

# Block 5 & 6 Soc Source

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## New Faculty Member

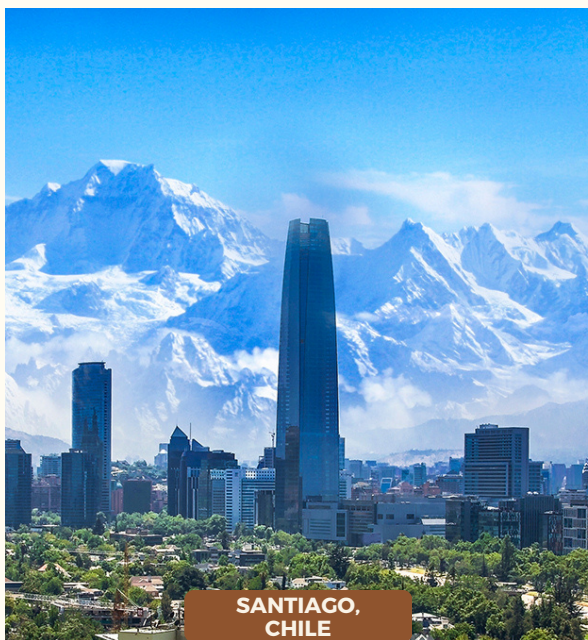


### Paulina Inara Rodis

We are excited to welcome Paulina Inara Rodis as the sociology department's new professor! Prof. Inara Rodis' main areas of interest are at the intersections of identity – especially race/ethnicity/gender, social relationships, and networks. She will teach a course on Cyberaggression and Communities and Networks in 2023-2024.

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## BLOCK ABROAD COURSES OFFERED 2023-2024 Apply by March 22nd on Summit for Financial Aid



### Globalization & Resistance in Latin America Block 6, 2024

This course, taught by Eric Popkin, examines the vital role of recent Latin American collective struggles from the late 20th century to the present day. It focuses on a variety of movements, including student, feminist, urban, labor, and LGBTQIA+ movements. The class starts with week one on campus, reading about social movement theory and contemporary Chilean history specifically, and then visits Chile for the remainder of the block.

### Contemporary French Society Block 7, 2024

Gail Murphy-Geiss will be teaching this class in Toulouse, France. The class examines French society through the sociological analysis of structure, culture, and everyday life, especially as compared to the U.S. Field trips include a visit to a community center in an immigrant neighborhood and a public school, and guest speakers include experts on French colonialism and the health care system – often considered the best in the world. A major focus of the class is on the differences between France and the US regarding the separation of church and state and racism (past and present).





# Alumni Update

**Sean Coffey '03**

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**Job:** I currently serve as the communication director at the California Policy Lab, which is housed at UC Berkeley and UCLA. We partner with state and local agencies to analyze administrative data they're already collecting so that they can improve their programs and policies. My nonprofit career has focused on communications and the role it can play in leveling the playing field between individuals and larger entities - whether that be corporations or government. Communications, especially earned media, is also an excellent tool for creating pressure on policymakers to improve programs, policies, and laws.

**Soc Education:** It provided me with new ways to think about race, class, racism (institutional and otherwise - especially taking Dr. Wong's class on race), and the role institutions and the people within them can have in maintaining bad practices/policies/laws, or changing them. My sociology degree also equipped me with tools to be more thoughtful and rigorous at analyzing power structures and to better understand what we can do as Soc majors to disrupt the status quo!

**Advice for Current Students:**

- 1) Unless you're going for a PhD in something specific, I highly recommend getting a few years of experience under your belt before heading back to graduate school. It will make school more valuable for you if you have real-world experience as you're earning a graduate degree.
- 2) When applying to grad schools, be open to moving, and depending on what you're applying for, I'd suggest applying to multiple schools. When applying for graduate school, I received different financial aid packages from different schools. I learned it's worth asking a grad school if they can add to your package - especially if a competitor is offering a better package.
- 3) Volunteer! I serve on hiring committees, and this is something I look for on resumes. While I realize that having time to volunteer isn't always possible, it can help you learn more about the community you live in, how/where/why government is falling short, and meet people outside your campus bubble. It also forces you to prioritize your time.
- 4) Last - you may have some not-great job experiences right after you graduate - and that's okay. One of my lowest points was temping in DC, where my job was to stand in line for a lobbyist so that she'd have a seat at hearing. Ironically, I met my wife at another job in DC that I really disliked, so that's proof that sometimes things work out okay. :)

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## Qualitative Reading Group

Block 5, Feb 8: Chapter 3, Palpability  
Block 6, Mar 8: Chapter 4, Follow-up

Join faculty and students for an informal book discussion to strengthen your understanding of the principles of qualitative methods. The book is available in the Soc department to borrow! Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Lisa with dietary restrictions.

