



Elizabeth (Liz) McKenna

T:  +1 (650) 867-0950
T:  +55 (21) 98781-5846
Email: emckenna@jhu.edu
Website: elizabethmckenna.org

Academic Appointments

Johns Hopkins University (2019–present)

Postdoctoral scholar at the SNF Agora Institute and P3 Lab

Education

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in Sociology, 2020

M.A. in Sociology, 2015

Committee: Mara Loveman (chair), Samuel Lucas, Kim Voss, and Paul Pierson (external)

Harvard University

B.A. in Social Studies, 2008

Senior thesis: *'To Be Human Is To Be A Capitalist': A Critique of Microfinance*

❖ Thomas T. Hoopes Prize

Research

Books

Hahrie Han, Elizabeth McKenna, and Michelle Oyakawa. 2021. *Prisms of the People: Power and Organizing in 21st Century America*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Elizabeth McKenna and Hahrie Han. 2014. *Groundbreakers: How Obama's 2.2 Million Volunteers Transformed Campaigning in America*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Book Project

Elizabeth McKenna. *The Revolution Will Be Organized: Power and Protest in Brazil's New Republic, 1988-2018*.

❖ 2021 American Sociological Association Dissertation Award

Published Articles and Book Chapters

Elizabeth McKenna. 2020. "Taxes and Tithes: The Organizational Foundations of Bolsonarismo." *International Sociology* 35 (6): 610-631. [\[link\]](#)

Michelle Oyakawa, Elizabeth McKenna, Hahrie Han. 2020. "Habits of Courage: Reconceptualizing Risk in Social Movement Organizing." *Journal of Community Psychology*, 1-21. [\[link\]](#)

Breno Bringel and Elizabeth McKenna. 2020. "Social Movements in a Global Context" in Walter W. Powell and Patricia Bromley, eds. *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook* (Third Edition). Stanford University Press, 631-647. [\[link\]](#)

Marshall Ganz and Elizabeth McKenna. 2018. "Bringing Leadership Back In" in David A. Snow, Sarah A. Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly McCammon, eds. *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Social Movements* (Second Edition). Wiley-Blackwell, 185-202. [\[link\]](#)

Hahrie Han and Elizabeth McKenna. 2016. "The Untilled Field of Field Campaigns." *Perspectives on Politics* 14(3): 750-57. [\[link\]](#)

Papers under review

Elizabeth McKenna. "From Mobilization to Organization: The Dynamics of Protest in the Digital Age."
❖ Herbert Blumer Paper Prize, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

Hahrie Han, Andrea Campbell, Elizabeth McKenna. "Civic Feedbacks: Linking Participation, Organizational Strategy, and Influence Over Public Policy."

Matthew Richmond and Elizabeth McKenna. "Placing the Peripheries Within Brazil's Rightward Turn: Urban Transformation and Electoral Realignment."

Working papers

Elizabeth McKenna. "All Politics is Social: The Microfoundations of Social Movement Momentum."

Elizabeth McKenna. "Electoral Sandcastles: The Problem of Civic and Political Infrastructure Funding in America."

Elizabeth McKenna and Maria Paola Ometto. "The Boycott That Never Was: Political Capitalism and the Targets of Contention in Brazil."

Public sociology & other writing

Michelle Oyakawa, Elizabeth McKenna, Hahrie Han. 2021. "Constituency as an Independent Source of Power," *Social Science Research Council*.

Hahrie Han and Elizabeth McKenna. 2021. "To Learn About the Democratic Party's Future, Look to What Latino Organizers did in Arizona," *The Washington Post, Monkey Cage*.

Hahrie Han, Elizabeth McKenna, Michelle Oyakawa. 2021. "Book chat with the authors of *Prisms of the People*," *Markets, Power, and Culture*.

Doran Schrantz, Michelle Oyakawa, Elizabeth McKenna. 2020. "Building Political Bases to Make Multiracial Democracy Work," *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

Elizabeth McKenna and Peter Levine. 2020. "The ISIAAH Trash Referendum," *SNF Agora Case Studies Series*.

Hahrie Han and Elizabeth McKenna. 2020. "The AMOS Project and the Campaign for Universal Preschool," *SNF Agora Case Studies Series*.

Matthew Richmond and Elizabeth McKenna. 2020. "Revoltas Regionais: Direitização Eleitoral no Brasil e nos EUA," *Horizontes ao Sul*.

- Elizabeth McKenna. 2018. "The Life and Death of Brazil's New Republic," *Berkeley Review of Latin American Studies*, Winter Issue: 14-19; 55-57.
- Hahrie Han and Elizabeth McKenna. 2017. "Hillary for America and the 2016 Election: A Field Organization Inquiry and Debrief," confidential report.
- Elizabeth McKenna. 2017. "Reforma Eleitoral: Mudar Tudo Para Não Mudar Nada," NEXO. Translation cross-posted on *The Berkeley Blog* and the *Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies*.
- Marshall Ganz and Elizabeth McKenna. 2017. "The Practice of Social Movement Leadership," *Mobilizing Ideas*.
- Elizabeth McKenna. 2015. "Tottering Toward the Brink: Brazil's Political Unraveling," *Berkeley Review of Latin American Studies*, Fall Issue: 22-27.
- Rebecca Tarlau and Elizabeth McKenna. 2015. "The Myth of Unified Unrest in Brazil," *Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies*.
- Hahrie Han and Elizabeth McKenna. 2014. "Engaging Voters Can Kick Start Community Activism," *The Washington Post, Monkey Cage*.
- Hahrie Han and Elizabeth McKenna. 2014. "Getting Out The Vote: Not All Ground Games Are Alike," *The Conversation*.
- Elizabeth McKenna. 2014. "Where Are The Protests? The Fitful Giant and Its *Futebol*," *Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies*.

Grants, & fellowships

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2014-2019
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2017-2018
- UC Berkeley Department of Sociology Leo Lowenthal Fellowship, 2018
- Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Ph.D. Fellowship, 2016-2017
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide, 2017
- UC Berkeley Public Sociology Prize, 2015
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (for Brazilian Portuguese), 2013-2014
- UC Berkeley Social Justice Fellowship, 2014
- Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies Travel Grant, 2014
- Elliot and Anne Richardson Public Service Fellowship, 2008
- Alex G. Booth Travel Fellowship, 2008
- David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Grant, 2007
- Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Public Service Fellowship, 2006

Invited presentations

Prisms of the People: Power and Organizing in 21st Century America book talk series:

ACADEMIC

George Mason University, Organization Development and Knowledge (January 20, 2021)
University of California, Irvine Center for the Study of Democracy (March 5, 2021)
University of California, Los Angeles Movements, Organizations, and Markets (April 8, 2021)
Scholars Strategy Network (April 27, 2021)
Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Governance (May 4, 2021) [\[link\]](#)

PRACTITIONER

New Virginia Majority All-Staff Meeting (April 9, 2021)
Leading Change Network (April 21, 2021)
Ohio Organizing Collaborative All-Staff Retreat (April 21, 2021)
PowerLabs (April 29, 2021) [\[link\]](#)
Climate Advocacy Lab Keynote Address (May 18, 2021)
Organizing Empowerment Project (May 24 and June 14, 2021)

PHILANTHROPY

Ford Foundation event co-sponsored by the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative, Democracy and Power Innovation Fund, Funders' Committee for Civic Participation, Heising-Simons Foundation, JPB Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Rockefeller Family Fund (May 11, 2021) [\[link\]](#)
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (May 12, 2021)

Flipping the Formula to Build Multiracial Governing Power in America

Australia Progress Global Study Tour, with Joy Cushman (May 26, 2021) [\[link\]](#)

From Patients to Voters: Civic Engagement in Health Care

Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Governance, with Deborah Turner, Parissa Ballard, and Alister Martin (August 5, 2020) [\[link\]](#)

The Revolution Will Be Organized: Power and Protest in Brazil's New Republic, 1988-2018

Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference at Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN (May 3, 2019)

Dilemas Democráticos: Mudanças no Terreno Político do Brasil

Grupo de Brasileiros Pesquisadores, Estudantes, e Profissionais de Tecnologia e Inovação da Bay Area, Stanford, CA (May 22, 2019)

Democratic Dilemmas: Shifting Political Terrain in Brazil

Summer institute on the global rise of authoritarianism for community college instructors. Office of Resources for International and Area Studies Berkeley, CA (May 31, 2019)

People, Power, and Change: Democracy and Organizing in the U.S. and Brazil

Public talk with Marshall Ganz at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA (January 17, 2019)

How Movements Build Power: Leadership, Strategy, and Organization in Four American States

Democratic Anxieties, Democratic Resilience. Social Science Research Council and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Mainz, DE (June 15, 2017)

Groundbreakers: How Obama's 2.2 Million Volunteers Transformed Campaigning in America

Book talks for the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA (April 10, 2015) and the Wellesley Club of the Bay Area, Berkeley, CA (April 11, 2015)

A New Movement Era? Mobilizing and Organizing in Brazil's 2013-2016 Protest Cycle

San Francisco State University (December 9, 2015), Haas School of Business (October 4, 2016), Media and Global Protest Movements Summer Session at UC Berkeley (August 14, 2014 and July 15, 2015)

Conference presentations

The Revolution Will Be Organized: Power and Protest in Brazil's New Republic, 1988-2018

114th Meeting of the American Sociological Association (New York, NY). 2019.

Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting. (Barcelona, ES). 2018.

Perennial Plutocracy: The Role of Capital in the Return of Authoritarianism to Brazil

American Sociological Association Political Sociology Mini-Conference (New York, NY). 2019.

UC Berkeley Center for Right-Wing Studies Inaugural Conference (Berkeley, CA). 2019.

The Boycott that Never Was: Challenges to the Private Sector in Brazil, 1975-2015

UCLA Luskin Conference on Social Movements, Economic Innovation, and Institutional Change (Los Angeles, CA). 2016.

Counting Protesters, or Making Protest Count? The Dynamics of Online-to-Offline Mobilizing in Brazil

Kellogg Northwestern Conference on Social Movements and the Economy. (Evanston, IL). 2015.

A Tale of Three Cities: Class and Politics in Brazil's June Days and Beyond

110th Meeting of the American Sociological Association. (Chicago, IL). 2015.

Democratic Organizing and the Academy

109th Meeting of the American Sociological Association. (San Francisco, CA). 2014.

Teaching

Co-Instructor for Practicing Democracy (AS.191.367). SNF Agora Institute 2020 Intersession Series.

Graduate Student Instructor for Sociology 5: Research Methods (Haveman). 2016.

Service & mentoring

Research partner and learning cohort advisor, Democracy and Power Innovation Fund, 2019-present

Advisory board member, Leading Change Network, 2014-2019

Sub-theme co-organizer, Latin American and European Organization Studies, 2018

Grad student coordinator, Berkeley Social Justice Fellowship, 2014-2016

Editorial board member, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, 2013-2016

Senior thesis mentor, John Towey (political and cultural attitudes towards organized labor), 2016

Conference co-organizer, UC Berkeley Sociology Social Movements Conference, 2015

Jury for UC Berkeley Media and Global Protest Movements final presentations, 2014 and 2015

Ad hoc reviewer for the *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Mobilization*, and the *Journal of Community Psychology*

Skills and training

Languages: Portuguese (fluent), Spanish (advanced)

Technical: R, Qualtrics, dedoose, NVivo, L^AT_EX, some Python

Other work experience

Obama for America: Field organizer (Port Clinton, OH). 2008. Regional field director (Columbus, OH). 2012.

New Sector Alliance: Founding program manager (Oakland, CA). 2010-12.

Comitê Pela Democratização da Informática: Public sector initiatives. 2009-10. (Rio de Janeiro, BR).

References

Mara Loveman

Professor of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley
mloveman@berkeley.edu

Kim Voss

Professor of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley
kimvoss@berkeley.edu

Hahrie Han

Professor of Political Science
Director of the SNF Agora Institute
Johns Hopkins University
hahrie@jhu.edu

Marshall Ganz

Rita E. Hauser Senior Lecturer in Leadership,
Organizing, and Civil Society
Harvard Kennedy School
marshall_ganz@harvard.edu

Last updated: June 18, 2021