

# Jonathon Acosta

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## EDUCATION:

**Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

**Sociology, Doctor of Philosophy,**

September 2017 - Present

- Studies focus on inequality, poverty, neighborhoods, Latin America, social movements, & marginalized group representation in politics.

- Affiliated with the Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC), Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) and the Graduate Program in Development (GPD).

- Completed Preliminary Exams in Social Theory and Political Sociology (with Distinction).

**Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

**Urban Education Policy, Master of Arts,**

June 2015 - May 2016

- Economic theory and application in the urban education policy setting.

- Quantitative and qualitative methods for evaluating policy and program effectiveness.

- Internship included developing a rubric and implementation plan for evaluating cultural competence in over 200 staff members of the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy School district.

**Brown University**, Providence, Rhode Island

**Political Science/Ethnic Studies, Bachelor of Arts,**

September 2007 – May 2011

- Studies focused in policy development, ethnic studies, and social science research.

- Comparative study of different political systems and individual nations around the globe; the philosophical study of political ideas.

**Casa de Las Américas**, Habana, Cuba

**Study abroad, Spanish language immersion,**

September 2009 – December 2009

## AWARDS:

**Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC) Trainee Fellowship**, Population Studies and Training Center, 2023-2024

This competitive award is funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health. The fellowship will support my dissertation community study. Specifically, it will allow me to complete the household survey component of the project and give me time to analyze the data and write.

**ASA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (ASA DDRIG)**, American Sociological Association, 2023

Awarded the ASA DDRIG for project “Rust Belt Survival: Economic Decline and Immigrant Incorporation in New England”. The ASA DDRIG program funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF) supports theoretically grounded empirical investigations to advance understanding of fundamental social processes. Up to 25 awards given each year.

**Beatrice and Joseph Feinberg Memorial Fund**, 2022-2023

Graduate research fund for dissertation research-related expenses. This award covered part of the cost of administering the household survey component of my dissertation.

**Graduate Student Fellowship**, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, 2022-2023

This competitive fellowship is for 5th or 6th year graduate students in any humanities or social science department or program whose dissertation is focused on questions related to issues of race, ethnicity or indigeneity in the United States or in a transnational/comparative framework that includes the U.S.

**Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC) Trainee Fellowship**, Population Studies and Training Center, 2019-2020

This competitive award is funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health. The fellowship supports my research on the relationship between poverty, neighborhood effects and academic achievement.

**Graduate Program in Development Summer Research Award**, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, 2019

This research award supported my work on charismatic authority in Bolivia. I traveled to La Paz during the 2019 Presidential election year to interview people on their political preferences. Over a few weeks, I was able to carry out semi-structured in-depth interviews with 14 respondents.

**Graduate Program in Development (GPD) Fellowship**, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, 2018

This competitive fellowship brings together students from history, political science, anthropology, economics, sociology and anthropology to develop fluency in interdisciplinary methods. It emphasizes advanced interdisciplinary training in the area of development and inequality.

**Joukowsky Summer Research Travel Award**, Brown University Graduate School, 2018

This award is granted on a competitive basis to students from the Graduate School who are pursuing scholarly activities outside of Brown during the summer months. Award decisions are based upon academic merit and projected impact on the research trajectory or academic training.

**Tinker Field Research Grant**, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, 2018

The grant supports pre-dissertation fieldwork in Latin America and the Caribbean by Brown doctoral students from all disciplines. The grant supported fieldwork in Bolivia on political participation of marginalized groups.

**Community Champion Award**, Rhode Island Latino Public Radio, 2016

Awarded to an individual who plays a part in influencing the next generation of students, professionals, and leaders. Recognizes those who have made strides in the Latino community and left their mark in Rhode Island's educational landscape.

**White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics**, White House, 2015

Features Hispanic teachers who demonstrate that, while they are underrepresented, there are many Hispanics who are dedicating themselves to serving their community through teaching.

**Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award**, Brown University, 2010

Awarded to students who wish to collaborate with Brown faculty on research and teaching projects during the summer or the academic year.

**IBIS Scholar**, Coral Reef Senior High School IBIS Foundation, 2007

An academic award given to high achieving low income students headed to college from the International Baccalaureate program at Coral Reef Senior High School.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Acosta, Jonathon. 2023. "No MAS: Who Said No to Evo in Bolivia?" *Sociology of Development* 1–22. doi: [10.1525/sod.2022.0019](https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2022.0019).

## **WORKING PAPERS**

Acosta, Jonathon “A Tale of Four Cities: Neighborhood Effects and Academic Achievement in an Intentionally Diverse Environment”

Acosta Jonathon “New Immigrants in Local Politics: The Political Demography of a Square Mile”

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

**Acosta, Jonathon**, Richard Lachmann, and Josh Pacewicz. 2020. “Neoliberalism Is Driving Away Working-Class Voters of Color. They Need to Be Won Back.” Retrieved January 24, 2022

(<https://jacobinmag.com/2020/12/2020-election-biden-trump-latino-vote>).

Upegui, David, and **Jonathon Acosta**. 2015. “We Need Latino Teachers.” *The Providence Journal*.

Retrieved November 29, 2022 (<https://www.providencejournal.com/story/opinion/2015/10/30/we-need-latino-teachers/33189215007/>).

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Migration; Political Sociology; Stratification and Inequality; Sociology of Race; Social Policy and Theory; Education Policy; Legal Reform.

Completed preliminary exams in social theory (Summer 2019) and with distinction in political sociology (Summer 2020).

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

### **Fieldwork in La Paz, Bolivia**

July 2018 - August 2018; July 2019

### **Tinker Field Research Grant/Joukowsky Summer Research Award/GPD Summer Research Grant**

I conducted fieldwork in La Paz, Bolivia with the support of the Tinker Field Research Grant, the Joukowsky Summer Research Award, and the Graduate Program in Development Summer Research Grant. I attended more than a dozen neighborhood association meetings and carried out 29 in-depth interviews with neighborhood association officials, nonprofit directors, university students, and opposition group organizers.

### **Independent Study**

September 2015 - May 2016

### **Mentored by: Warren Simmons & Michael Grady, Providence, RI**

Under the guidance of the Executive Directors of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, I was responsible for researching culturally responsive teaching (CRT) and creating a rubric for evaluating K-12 teachers and staff on their cultural responsiveness. The rubric and professional development plan were approved by the Board of the Blackstone Valley Prep Charter School Network and implemented for use on its staff of 200+ people.

### **Research Assistant,**

May 2010 – September 2012

### **Director of the Pembroke Center: Professor Kay Warren, Providence, RI**

In this job I worked closely with Professor Warren to perform a qualitative analysis of human trafficking prosecutions in the Colombian legal system across legal reforms from the inquisitorial to the adversarial system in the first decade of the 21st century. We did this by reading through trial records from Human Trafficking cases which range in length from 250-1500 pages long.

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Presenter**

New Orleans, LA

April 2023

Presentation titled “New Immigrants in Local Politics: The Political Demography of a Square Mile” in panel “Local Focus: Demography at the Local, State, and Regional Level”.

### **Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Annual Meeting, Presenter**

Baltimore, MD

March 2023

Presentation titled “New Immigrants in Local Politics: The Political Demography of a Square Mile” in panel “Migration, Culture and Population Dynamics”.

### **Brown University Love Data Week, Presenter**

Vice President for Research, Brown University, Providence, RI February 2023  
Presentation titled “Archives, Big Data, Surveys, and Interviews: Taking in the Community”.

**Camps in the 21st Century Americas, Panelist**

CLACS at Brown University, Providence, RI December 2022

A symposium organized by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies on the broad landscape of detention in the Americas today. Panel on the Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, RI.

**Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Presenter**

Atlanta, GA April 2022

Presentation titled “A Tale of Four Cities and Towns: Neighborhood Effects, Poverty, and Academic Achievement in an Intentionally Diverse Environment” in panel “Neighborhood Effects in an Era of Big and Small Data”.

**Histories of Migration and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, Presenter**

CLACS at Brown University, Providence, RI March 2022

Panel on “Migrants’ Identities Shaping their New Homes through Development”. Presentation titled “Rust Belt Survival: Immigrant Incorporation in a Post-Industrial New England City”.

**Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Annual Meeting, Presenter**

Boston, MA March 2022

Workshop on “Engaging State Legislatures as a Sociologist and Researcher”.

**Brown Education Department Alumni Conference, Presenter**

Brown University, Providence, RI March 2021

Panel on “Community Focus” in the study of racism and educational inequality. Presentation titled “A Tale of Four Cities”.

**The Latinx Vote in 2020, Panelist**

CSREA at Brown University, Providence, RI December 2020

This roundtable discussion featured a panel of experts who reflected on the historic election and the important role of the Latinx community in paving the future direction of U.S. leadership.

**Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Annual Meeting, Presenter**

Philadelphia, PA March 2020

Panel on Civic Engagement and Political Participation. Presentation titled “Charismatic Counter Roles and How Voters Respond to Them”.

**2nd Convening of the Du Boisian Scholar Network, Student Organizer**

Brown University, Providence, RI May 2019

The Convening creates a space for community-building, critical reflection, and intellectual exchange among scholars who work within a Du Boisian tradition.

**Political Economy of the World System (PEWS Conference), Presenter**

Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany April 2019

Presentation titled “No MAS: Who said ‘no’ to Evo” on electoral loyalty and withdrawal of support. Study used nationally representative survey data to show that education, ethnic identification, and sex are associated with disapproval of Bolivia’s charismatic leader.

**Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Annual Meeting, Presenter**

Boston, MA March 2019

Presentation on voting behavior in Bolivia. Analyzed Latin American Political Opinion Project data to see what characteristics inform voter decisions.

**7th Annual Sociology of Development Conference, Presenter**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois October 2018

Presentation titled “Political Participation and Transformed Futures in Armenia, Bolivia, and Tunisia” delivered for a panel on “Rights and Participation” in developing countries.

**A Struggle We Must Win: Advancing School Integration through Activism, Youth Voice, & Policy Reform, Presenter**

National Coalition on School Diversity, New York, NY                      October 2017

Lead presenter for workshop titled “From Segregation to Intentionally Diverse-by-Design: A Commitment to Cultural Competency and Implementation of Culturally Responsive Teaching – Lessons from Blackstone Valley Prep”.

**#ComebackCity High Expectations Project (CHEP) High Expectations Conference, Presenter**

Blackstone Valley Prep, Cumberland, RI                                      May 2016

Co-presenter in a workshop on STEM content delivery with a focus on effective instruction for students of color. The conference was sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

**17th Annual Multicultural Conference: Promising Practices, Presenter**

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI                                      November 2014

Delivered a workshop on culturally responsive curriculum in STEM titled “Teaching While Brown: Learning Under the Influence”.

**AFFILIATIONS**

**2017- Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University**

**2018- Graduate Program in Development Fellow, Brown University**

**2018- Eastern Sociological Society**

**2019- Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University**

**2020- Population Association of America**

**2022- Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University**

**2023- American Sociological Association**

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Brown University, Providence, RI**

Teaching Assistant    Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

- SOC1330 Remaking the City; John Logan
- SOC1270 Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the Modern World; Jose Itzigsohn
- SOC1490 Power, Knowledge and Justice in Global Social Change; Michael Kennedy
- Consistently rated above the university and department means on the question “Overall, I rate this teaching assistant as effective” in student course evaluations (*available upon request*).

**Blackstone Valley Prep Middle School 1, Central Falls, RI**

Dean of Culture/ Diversity Committee Chair,                                      June 2014 – July 2017

- Analogous to a Dean of Students role, I was responsible for creating and monitoring a school wide behavior management system for a school with roughly 350 scholars grades 5 – 8.
- Facilitated and oversaw events that build school and staff culture.
- Oversaw all disciplinary issues/grievances with scholars and made recommendations to Head of School regarding appropriate consequences.
- As Diversity Committee Chair, I was responsible for coordinating and facilitating all work related to culturally responsive teaching and anti-bias training in the school network.

**Jose de Diego Middle School, Miami, FL**

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher (Regular Pre-Algebra, Algebra I Honors), August 2011- June 2013*

- Pledged to serve as a teacher in an under resourced and underprivileged community for 2 years.
- Regularly analyzed data and implemented strategies in order to increase learning gains and teaching effectiveness.
- Selected as school’s Rookie Teacher of the Year (2012).

**MEMBERSHIPS and SERVICE:**

**Member,** CSREA Student Advisory Committee December 2022 – Present  
 Recommended by faculty to serve on student advisory committee that discusses issues relevant to Brown graduate students and undergrads as they pertain to the study of race and ethnicity and America.

**State Senator,** State of Rhode Island January 2021 – Present  
 Elected to represent State Senate District 16 (Central Falls, Pawtucket). Appointed to the Senate Finance Committee and the Committee on Rules, Ethics, and Government Oversight.

**City Council Member,** Central Falls, RI January 2017 – January 2021  
 Elected to the council to represent Ward 1 with 97% of the vote. Sponsored and passed the first municipal “Green and Complete Streets” ordinance in New England. Re-elected in November 2018 and appointed to the newly created Committee on Education and Youth Development.

**Juvenile Hearing Board Member,** Central Falls, RI August 2017 – January 2021  
 This Board is an opportunity to divert youth from the criminal justice system. Youths and family are given a chance to plead guilty and complete the sanctions imposed by the Board with the promise of a clean record upon completion.

**Youth Wrestling Coach,** Central Falls, RI October 2016 - Present  
 The Providence County Wrestling Club (PCWC) provides cost-free year-round wrestling programming and training for under resourced inner-city youth. In our first year of operation, we had a State champion wrestler, a New England Women’s second place wrestler, and a New England Women’s champion.

**SKILLS:**

Fluent in Spanish: writing, reading, and speaking.

Computer skills: GIS, Dedoose, STATA, Kickboard ®, Aspen Gradebook, MS Office, Adobe Pro