

María Ximena Dávila
 University of Texas at Austin
 305 E 23rd St #3.306, Austin, TX 78712 Patton Hall
mxdavila@utexas.edu | +1 (929) 754-3628

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Sociology, University of Texas at Austin** | Austin, TX 2021- 2027
Dissertation: “High-Risk Motherhood: War, Toxicity, and Reproduction in Colombia”
Committee: Javier Auyero (chair), Sarah Brayne, Christine Williams, Marie E. Berry.
- M.A., Sociology, *cum laude*, Universidad de los Andes** | Bogotá, Colombia 2020
- B.A., Law, *cum laude*, Universidad de los Andes** | Bogotá, Colombia 2017
 Double minor in Literature and Journalism.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender; Political Sociology; Social Policy; Reproductive Justice; Medical Sociology; Environmental Sociology; Sociology of War and Conflict; States; Ethnography; Inequality.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Yopo, Martina, Julieta Chaparro, **María Ximena Dávila** and Sandra Rodríguez. 2026. “Reproductive Justice in Latin America: Theory and Practice,” *Latin American Research Review*. Online First.
- Dávila, María Ximena**. 2025. “Vital encounters: Violence, multiple (in)securities and the reproduction of ordinary life in Colombia” *Security Dialogue*, 56(6), 761-776.
- Dávila, María Ximena**, Camilo Sánchez and Nina Chaparro. 2022. “Rights-based Constitutionalism and Gender Justice in Colombian Women’s Soccer” *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 20(1):351-372.

Revise and Resubmit

- Article*. “This Dead River is Killing Us: Environmental Risk and Reproductive Decision-Making in the Colombian Caribbean” (**R & R, revision submitted** — *Social Problems*).
- *Winner, Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award. Society for the Study of Social Problems, Environment and Technology Division, 2026.
 - *Winner, Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Award. American Sociological Association, Section on the Sociology of Sex and Gender, 2026.
 - *Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award. American Sociological Association, Section on Environmental Sociology, 2026.
 - *Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award. American Sociological Association, Section on the Sociology of Body and Embodiment, 2026.
- Article*. “Building a Longed-for State: How Women Shape the Meaning and Materiality of the State After Civil War” (**R & R** — *American Sociological Review*)
- *Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award. American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section, 2025.

*Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award. American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, 2025.

*Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award. Society for the Study of Social Problems, Global Division, 2025.

*Winner, Elise Boulding Student Paper Award. American Sociological Association, Peace, War and Social Conflict Section, 2023.

Books and Edited Volumes

Dávila, María Ximena. 2022. *Acoso sexual, universidades y futuros posibles. Enunciaciones críticas sobre las conductas, los espacios y las soluciones* [Sexual Harassment, Universities, and Alternative Futures. Critical Reflections on Actions, Spaces, and Solutions]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

Dávila, María Ximena and Nina Chaparro (eds). 2022. *Estrategias de resistencia para defender y reflexionar sobre la laicidad en América Latina* [Resistance Strategies and Critical Approaches to Defend Laicity in Latin America]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

In Progress. Reproductive Justice in Latin America (**book proposal submitted – in advanced discussions with University of Iowa Press – Locating Reproductive Justice**). Co-editor alongside Martina Yopo Díaz, Julieta Chaparro-Buitrago, and Sandra Rodríguez.

Book Chapters (abridged)

Dávila, María Ximena and Nina Chaparro. 2025. “Acabar con el macho militar: educación para la paz, guerra y masculinidad” [The End of the Military *Macho*: Peace Education, War, and Masculinity] in De Gamboa Tapias, Camila and Stefan Peters (eds.) *El porqué y el para qué de la justicia transicional: ejes en Colombia y otros países*. Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes, Centro para la Educación Política, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad de Ibagué, Universidad del Rosario.

Cocomá, Angélica, **María Ximena Dávila** and Nora Picasso. 2020. “Resistir a las violencias cotidianas en la universidad: análisis de los repertorios, posibilidades y límites del colectivo No es Normal en la movilización feminista estudiantil en Colombia” [Resisting Everyday Violence: Repertoires, Possibilities, and Limits of Feminist Student Mobilization in Colombia] in Jaramillo, Isabel Cristina and Lina Buchely (eds.) *Derechos y violencias de género en los espacios universitarios en América Latina*. Cali: Editorial Icesi.

Encyclopedia Entries

Gómez, María Mercedes and **María Ximena Dávila**. 2019. “Activism and Human Rights” in Chiang, Howard (ed.) *Global Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) History*, 1st edition. NY: Charles Scribner’s Sons.

Public Policy Documents (abridged)

Dávila, María Ximena, Alejandro Rodríguez Llach and Nina Chaparro. 2022. *Renta básica feminista. De la utopía a la necesidad urgente* [Feminist Basic Income. From Utopia to an Urgent Need]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

Pereira, Isabel, **María Ximena Dávila**, Mariana Escobar, Angélica Jiménez, Hugo Castro and David Filomena. 2021. *Mujeres, calle y prohibición: violencia y cuidado a los dos lados del Otún* [Women, Streets, and Prohibition: Violence and Care Surrounding the Otun River]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

Dávila, María Ximena, Diana Esther Guzmán, Nina Chaparro and María Clara Zea. 2021. *Descriminalizar para proteger. Modelos alternativos de regulación del aborto: despenalización total y regulación sanitaria en Canadá, Australia y Nueva York* [Decriminalize to Protect: Alternative Models of Abortion Regulation—Full Decriminalization and Health-Based Regulation in Canada, Australia, and New York]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

Dávila, María Ximena. 2020. *Las tragedias de la prohibición: derechos sexuales y reproductivos de mujeres que usan drogas* [The Tragedies of Prohibition: Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Women Who Use Drugs]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

Dávila, María Ximena and Nina Chaparro. 2020. *De la bata a la toga: el rol de los tribunales de ética médica en la protección de los derechos sexuales y reproductivos* [Between Scrubs and Gowns: The Role of Medical Ethics Tribunals in the Protection of Sexual and Reproductive Rights]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

Dávila, María Ximena, Nina Chaparro and Margarita Martínez. 2019. *Un camino truncado: derechos sexuales y reproductivos en Montes de María* [A Road Cut Short: Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Montes de María]. Bogotá: Dejusticia.

Essays and Public Scholarship (abridged)

“A Selective Defense of Life and Family: Contesting Latin America’s Conservative Turn Through Reproductive Justice” (with Sandra Rodríguez, Martina Yopo, and Julieta Chaparro). LASA Forum. Forthcoming.

“Agua limpia es agua llorada” [Clean Water is Water Wept Over] *Revista Anfibia*, August 2025.

“Memory-Building and the Narration of an Unfinished War” *Not Even Past*, October 2022.

“Sentencia T-140/2021: Un fallo para las mujeres trabajadoras” [Ruling T-140/2021: A Decision for Working Women]. *WeDissent Vol. 2*, November 2021

“Violencia y cuidado al lado del Otún” [Violence and Care Along the Otun River]. *El Tiempo*, August 2021.

“Reminiscencias en el 8M” [Reminiscences on March 8th]. *El Tiempo*, March 2021.

“Ante las crisis, las mujeres prestan sus voces” [In the Face of Crises, Women Lend Their Voices]. *El Espectador*, March 2021.

Manuscripts in Progress and Under Review

Article. “The Gendered Construction of Impossibility: An Ethnographic Account of Wartime Domestic Violence” (**under review**).

Article. “The Dynamics of Persistent Grassroots Initiatives” (with Javier Auyero, Tomás Capalbo, Águeda Ortega, and Daniela Sánchez) (**under review**).

Article. “Environmental Harm and the Social Meaning of Abortion” (**under review**).

Book Chapter. “Weeping Waters: The Story of the *Mesa por el Agua* in Colombia” (**forthcoming; to be included in the volume *Things that Work*, edited by Javier Auyero**).

Article. “The Feminization of Poverty: The Urban-Rural Divide” (**in preparation for submission - draft available upon request**).

Article. “Militarized Reproduction and Rebel Governance in Colombia (1998-2025)” (**conceptualization and writing in progress**).

Article. “Beyond Decriminalization: Everyday Legal Imaginaries of Reproductive Rights” (with Inírida Ballestas Gamarra – grassroots community leader) (**conceptualization and writing in progress**).

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Graduate Student Paper Award American Sociological Association (ASA) - Section on the Sociology of Body and Embodiment.	2026
Graduate Student Paper Award American Sociological Association (ASA) - Section on Environmental Sociology.	2026
Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Award American Sociological Association (ASA) - Section on the Sociology of Sex and Gender.	2026
Brent K. Marshall Graduate Student Paper Award Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) – Environment and Technology Division.	2026
NYU Faculty First Look Program New York University.	2026
Outstanding Graduate Research Fellowship (\$40,000) College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin	2026
Global Poverty Small Grant (\$5,000) <i>Project:</i> “City of Brittle Ladders: Trajectories of Forced Displacement Victims in Bogotá” (with Sebastián Rojas Cabal). Center for Global Poverty, Johns Hopkins University.	2026
Ford-LASA Special Projects Grant (\$10,070) <i>Project:</i> “Reproductive Justice in Latin America” (with Martina Yopo, Julieta Chaparro and Sandra Rodríguez). Latin American Studies Association (LASA) & Ford Foundation.	2025-2026
Best Graduate Student Paper Award American Sociological Association (ASA) – Political Sociology Section.	2025
Best Graduate Student Paper Award American Sociological Association (ASA) – Human Rights Section.	2025
Best Graduate Student Paper Award Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) – Global Division.	2025
Scholarship to attend the IGLP Global Scholars Academy IGLP, Harvard Law School & Stellenbosch University	2025
Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG) (\$15,000) American Sociological Association (ASA) & National Science Foundation.	2025-2026
Thematic Fellowship (\$21,000) College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin.	2025-2026
First Place, Enrique Fierro Creative Writing Award	2025

Piece: “Cae sobre sí mismo”

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Creative Writing Program, University of Texas at Austin.

Graduate Studies Grant (\$50,000) (*deferred*) 2024-2026
Colfuturo & Colombia’s Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Technology.

International Fellowship (\$25,000) 2024-2025
American Association for University Women (AAUW).

Graduate Dean’s Prestigious Supplement Fellowship 2024-2025
College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin.

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship (\$50,000) 2024-2025
American Council of Learned Societies & Mellon Foundation.

Thematic Fellowship (\$21,000) (*declined*) 2024-2025
College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin.

Summer Fieldwork Grant (\$3,500) 2024
Urban Ethnography Lab (UEL), University of Texas at Austin.

LASA Conference Grant (\$500) 2024/2026
LLILAS, University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. George Joseph Shia Memorial Endowed Presidential Fellowship in Liberal Arts (\$3,500) 2024
College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin.

Elise Boulding Award for Best Paper by a Graduate Student 2023
American Sociological Association (ASA) - Section of Peace, War, and Social Conflict.

Professional Development Award (awarded multiple times) 2023-2026
Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin.

Graduate Student Fieldwork Grant on Human Rights and Inequality (\$3,000) 2023
Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, University of Texas at Austin

Summer Fieldwork Grant (\$2,500) 2023
Urban Ethnography Lab (UEL), University of Texas at Austin.

Arts Grant, Women’s Rights After the War (\$2,000) 2022
University of Denver & London School of Economics.

Scholarship to attend the Advancing Research in Conflict summer program 2022
London School of Economics & Johns Hopkins University.

Tinker Field Research Grant (\$6,000) 2022
LLILAS & Tinker Foundation.

Recruiting Fellowship (\$10,000) 2021
Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin.

Gates Cambridge Scholarship (*declined*) 2021

University of Cambridge.

Cum Laude Distinction 2020

School of Social Sciences, Universidad de los Andes.

Highest distinction awarded to graduate students. Of all the School of Social Sciences graduates in the past 5 years, awarded to students with a GPA in the 97th percentile

Scholarship to attend BIARI workshop in Delhi, India 2020

Brown University (Watson Institute) & Universidad de los Andes.

Graduate Honors Thesis Award, M.A. in Sociology 2020

School of Social Sciences, Universidad de los Andes.

Top 1% score on the mandatory standardized test for undergraduate students in Colombia 2017

Ministry of National Education, Colombia.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award, B.A. in Law 2017

Law School, Universidad de los Andes.

Cum Laude Distinction 2017

Law School, Universidad de los Andes.

Highest distinction awarded to undergraduate students. Of all the Law School graduates in the past 5 years, awarded to students with a GPA in the 97th percentile

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Austin (Austin, TX)

“Sex, Love, and Relationships” 2024

Teaching assistant.

Department of Sociology.

“Introduction to the Study of Society” 2021-2023

Teaching assistant.

Department of Sociology.

“Sociology of Gender” 2022

Teaching assistant.

Department of Sociology.

Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

“Reproduction in Crisis: Challenges to Reproductive Justice in the Americas” 2026

Main instructor

Law School (summer school)

“Research Seminar on Urban Inequality and Mixed Methods” 2025-2026

Main instructor (with Sebastián Rojas and María José Álvarez-Rivadulla).

School of Social Sciences.

“Law and Feminism” 2019

Lecturer (with Angélica Cocomá).
Law School.

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Co-PI (with Sebastián Rojas Cabal and María José Álvarez-Rivadulla) <i>Project:</i> “City of Brittle Ladders: Family and Forced Displacement in Bogotá” Council for Peace, Victims, and Reconciliation (Bogotá, Colombia), Princeton University, Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia) and the University of Texas at Austin.	2024-present
Researcher <i>Project:</i> “Things that Work” <i>PI:</i> Javier Auyero Urban Ethnography Lab (UEL), University of Texas, Austin	2023-present
Research Assistant Professor Karen Engle <i>Project:</i> “Abolition and Human Rights” <i>Project:</i> “Reproductive Justice Defense Project” School of Law - Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice University of Texas, Austin	2022-present
Manager Urban Ethnography Lab (UEL) Department of Sociology University of Texas, Austin	2023-2024
Researcher and Staff Attorney <i>Areas of research and legal practice:</i> Gender-based violence, sexual harassment, sexual and reproductive rights, poverty law, drug policy, and transitional justice. Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society (Dejusticia) (Bogotá, Colombia)	2017-2022
Research Assistant <i>Project:</i> “Drug Policy and Criminalization in Colombia” Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FESCOL) (Bogotá, Colombia)	2016-2017
Research Assistant and Legal Advisor Legal clinic PAIS (Program of Action for Equality and Social Inclusion) <i>Project:</i> “Human Rights, Gender, and Disability” Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)	2016-2017

PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES (selected)

American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting. August 2026 (New York City, NY).
“This Dead River is Killing Us’: Environmental Risk and Reproductive Decision-Making in the Colombian Caribbean”

Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Meeting (Paris, France)
“Criminal Governance and the Medicalization of Reproduction in Colombia”

Sociology of Development Mini Conference. February 2026 (Princeton, NJ).

“The Moral Economy of Impossibility: An Ethnographic Exploration of Domestic Violence and Armed Conflict in Colombia”

University of Texas at Austin. Department of Sociology, February 2026 (Austin, TX).

Guest Lecture for the course “Environmental Justice”: “Gender, Social Reproduction, and Environmental Justice”

Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice. Global Justice Program. February 2026 (Austin, TX).

Guest Lecture: “Human Rights Research and Advocacy in the Global South”

Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). August 2025 (Chicago, IL).

“Building a Longed-for State: How Women Shape the Meaning and Materiality of the State”

Universidad de los Andes. Sociology Colloquium. May 2025 (Bogotá, Colombia)

“‘This Dead River is Killing Us’: Environmental Risk and Reproductive Decision-Making in the Colombian Caribbean”

Chicago Ethnography Conference. April 2025 (Chicago, IL).

“‘This Dead River is Killing Us’: Environmental Risk and Reproductive Decision-Making in the Colombian Caribbean”

Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Meeting. June 2024 (Bogotá, Colombia).

“Risky Reproduction: Pregnancy and Care in a Contaminated World”

American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting. August 2023 (Philadelphia, PA).

“Longing for the State: Women Social Leaders and Local State-Building in Colombia”

Cambridge University. Reproductive Justice in a Post-Covid World. April 2023 (Cambridge, UK).

“River, body, and crisis: toxic landscapes and reproductive violence in Colombia”

Universidad Pedagógica. July 2023 (Bogotá, Colombia).

“Sexual Harassment in Colombian Universities”

University of Texas, Austin. Urban Ethnography Lab. September 2023 (Austin, TX).

“Conducting Fieldwork in High-Risk Contexts”

Law and Society Association (LSA) Annual Meeting. July 2022 (Lisbon, Portugal).

“Abortion, Dissent, and the Afterlife of Ruling C-355/06”

Bogotá Book Fair. April 2022 (Bogotá, Colombia).

Book launch: “Feminist Basic Income: From Utopia to an Urgent Need”

Law and Society Association (LSA). May 2021 (online due to Covid-19).

“Women Who Use Illicit Drugs and Everyday Violence in Pereira and Dosquebradas, Colombia”

Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Meeting. May 2021 (online due to Covid-19).

“Longing for the State: Women Social Leaders and State Building in Montes de María, Colombia”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council Member, Feminist Development Subsection
American Sociological Association (ASA)

2025-2027

Selection Committee Member, Best Graduate Student Paper Award

2026

American Sociological Association (ASA) – Political Sociology Section

Selection Committee Member, Best Graduate Student Paper Award 2026

American Sociological Association (ASA) – Human Rights Section

Peer-Reviewer: Revista Análisis Político and Revista IusGénero América Latina (IGAL) 2024

Volunteer 2024

Texas Prison Education Initiative (TPEI), University of Texas at Austin

Selection Committee Member, Elise Boulding Award. 2024

American Sociological Association (ASA) – Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section

Community Attorney (Volunteer) 2024-ongoing
Corporación Desarrollo Solidario (Bolívar, Colombia).

Pro Bono Legal Advisor. 2022-ongoing
Alas Moradas Foundation (Bogotá, Colombia).

Community Attorney (Volunteer) and Pro Bono Legal Advisor. 2020-ongoing
Red de Mujeres Rurales del Norte de Bolívar (Bolívar, Colombia)

Co-Founder, “No es Normal” Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence 2015-2017
Law School, Universidad de los Andes.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Latin American Studies Association (LASA); Law and Society Association (LSA); American Sociological Association (ASA); Graduate Student Affiliate – Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice; Graduate Student Affiliate – Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies.

LANGUAGES

Native: Spanish
Advanced: Portuguese

REFERENCES

Javier Auyero
University of Texas at Austin
auyero@austin.utexas.edu

Christine Williams
University of Texas at Austin
cwilliams@austin.utexas.edu

Marie E. Berry
University of Denver
marie.berry@du.edu

Sarah Brayne
Stanford University
sbrayne@stanford.edu

Karen Engle
University of Texas at Austin
kengle@law.utexas.edu

María José Álvarez Rivadulla
Universidad de los Andes
mj.alvarez@uniandes.edu.co