

DR. FRANCESCA LESSA

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Academic Positions

- 2016 to present **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow**, Latin American Centre, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford, UK.
- 2010 to present **Associated Teaching Staff**, Latin American Centre, University of Oxford.
- Invited Professor**, University of Macerata (Italy), Blanquerna University (Spain), and University of the Republic (Uruguay).
- 2012 to 2016 **Post-Doctoral Research Fellow**, Latin American Centre, University of Oxford.
- 2011 to 2012 **Research Assistant**, Latin American Centre, University of Oxford.

Education

- 2005 to 2010 London School of Economics and Political Science
PhD in International Relations - Supervisor: Professor Chris J. Brown
Thesis title: “*The Missing Memory of Transitional Justice: How Argentina and Uruguay Confronted Past Evils, 1983-2009.*”
- 2002 to 2003 School of Oriental and African Studies
Master of Arts in International Studies and Diplomacy (Distinction)
Dissertation title: “*Sovereign Immunity and International Crimes: Between the Maintenance of International Relations and the Prosecution of Human Rights Violations.*”
- 1999 to 2002 Royal Holloway, University of London
Bachelor of Arts in European Studies (2:1)

Publications

Books

Lessa, Francesca. *The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America*. Under contract with Yale University Press.

Lessa, Francesca. 2014. [*¿Justicia o impunidad? Cuentas pendientes en el Uruguay post-dictadura*](#) [*Justice or Impunity? Settling Accounts in Postdictatorship Uruguay*]. Montevideo: Penguin Random House Uruguay.

Lessa, Francesca. 2013. [*Memory and Transitional Justice in Argentina and Uruguay: Against Impunity*](#). New York: Palgrave Macmillan (paperback edition December 2014). **Shortlisted for the Latin American Studies Association “Best Recent History and Memory Book Contest.”**

Lessa, Francesca and Leigh A. Payne (eds.). 2012. [*Amnesty in the Age of Human Rights Accountability: Comparative and International Perspectives*](#). Cambridge University Press.

Lessa, Francesca and Vincent Druliolle (eds.). 2011. [*The Memory of State Terrorism in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay*](#). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Fried, Gabriela and Francesca Lessa (eds.), 2011. [*Luchas contra la impunidad: Uruguay 1985-2011*](#) [*Struggles against Impunity: Uruguay 1985-2011*]. Montevideo: Trilce.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Lessa, Francesca. “Remnants of Truth: Archives and Judicial Accountability for Operation Condor.” Forthcoming in *Latin American Research Review*.

Lessa, Francesca. 2019. “[Operation Condor on Trial: Justice for Transnational Human Rights Crimes in South America](#).” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 51(2), 409–439.

Lessa, Francesca. 2015. “[Justice beyond Borders: The Operation Condor Trial and Accountability for Transnational Crimes in South America](#).” *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 9(3): 494-506.

Payne, Leigh, Francesca Lessa, and Gabriel Pereira. 2015. “[Overcoming Barriers to Justice in the Age of Human Rights Accountability](#).” *Human Rights Quarterly* 37(3): 728–754.

Lessa, Francesca and Cara Levey. 2015. “[From Blanket Impunity to Judicial Opening\(s\): H.I.J.O.S. and Memory Making in Postdictatorship Argentina \(2005–2012\)](#).” *Latin American Perspectives* 42(3): 207-225.

Lessa, Francesca. 2014. “[Elusive Justice, Changing Memories and the Recent Past of Dictatorship and Violence in Uruguay: An Analysis of the 2012 Public Act in the Gelman case](#).” *International Journal of Conflict and Violence* 8(1): 75-90.

Lessa, Francesca, Tricia D. Olsen, Leigh A. Payne, Gabriel Pereira, and Andrew G. Reiter. 2014. “[Overcoming Impunity: Pathways to Accountability in Latin America](#).” *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 8(1): 75-98.

----- . 2014. “[Persistent or Eroding Impunity? The Divergent Effects of Legal Challenges to Amnesty Laws for Past Human Rights Violations](#).” *Israel Law Review* 47(1): 105-131.

Burt, Jo-Marie, Gabriela Fried Amilivia, and Francesca Lessa. 2013. “[Civil Society and the Resurgent Struggle against Impunity in Uruguay \(1986–2012\)](#).” *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 7(2): 306-327.

Lessa, Francesca and Cara Levey. 2012. “Memories of Violence and Changing Landscapes of Impunity in Uruguay, 1985-2011.” *Encounters: An International Journal for the Study of Culture and Society* 5(fall): 149-178.

Lessa, Francesca. 2011. "[Beyond Transitional Justice: Exploring Continuities in Human Rights Abuses in Argentina between 1976 and 2010.](#)" *Journal of Human Rights Practice* 3(1): 25-48.

Book Chapters

Hau, Boris, Francesca Lessa, and Hugo Rojas. 2019. "Registration and Documentation of State Violence as Judicial Evidence in Human Rights Trials." In [Resistance to Political Violence in Latin America: Documenting Atrocity](#), edited by Oriana Bernasconi. Palgrave Macmillan, 197-227.

Lessa, Francesca. 2019. "Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Enduring Legacy of the Past Three Decades after Democratic Transition." In [South America, Central America and the Caribbean 2020](#) (28th edition). Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 27-34.

Lessa, Francesca and Cara Levey. 2018. "Human Rights Activists and Advocacy in South America." In [Handbook of South American Governance](#), edited by Pía Riggirozzi and Christopher Wylde. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 286-295.

Lessa, Francesca and Elin Skaar. 2016. "Uruguay: Halfway Towards Accountability." In [Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability](#), edited by Elin Skaar, Jemima Garcia-Godos, and Cath Collins. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 77-102.

Lessa, Francesca. 2013. "Investigative Commission on the Kidnapping and Assassination of Former National Representatives Zelmar Michelini and Héctor Gutiérrez-Ruiz (Uruguay)," "Parliamentary Investigative Commission on the Situation of Disappeared Persons and its Causes (Uruguay)" and "Peace Commission (Uruguay)". In [Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice](#), edited by Lavinia Stan and Nadya Nedelsky. New York: Cambridge University Press, Volume 3: 255-260; 353-357 and 361-366.

Lessa, Francesca. 2012. "Barriers to Justice: The *Ley de Caducidad* and Impunity in Uruguay." In [Amnesty in the Age of Human Rights Accountability: Comparative and International Perspectives](#), edited by Francesca Lessa and Leigh A. Payne. Cambridge University Press: 123-151.

Lessa, Francesca. 2011. "*No hay que tener los ojos en la nuca*: The Memory of Violence in Uruguay, 1973–2010." In [The Memory of State Terrorism in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay](#), edited by Francesca Lessa and Vincent Druliolle, New York: Palgrave Macmillan: 179-208.

Policy Briefs

Lessa, Francesca. 2019. [Investigating Crimes against Humanity in South America: Present and Future Challenges](#). University of Oxford. Available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Lessa, Francesca. 2016. [Justice without Borders: Accountability for Plan Condor Crimes in South America](#). University of Oxford. Available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Awards and Grants

2016 to present	<i>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Individual Fellowship (Global), European Commission - (€212,463.00).</i>
2015 to present	<i>Open Society Foundations Human Rights Initiative - (\$399,720), in my capacity as International Consultant to the Observatorio Luz Ibarburu.</i>
2015 to 2016	<i>Small Research Grant, British Academy/Leverhulme Trust - (£10,000).</i>
2015 to 2016	<i>University of Oxford's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Grant - (£45,270) with Dr Diego Sanchez-Ancochea</i>
2014 to 2015	<i>Open Society Foundations Human Rights Initiative - (\$24,000), with Professor Leigh Payne.</i>
2013 to 2015	<i>Small Award, John Fell OUP Research Fund - (£7,500).</i>
2008	<i>RJ Vincent Scholarship, London School of Economics - (£1,000). Central Research Fund Grant, University of London - (£1,000). Postgraduate Travel Grant, Society for Latin American Studies (£1,000).</i>
1999	<i>Bedford Entrance Scholarship, Royal Holloway, University of London (£1,000).</i>

Teaching Experience

2011 to present	<i>Human Rights in Latin America, postgraduate course. Latin American Centre, University of Oxford.</i>
March 2019	<i>Transitional Justice: Accounting for the Past in the Aftermath of Atrocity. Giacomo Leopardi School for Higher Studies, University of Macerata, Italy.</i>
December 2018	<i>Learning Unit on Transitional Justice. School of Communication and International Relations, Blanquerna University, Barcelona, Spain.</i>
July 2016/June 2017	<i>Instructor for the Latin American Edition of the Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Genocide Prevention. Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, held in Uruguay (2016) and Poland (2017).</i>
May 2010	<i>Memory, Human Rights, and Transitional Justice in Uruguay (1973-2010). University of the Republic, Montevideo, Uruguay.</i>
2007 to 2009	<i>Sovereignty, Rights and Justice: Issues in International Political Theory, undergraduate course. Department of International Relations, London School of Economics.</i>
2006 to 2007	<i>The Structure of International Society, undergraduate course. Department of International Relations, London School of Economics.</i>

Selected Conference Presentations

- June 1, 2019 “*Against Impunity: Justice Entrepreneurs, Operation Condor, and Accountability in South America,*” Law and Society Association (LSA) Annual Conference, Washington DC.
- May 23, 2018 “*Justice in the Shadow of Regional Repression: Transnational Human Rights Activism in the Operation Condor Trials in Argentina and Italy,*” Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Conference, Barcelona.
- April 7, 2018 “*Prosecuting the Past: The Role of Archives in Human Rights Trials in Latin America,*” International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, San Francisco.
- June 20, 2017 “*Accountability for Transnational Crimes in South America: The Pioneering Operation Condor Trial,*” LSA Annual Conference, Mexico City.
- February 19, 2015 “*Beyond Borders: Prosecuting Torture in the Southern Cone,*” ISA Annual Convention, New Orleans.
- June 17, 2014 “*Amnesty in the Age of Human Rights Accountability: Research Findings and Policy Implications,*” with Leigh Payne and Gabriel Pereira, ISA Human Rights Joint Conference, Istanbul.
- May 23, 2014 “*Blood Money? Reparations for Past Human Rights Violations in Latin America,*” LASA Annual Conference, Chicago.

Selected Invited Talks

- February 6, 2020 Panel Discussion “*Analysis of the Appeals Verdict in the Operation Condor Trial,*” School of Law, Roma Tre University, Basso Foundation, and 24 Marzo Onlus, Rome.
- October 29, 2019 Panel Discussion “*Presidential Elections in Argentina and Uruguay,*” UCL Institute of the Americas, London.
- June 3, 2019 Symposium on “*New Research on Human Rights Trials in Latin America,*” Washington Office on Latin America, Washington DC.
- May 31, 2019 “*Investigating Crimes against Humanity in South America: Present and Future Challenges,*” Center for Justice and International Law, Washington DC.
- April 12, 2018 “*Justice without Borders: Accountability for Plan Condor Crimes in South America,*” Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington DC.

- Feb. 12-13, 2015 “*New Insights into Transitional Justice: Policy Implications*” with Leigh Payne and Gabriel Pereira, International Center for Transitional Justice and UNDP Mediation Support Unit, New York.
- July 22, 2014 Panel Discussion “*Justice for Crimes against Humanity: Comparative Perspectives,*” University of Palermo, Buenos Aires.
- October 17, 2013 “*The Prosecution against Juan María Bordaberry in Uruguay,*” Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster.

Organised Conferences and Workshops

- June 19-20, 2019 “*[Justice for Transnational Human Rights Violations: At the Crossroads of Litigation, Policy and Scholarship,](#)*” Joint Conference at Mansfield College and St Antony’s College, co-organised with the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights and Oxford Transitional Justice Research Network, University of Oxford.
- May 8-9, 2018 “*[Investigating Crimes against Humanity in South America: Present and Future Challenges,](#)*” Workshop, co-organised with Argentina’s Prosecutor’s Office for Crimes against Humanity, Buenos Aires.
- June 22-24, 2016 “*[Forty years on from Operation Condor: Comparative Experiences in the Southern Cone and Brazil,](#)*” Conference and Workshop, co-organised with Uruguay’s Observatorio Luz Ibarburu, Montevideo.
- Decem. 18-19, 2015 “*[Forty years on from Operation Condor,](#)*” Conference and Workshop, co-organised with Chile’s Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Santiago.

Professional Service

- 2019 to present *Latin American Studies Association Conference Track Co-chair for “Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition.”*
- March to July 2018 Co-organiser of the seminar series “*Transnational Intersections: Justice, History, and Human Rights,*” Gino Germani Research Institute, University of Buenos Aires.
- 2014 (Hilary Term) *Co-convenor of the Latin American Centre Seminar,* Latin American Centre.
- 2011 to 2014 *Teaching and Management Committees Member,* Latin American Centre.
- Reviewer *International Studies Review, Political and Legal Anthropology Review, International Journal of Transitional Justice, Law & Society Review, Journal of Latin American Studies, Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, Palgrave, University of Pittsburgh Press, Rutgers University Press, Leuven University Press, and Cambridge University Press.*

Membership *International Studies Association* (since 2008), and *Latin American Studies Association* (since 2012).

Honorary and Research Appointments

2020 to present *Honorary President*, Observatorio Luz Ibarburu, Uruguay; previously *International Consultant* (2013-2019).

2019 to present *Country Expert* for Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project.

Academic Affiliate, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford.

2018 to present *Senior Common Room Member* and *College Advisor*, St Antony's College, University of Oxford.

2015 to present *Affiliate Member*, Latin American Transitional Justice Network.

2011 to present *International Country Specialist – Uruguay*, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and Universidad Diego Portales.

2011 to 2014 *Junior Research Fellow*, St Anne's College, University of Oxford.

Languages

Italian (native speaker); English and Spanish (advanced); Portuguese (intermediate).

References

Leigh Payne Professor of Sociology, Latin American Centre, University of Oxford, 1 Church Walk, Oxford OX2 6LY, leigh.payne@sant.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 284736.

Diego Sánchez Professor of the Political Economy of Development and Head of Department, Oxford Department of International Development, Queen Elizabeth House, 3 Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB, diego.sanchez-ancochea@qeh.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 281941.

Ezequiel Gonzalez Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, Office E9, Nuffield College, New Road, Oxford OX1 1NF, ezequiel.gonzalez@politics.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 278592.