**  
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# SIRI J. COLOM

## CURRENT POSITION

2014-2016 | C3 Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Studies and Sociology  
**Connecticut College**, New London, CT

## EDUCATION

2014 | **University of California Berkeley**  
Ph.D. in Sociology  
Qualifying Exams, May 2008: Urban Sociology, Development, Theory  
2002 | **University of Massachusetts Boston**  
M.A. in Applied Sociology with a certificate in Dispute Resolution  
1995 | **Tufts University**  
B.A. in English with a certificate in Peace and Justice Studies

## DISSERTATION

Title: **Politics of Visibility: Urban Housing Struggles in Post-Katrina New Orleans**  
Committee: Michael Burawoy (Chair), Laura Enríquez (sociology), Ananya Roy (City and Regional Planning)

An ethnographic study on post-Katrina New Orleans, which compares the political techniques and tactics used in three housing and land struggles: the closing of public housing, the razing of a neighborhood for a medical complex, and the “hypervisibility” of the Lower Ninth Ward. As residents expelled by the storm and flood soon discovered, rebuilding would not only require tools such as hammers and saws, but a new set of skills required to engage in the spatial politics of poverty.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban governance and politics, racial institutions of domination, political economy, development & globalization, theory, environmental change, and social change amidst socio-natural and economic disasters.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

2014-2016 | **Connecticut College**

*Contesting the City, Visualizing the City, and Sociology of the Wild*

2013 | **University of California Berkeley, Center for Ethnographic Research**

*Summer intensive course and internship on qualitative methods*

2012-2014 | **Mills College, Oakland**

*Sociological Theory, Introduction to Sociology, and Visualizing the City*

2013 | **University of California Berkeley**

*Contesting the City: The Bay Area; and Visualizing the City: Techniques of Urban Representation*

2007-2009 | **University of Massachusetts Boston**

*Urban Sociology: Boston as an Urban Laboratory, Sociological Theory; and Introduction to Sociology*

### GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING

2004-2011 | **University of California Berkeley, Graduate Student Instructor**

Sociological Theory I & II, and Sociological Methods

2009 | **Harvard University, Graduate Teaching Fellow**

Visualizing Human Rights and Social Change in Documentary Photography and Film

### OTHER TEACHING INTERESTS

Race, Class, and Gender; Race and Ethnicity; Development & Globalization; Environmental Sociology; Social Problems; Research Methods; Advanced Qualitative Research

### MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Graduate mentor for new graduate student instructors, Department of Sociology 2013-2014

SMART research mentoring program, Summer 2013

Invited participant for Graduate Student Instructors training 2009, 2011, & 2012

Mentor for Sociology Senior Thesis seminar, 2012-2013

## PUBLICATIONS

### ACADEMIC PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Colom, Siri. "Struggling for Visibility: The Politics of Redevelopment in Post-Katrina New Orleans,"  
*under revision per editorial invitation to revise and resubmit*

Colom, Siri, "Spatial Politics of Exclusion and Belonging," *under review*

Colom, Siri and Lydia Pelot-Hobbs. "Imprisoned Politics: Racial and Gendered Politics of Participation in Post-Katrina New Orleans," *preparing for submission*

Colom, Siri. "Re-Engineering Democracy: The expanding role of engineering firms in governance" *in progress*

## OTHER PUBLISHED WORK

- 2004 | "Tourist Scenarios in a Changing Cuba" Center for Latin American Studies
- 2001 | Review of *How Race is Lived in America*, *The Journal of Sociological Discourse*
- 2001 | "The Exhibit" *The Watermark: Journal of Poetry*; 2001 Issue
- 1997 | "Voyeurs to Our Own History: Book Review of *Without Sanctuary*" *Peacework*

## PRESENTATIONS

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 | "Political Economy & Social Movements in the South," Southern Sociological Society, Charlotte

### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 | "Public Housing and the Politics of Stigma," American Sociological Association, Chicago
- 2015 | "Ethnography: A Subject-centered Approach," American Sociological Association, Chicago
- 2015 | "Subcontracting Democracy," Everyday Life in the 21st Century, Florence, Italy
- 2015 | "Racial and Gendered Politics of Participation," Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans
- 2014 | "Re-Engineering Democracy: The Insertion of International engineering firms into the politics of representation," American Sociological Association, San Francisco
- 2014 | "Spaces of Technocracy: The Spatial Politics of Participation in Post-Katrina New Orleans," Society for the Study of Social Problems, *Critical Sociology*, San Francisco
- 2013 | "The Politics of Visibility: Contentious Struggle over Public Housing in post-Katrina New Orleans," American Sociological Association, New York City
- 2012 | "'Whose side are you on?' On Relationship, responsibility, and representation in research," symposium on Public Sociology, UC Berkeley
- 2011 | "Razing Housing, Raising Hospitals in Post-Katrina New Orleans," Social Science History Association, Boston
- 2011 | "Urban revitalization in New Orleans: A wolf in sheep's clothing," Urban Affairs Association, New Orleans
- 2011 | "Patriarchy, Prisons, and 'Public' Meetings," Southeastern Women Studies Association, Structural Adjustments: Queering Privatization, Framing Disaster, Atlanta
- 2010 | "Rights and Property in Three New Orleans' Post-Katrina Housing Struggles," American Anthropological Association, New Orleans
- 2010 | "Shelter Politics and the Anatomy of Housing Post-Katrina Housing Struggles in New Orleans," American Sociological Association, Atlanta
- 2007 | "Tourism in a local Cuban Barrio," invited presenter for Breslauer Symposium "Rule of Experts", University of California Berkeley

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

**Exemplary Diversity Scholar**, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan 2014

**Blumer Teaching Fellowship** 2013-2014, Department of Sociology UC Berkeley

**Center for Ethnographic Research**, UC Berkeley, 2011-2014, graduate fellow

**Institute for the Study of Societal Issues**, Graduate Student in Residence, 2011-2014

**Sage/Pine Forge Teaching development award**, ASA's Teaching and Learning section, 2012

**Summer Institute for Preparing Future Faculty Fellow**, UC Berkeley, 2012

**Andrew Mellon Fellowship in Latin American Sociology**, UC Berkeley, summer 2006

**Graduate Student Instructor Prize**, April 2006

**Robert and Alice Bridges Summer Research Grant**, Center for Latin American Research, 2004

**Andrew Mellon Fellowship in Latin American Sociology** for research on Havana, Cuba, UC Berkeley  
Department of Sociology 2005

**Graduate Opportunity Program fellowship** (2002-2006; 2010-2011) from the University of California  
Berkeley

## SERVICE ACTIVITIES

**Planning Committee member**, Creating Connections Consortium Diversity Summit, November 2015

**Reviewer**, American Journal of Sociology

**Panel co-organizer**, "Corruption", Political Sociology Section, American Sociological Association 2014

**Panel co-organizer and chair**, "Urban Spaces of Subversion and Submission," American Anthropological  
Association, San Francisco 2012

**Volunteer**: carpenter/general fixer-upper for housing rights organization Causa Justa/Just Cause in  
Oakland, CA, 2013-2014; and carpenter and youth worker for Youth In Action, Providence, RI,  
2014-2015.

**Co-developed** the Sociology Graduate Student wiki at UC Berkeley in 2008 as a democratic and student-  
run website and repository that collects information on graduate school and professional life.

**Discussant** "War, Nation, and Racialized Life" *Foucault for the 21st Century: Governmentality, Biopolitics  
and Discipline in the New Millennium*, University of Massachusetts Boston, April 2008

**Videographer** Public Sociology forums, UC Berkeley 2004-2007

**Student Editor**, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, 2002-2004

## AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association; sections: Race, Class, Gender; Community and Urban Sociology;  
Poverty and Inequality; Sociologists for Women in Society; American Anthropological Association

## REFERENCES

**Michael Burawoy**

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