

SONIA CARDENAS

Trinity College

Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor of Political Science

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Administrative Appointments at Trinity College

- Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, September 2021-
- Acting Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, March 2020-August 2021
- Interim Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, June 2019-March 2020
- Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation, November 2018-
- Dean of Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, January 2017-November 2018
- Dean of Academic Affairs, July 2015-December 2016; November 2018-June 2019
- Interim Dean of the Faculty, November 2015 – June 2016
- Associate Academic Dean, Office of the Dean of the Faculty, 2013-2015
- Director, Human Rights Program, 2007-2013

Faculty Appointments

- Trinity College, Hartford, CT
 - Professor of Political Science, 2013-
 - Charles A. Dana Research Associate Professor of Political Science, 2011-2013
 - Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2005-2013
 - Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2001-2005
- University of Notre Dame, Political Science Department, Visiting Assistant Professor, 1999-2000
- Adelphi University, NY, Political Science Department, Instructor, Spring 1999
- University of Virginia, Department of Politics, Instructor, Fall 1994

Research Appointments

- University of Cambridge, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Visiting Fellow, June 2006
- Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Faculty Affiliate, 2004-2005; 2002-2003
- Harvard University, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2000-2001; Affiliate, 2001-2002
- American University in Cairo, Egypt, Research Fellow, 1992-1993

EDUCATION

- University of Virginia, Ph.D., Government, August 1999
- Oxford University, Certificate, International Human Rights Law Programme, Summer 1995
- University of Virginia, M.A., Foreign Affairs, January 1991
- Tulane University, Newcomb College, B.A., International Relations and French, May 1989
- American University in Paris, France, Spring 1988
- Ursuline Academy, New Orleans, LA, 1985

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Human Rights in Latin America: A Politics of Transformation*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2d ed, fully updated and revised, co-authored with Rebecca Root, 2022.
- *Chains of Justice: The Global Rise of State Institutions for Human Rights*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.
- *Human Rights in Latin America: A Politics of Terror and Hope*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010.
- *Conflict and Compliance: State Responses to International Human Rights Pressure*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007; Paperback edition, 2010.

Articles and Chapters

- “Human Rights in Comparative Politics” in *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*, Michael Goodhart, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 1st edition, 2009; 2nd revised edition, 2013; 3rd revised edition, 2016.
- “Ethics, Politics, and the Democratic ‘War on Terror,’ Special Issue on David Forsythe’s Contributions to Human Rights,” *Journal of Human Rights* (August 2012): 350-55.
- “State Compliance and National Human Rights Institutions,” in *Multidisciplinary Perspectives on National Human Rights Institutions, State Compliance, and Social Change*, Ryan Goodman and Thomas Pegram, eds. (Cambridge Univ Press, 2011), 29-51.
- “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, 2011) 5, 2: 11-25.
- “Human Rights and the State,” in *International Studies Encyclopedia*, Robert Denemark, ed. (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010), [10,000 words].
- “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, 2010), Chapter 1.
- “Mainstreaming Human Rights: Publishing Trends in Political Science,” *PS: Politics and Political Science* (January 2009): 161-166. Subject of “Political Scientists and Human Rights,” *Inside Higher Education*, Jan. 20, 2009.
- “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, 2009).
- “Violators’ Accounts: Hypocrisy and Human Rights Rhetoric in the Southern Cone.” *Journal of Human Rights* 5, no. 4 (October-December 2006): 439-451.
- “Constructing Rights? Human Rights Education and the State.” *International Political Science Review* 26, no. 4 (October 2005): 363-379.
- “National Human Rights Institutions in the Middle East,” co-authored with Andrew Flibbert. *Middle East Journal* 59, no. 3 (July 2005): 411-436.
- “Norm Collision: Explaining the Effects of International Human Rights Pressure on State Behavior.” *International Studies Review* 6, no. 2 (June 2004): 213-231.

- “Transgovernmental Activism: Canada’s Role in Promoting National Human Rights Commissions.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 25, no. 3 (August 2003): 775-790.
- “Emerging Global Actors: The United Nations and National Human Rights Institutions.” *Global Governance* 9, no. 1 (Winter 2003): 23-42.
- “Combining Legal and Political Approaches: Recent Scholarship on Human Rights in Latin America.” *Latin American Research Review* 35, no. 3 (Spring 2000): 252-267.
- “Adaptive States: The Proliferation of National Human Rights Institutions.” Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2001. Working Paper Series T-01-04, 56 pages.
- “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.
- “The Contested Territories of Ceuta and Melilla.” *Mediterranean Quarterly* 7, no. 1 (Winter 1996): 118-131.

Opinion Pieces (Higher Education)

- “Principles of Academic Freedom and DEI Should Not Collide,” Letter to the Editor, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 20, 2023.
- “Preparing Engaged Citizens for Life after Roe v. Wade,” *Hartford Courant*, June 29, 2022.
- “3 Steps for Increasing Faculty Diversity,” co-authored with Anita Davis, *Inside Higher Ed*, September, November 2, 2021.
- “Liberal Arts Colleges Must Be Partners in Workforce Development,” *The Hechinger Report*, September 1, 2021.
- “Who is Latinx and What Does It Mean?” *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, August 31, 2021.
- “Outrage is Easy. Only Education Can Get Us to a Place of Awareness,” co-authored with Joanne Berger-Sweeney, *Hartford Courant*, June 10, 2020.
- “Why Society Will Need Liberal Arts Graduates,” *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, April 16, 2020.
- “Don’t Scrap Liberal Arts Majors,” Letter to the Editor, *The New York Times*, June 3, 2018.

- “What Higher Ed Can Learn from Design Thinking,” Letter to the Editor, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 29, 2018.
- “Shared Leadership in Higher Education,” What I’m Reading series, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 25, 2017.
- “Is There a Right to (Tuition-Free) Higher Ed?” *Huffington Post*, March 29, 2016.

Opinion Pieces (Global Human Rights)

- “I Thought I Knew What Bravery Was. And Then I Saw Ukraine,” Letter to the Editor, *The New York Times*, February 28, 2022.
- “Confronting Racism in the US: Are Civil Rights Enough?” *openGlobalRights*, January 2015.
- “The Argentine Therapist,” Letter to the Editor, *The New York Times*, August 27, 2012.
- “Trials of Shame,” *Dissent* (online), January 31, 2012.
- *Erga Omnes*: A blog about the politics and human rights of universal jurisdiction, 2011-2013.
- “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 2010.
- “Why We Love to Hate Pirates: Truth and Consequences,” *CounterPunch*, co-authored with Andrew Flibert, May 22-24, 2009.
- “Clinton in China: Demoting Human Rights,” *International Herald Tribune*, Global edition of *The New York Times*, February 24, 2009.
- “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 2008.
- “Pinochet’s Ironic Legacy, Energized Human Rights,” *Hartford Courant*, December 12, 2006.
- “The Geneva Trap,” *Foreign Policy in Focus*, March 25; Reprinted in *Counterpunch* (March 29, 2005) and *Asia Times* (March 30, 2005).

Book Reviews

- Review of *Evading International Norms: Race and Rights in the Shadow of Legality* by Zoltán I. Búzás, in *Perspectives on Politics*, December 2021.
- Review of *Impunity, Human Rights, and Democracy: Chile and Argentina, 1990-2005* by Thomas C. Wright, in *American Historical Review*, 2016.
- Review of *Reckoning with Pinochet: The Memory Question in Democratic Chile, 1989-2006* by Steve Stern, Duke University Press in *Human Rights Quarterly* (January 2012): 285-89.
- Review of *Skeletons in the Closet: Transitional Justice in Post-Communist Europe*, Monika Napela, Cambridge Univ. Press, in *Political Science Quarterly* (Spring 2011): 163-165.
- “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, in *H-Human Rights*, 2009.
- Review of *Human Rights and Structural Adjustment* by M. Rodwan Abouharb and David Cingranelli, Cambridge University Press, in *Perspectives on Politics* 7, no. 2 (2009): 441-442.
- 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, in *European Journal of International Law*, 18, no. 2 (2007): 367-373 [3,700 words].
- Review of *Human Rights in the Arab World*, edited by Amr Hamzawy and Anthony Chase. University of Pennsylvania Press, in *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, October 2006.
- 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 Univ Press, in *Journal of Politics* 68, no. 1 (February 2006): 227-229.
- Review of *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force* by Martha Finnemore, Cornell, in *Ethics and International Affairs* 18, no. 1 (Winter 2004): 103-104.

- 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, in *Perspectives on Politics* 1, no. 4 (December 2003): 827.
- Review of *Rethinking Humanitarian Intervention* by Brian Lepard, Pennsylvania State University Press, in *International Politics* 40, no. 2 (June 2003): 299-301.
- Review of *Human Rights: Politics and Idolatry* by Michael Ignatieff, Princeton University Press, in *Millennium* 31, no. 3 (July 2002): 720-722.
- “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, in *International Studies Review* 2, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 147-149.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Mellon-Funded Grant, Trinity College, Problem-Based Learning project on Health and Human Rights, in collaboration with neuroscientist and biologist, 2012-2013
- Publication Completion Grants, Trinity College, 2008-2010; 2006-2007
- Three-Year Faculty Research Grant, Trinity College, 2005-2008
- One-Year Faculty Research Grant, Trinity College, 2002-2003
- Fellow, Center for Collaborative Teaching and Research, Trinity College, Spring 2003
- Grant, Canadian Studies Research Grant Program, Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada, for national human rights institutions project, 2001-2002
- Grant, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Pacific Basin Research Center/ Soka University, Grant for national human rights institutions project, 2000-2001
- Teaching Fellow, Civic Education Project/ Yale University, Tyumen University, Russia, 1997-1998 (declined)
- Philip Francis Du Pont Fellowship, University of Virginia, 1991-1995
- National Hispanic Scholar, U.S. College Board, 1985

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Seminars and Workshops

- Duke University, Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar on Ethics and Globalization, opening remarks, Kenan Institute for Ethics, April 2011
- Columbia University, Workshop on Human Rights Impact, Center for the Study of Human Rights, April 2009
- Columbia University, Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Teaching Human Rights in the 21st Century American University, Center for the Study of Human Rights, October 2008.
- Harvard Law School, Meeting on National Human Rights Institutions and the Academy, Human Rights Program, Cambridge, MA, May 2008
- Harvard Law School, Working Meeting on National Human Rights Institutions, Human Rights Program, Cambridge, MA., June 2007
- Harvard University, Workshop on Rebuilding Afghanistan and Beyond, Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA, January 2002
- Academic Council on the United Nations System & American Society of International Law, Summer Workshop at the University of Warwick, July-August 2000

Conference Presentations and Selected Talks

- Presenter, “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 2017.
- 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* by Sonia Cardenas, **Academic Council on the United Nations System**, Istanbul, Turkey, June 2014.
- 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,” sponsored by the human rights research committees of the **International Political Science Association and the Russian Political Science Association**, St. Petersburg, Russia, June 2013.

- Presenter, “The Torture Paradox: Human Rights Violations and the Logic of Increasing Returns,” **British International Studies Association & International Studies Association** Joint Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 2012.
- Presenter, “The Torture Paradox: Human Rights Violations and the Logic of Increasing Returns,” **International Political Science Association World Conference**, Madrid, Spain, July 2012.
- Chair and Discussant, “Aid, Trade, and Human Rights,” **American Political Science Association**, Washington, D.C., September 2010.
- Presenter, “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 2009.
- Roundtable Participant, “Human Rights Commissions,” **American Political Science Association**, Toronto, Canada, September 2009.
- Chair and Discussant, “The Geneva Conventions under Assault,” and Chair, “Protecting the Individual in International Law,” **International Studies Association**, New York, NY February 2009.
- Chair and Discussant, “Transitional Justice: The Role of Truth Commissions and Reparations,” **American Political Science Association**, Boston, MA, September 2008.
- Presenter, “State Institutions for Human Rights: Latin America in Comparative Perspective,” **International Studies Association**, Chicago, IL, February 2007.
- Presenter, “Regional Contagion? The Diffusion of International Human Rights Norms,” **American Political Science Association**, Philadelphia, PA, August 2003.
- Presenter, “Constructing Rights: National Human Rights Institutions in Comparative Perspective,” **International Political Science Association**, Durban, South Africa, July 2003.
- Chair and Discussant. “Democratization and Human Rights,” **American Political Science Association**, Boston, MA, September 2002.
- Presenter, “Commitment or Hypocrisy? International Norms and National Human Rights Institutions,” **American Political Science Association**, Boston, MA, September 2002.
- Presenter, “Norm Makers and Breakers: The International Origins of National Human Rights Institutions,” **International Studies Association**, New Orleans, LA, March 2002.
- Chair and Discussant, “Translating Human Rights Norms into Policy and Practice,” **Northeast Political Science Association**, Philadelphia, PA, November 2001.

- Chair, “Human Rights and Democracy in a Global Era,” **American Political Science Association**, San Francisco, August-September 2001.
- Speaker, “NGOS and Governments: Conflict, Competition, and Cooperation,” Woodbridge Speaker Series, **Woodbridge Society, Harvard University**, 20 November 2000.
- Presenter, “Who Reports? International Human Rights Treaties and State Practice,” **American Political Science Association**, Washington, D.C., September 2000.
- Presenter, “Norms in Conflict: International Human Rights Influence Revisited,” **International Studies Association**, Washington, D.C., February 1999.
- Presenter, “International Human Rights Pressure and Democratization: What’s at Stake?” Hinman Symposium on Democratization and Human Rights, **SUNY Binghamton**, September.
- Presenter, “Do International Norms Matter? Explaining State Responses to Human Rights Pressure,” **American Political Science Association**, San Francisco, CA, September 1996.
- Presenter, “Beyond Compliance: Norms, Institutions, and the Human Rights Regime,” **International Studies Association**, Chicago, IL, February 1995.
- Presenter, “International Human Rights Pressure and State Compliance,” **Northeast Political Science Association**, Providence, RI, November 1994.
- Presenter, “A European Concept of Security for the Mediterranean: Evolving into the 1990s,” **Institute on Western Europe, Columbia University**. New York, April 1992.

TEACHING PORTFOLIO

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 International 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 Service

- 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, 2015-2018
- Executive Board, elected, International Political Science Association, Human Rights Research Committee, 2012-2014/2014-2016
- Editorial Review Board, *Human Rights Quarterly*, 2010-
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Human Rights*, 2010-
- Executive Council, At-Large Member, elected, International Studies Association, Human Rights Section, 2011-2013
- Editorial Board, International Studies Intensives, Paradigm Publishers, book series, 2011-2013
- Editorial Board, *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, 2007-2010
- Advisory Board, International Studies Association-Human Rights, Compendium Project, 2006-2007

Chair and Committee Service to Professional Organizations

- Co-Chair, Latin American Studies Association, Human Rights track, 50th Anniversary Meeting, New York City, May 2016 (2015-2016)
- Co-Chair, Latin American Studies Association, Human Rights and Memory track, Annual Meeting, 2012, San Francisco, 2011-12
- Chair, American Political Science Association, International Collaboration Division, Annual Meeting Program Committee, 2011, Seattle, WA
- Selection Committee, Best Book Award, American Political Science Association-Human Rights Section, 2008-2009/2004-2006
- Steering Committee, Human Rights in the Academy Network (Columbia University), 2008

External Reviewer and Consultant

- *Opponent, Ph.D. Political Science Dissertation Defense*, National Human Rights Institutions in Africa, University of Stockholm, March 2022.

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

Manuscript Evaluator

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
- International Journal of Conflict & Violence
- International Journal of Human Rights
- International Organization
- International Perspectives on Educ & Society
- International Politics
- International Studies Quarterly
- International Studies Review
- Journal of East Asian Studies
- 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 Education
- World Politics

Academic Presses

- Cambridge University Press
- Georgetown University Press
- Kluwer Law
- Longman
- Oxford University Press
- Palgrave/Macmillan
- University of Pennsylvania Press

Professional 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

Trinity College Service (pre-2013)

- Financial Affairs Committee/ Planning & Budget Council, elected, 2012-2013
- Director, Human Rights Program (on leave, fall 2011), 2007-2013

- Grossman Committee, Center for Urban and Global Studies, 2012-13
- Search Committee, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Chair in Urban Studies, 2010-2011
- Educational Policy Committee, elected (on leave, spring 2008), 2007-2010
- Ann Plato Diversity Fellowship, Selection Committee (spring 2009 & 2010).
- Writing Center Advisory Board, Spring 2010
- Political Science Search Committees: Reitemeyer Professor of Political Science; Political Theory; International Political Economy, 2007-2012
- Faculty Advisory Board, Buenos Aires site, 2009
- Faculty Coordinator, Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science Honor Society), 2007
- Presidential and Summit Scholars Committee, 2006-2010
- Faculty Adviser, Kellner Scholars, 2006-2008
- First-Year Program Writing Assessment Pilot Project, fall 2007
- College Affairs, elected, 2006-2007
- Co-Coordinator, Trinity-in-Santiago Global Learning Site, 2006-2007
- Co-Coordinator, Honors Theses, Department of Political Science, 2005-2007
- Cornerstone Advisory Committee on Diversity, fall 2004
- Committee on Committees, elected (on leave, 2004-2005), 2003-2006
- Search Committee, Social Sciences Data Librarian, summer 2002
- Faculty Advisory Board and Summer Fellows Selection Committee, Human Rights Program, 2002-07

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

- 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)