

# María Eugenia Rojas Concha, Ph.D.

University of California Berkeley

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## EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley** Berkeley, USA

Doctor of Philosophy in Education 2018-2024

Dissertation: *School Democratization in Neoliberal Chile: Uncovering the Structural Forces that Sustain Anti-Black and Anti-immigrant Racism*

Dissertation Committee: Tina Trujillo (chair), Janelle Scott, and Cati de los Ríos

**University of Washington**

Seattle, USA

Master of Education; Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

2015-2017

**Universidad Católica de Chile**

Santiago, Chile

Bachelor's in Social Communication, Journalist

2007 - 2011

**University of Hohenheim**

Stuttgart, Germany

Exchange Student

2010

## RESEARCH INTEREST

Education inequality, market-oriented reforms, race and ethnicity, immigration in K-12 settings

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

**National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer Foundation** 2023

*Dissertation Fellow*

**NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship**

2022

*Semifinalist*

**Dissertation Completion Fellowship**

2022-2023

*Graduate Division at UC Berkeley*

**Othering and Belonging Institute, Summer Fellowship**

2020

*Research Fellow*

**CLAS Summer Field Research Grant**

2019

*Center for Latin American Studies at UC Berkeley*

**Becas Chile ANID**

2017-2021

*Full funding for four years to pursue a Ph.D.*

**Fulbright Scholarship**

2014-2016

*Master's Degree in Education Policy*

**Baden-Württemberg Scholarship**

2010

*Selected to study one semester at Hohenheim University in Germany*

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**School of Education, University of California, Berkeley** 2018-2024

*Graduate Student Researcher for Professors Travis Bristol and Tina Trujillo* 2018-2023

I worked with Professor Travis Bristol on a research project to understand the school-based experiences of Afro-descendant teachers in Colombia, Brazil, Panama, and Uruguay and with Professor Tina Trujillo in a survey-based investigation to compare and contrast the democratic character of schools in Norway and the Bay Area. I conducted a literature review to construct the theoretical foundation for the projects, obtained Institutional Review Board approval, developed data collection and data analysis tools (survey, recruitment material, consent forms, interview questionnaires, codebook, etc.), recruited participants, interviewed more than 70 participants in three languages, conducted classroom observation internationally, provided mentoring support for two students, and conducted data analysis in the forms of cleaning, translating and coding the qualitative with MAXQDA Software. The projects are in the final stage.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Graduate Student Instructor** 2023-2024

I worked with Professor Erin Murphy Graham for the graduate-level Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods course and with Professor Tina Trujillo for the advanced undergraduate-level Contemporary Issues in US Education class. I designed and presented lectures for graduate and undergraduate students on qualitative research methods and contemporary issues in US education. I graded essay-type assignments and guided students' research projects. I offered weekly office hours and provided support for in-class activities and debates

**Centro de Desarrollo de Liderazgo Educativo** Remotely from Seattle, USA  
*Research Assistant* 2016-2017

**Department of Psychology, University of Washington** 2016  
*Teacher Assistant for Professor Jaime Barria*

**College of Communication, Universidad Católica de Chile** 2011  
*Teacher Assistant for Professors Alvaro Paci and Fernando Severino*

**Paula Jaraquemada High School** Santiago, Chile  
*Spanish Language Art Teacher* 2012-2013

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**Postdoctoral Researcher** Valparaíso, Chile  
*Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso* 2024-Presente

**Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion, College of Ed. UW** Seattle, USA  
*Intern* 2015-2016

**Kyklos, Reciclaje Entretenido** Santiago, Chile  
*Education Coordinator* 2014-2015

**CNN Chile** Santiago, Chile  
*Journalist of International Affairs* 2011

**Public Politic Center. Universidad Católica de Chile** Santiago, Chile  
*Journalist of Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation* 2010

**Hotel Oceanía Rapa Nui** Easter Island, Chile  
*Waitress* 2010

**Sealord** Nelson, New Zealand  
*Line Operator* 2009

**Airway Cielo Mar Austral** Puerto Montt, Chile  
*Translator* 2007

## **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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**Climate Council, Berkeley School of Education** Berkeley, USA  
*Student Representative* 2023-2024

**Chile Seminars Symposium** Berkeley, USA  
*Organizer* 2023-2024

**Beacon Hill International School** Seattle, USA  
*Spanish Language Art Tutor* 2016-2017

**Associated Students of the College of Education, UW**  
*International Student Representative, Elected Position*

**Seattle, USA**  
2016-2017

**Diversity and Inclusion Committee, College of Education, UW**  
*Student Representative*

**Seattle, USA**  
2016-2017

**Teach for All**  
*Fellow at Global Education Summit*

**New Delhi, India**  
2013

**CAi Volunteer Program**  
*Chief Executive*

**Santiago, Chile**  
2007-2011

**Hohenheim Universität**  
*Exchange Student*

**Stuttgart, Germany**  
2010

**Belén UC**  
*After School Teacher*

**Santiago, Chile**  
2008

**AFS Intercultural Program**  
*Exchange Student*

**Johannesburg, South Africa**  
2005

## **HONORS**

**Teacher's National Assessment, Chile** 2014  
*Qualified in the highest level of the evaluation (outstanding).*

**Enseña Chile (Teach For Chile) Representation in India** 2013

## **PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2024). Three Equity-Oriented Policies That Failed Immigrant Students of African Descent in Chile's Neoliberal Education System. (Paper accepted for presentation at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in 2024)

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2023). A Race-Evasive Approach to Advance (In)Equity in An Ethno-racially Diverse School in Neoliberal Chile (Paper presented at the Comparative and International Education Society Regional Conference 2023).

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2023). La travesía de democratizar la escuela en un sistema educativo neoliberal: cuando el trabajo duro y las buenas intenciones no son suficientes (Paper presented at the Symposium Encuentro de Chilenos en el Área de la Bahía)

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2023). De-privatization and democratization of a Chilean School: When Hard Work and Best Intentions Aren't Enough (Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in 2023).

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2023, April 03). Día Internacional del Libro Infantil y Juvenil: Veo, veo... ¿Qué ves? Alguien que no se parece a mí [Opinion] Ciper Chile. Retrieved from <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2023/04/03/dia-internacional-del-libro-infantil-y-juvenil-veo-veo/>

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2022). Immigrants in a Market-Oriented Education System: How a School in Chile Mediates Structural Inequity (Paper presented at the University Council for Educational Administration, 2022)

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2022, March 28). Exclusión, discriminación y humillaciones: la dolorosa travesía para encontrar colegio en Chile [Opinion] Ciper Chile. Retrieved from <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2022/03/28/exclusion-discriminacion-y-humillacion-la-dolorosa-travesia-para-encontrar-colegio-en-chile/>

Rojas Concha, M. E. & Jiménez, C. (2022, May 16). Escolares migrantes: Cuando hay mérito sin oportunidades [Opinion] Ciper Chile. Retrieved from <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2022/05/16/cuando-hay-merito-sin-oportunidades/>

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2022, September 05). Cuentos infantiles y discusión constitucional [Opinion] Ciper Chile. Retrieved from <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2022/09/04/libros-infantiles-y-discusion-constitucional/>

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2022, November 14). No sobran niños migrantes, faltan voluntades políticas [Opinion] Ciper Chile. Retrieved from <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2022/11/14/no-sobran-ninos-migrantes-faltan-voluntades-politicas/>

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2021). Immigrants in a Neoliberal Education system: how two schools are expected to aim for inclusion but forced to practice othering (Paper presented at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference 2021).

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2020). Transforming Neoliberal Education: Can Chile back up from the market-oriented strategies that drive the system? (Paper accepted for presentation at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in 2020)

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2020). On The Road to De-marketization of Public Education In Chile: The Possibilities For Immigrant Students. Graduate School of Education, UC Berkeley (Position Paper).

Horn, A., Rojas Concha, M. E., Navarro, L., Valencia, E. & Palma, R. (2016). Bases para la Instalación de un Sistema de Apoyo Educativo a los Establecimientos del Servicio Local de Educación. Ministerio de Educación, Chile. (Policy Report)

Rojas Concha, M. E. (2016). Recruitment, Retention and College of Education Climate: What Undergrad Minorities Think of their Experience at the CoE and Proposals for Improving. College of Education, University of Washington. (Policy Report)

## **RESEARCH METHODS COURSES**

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### **University of Washington**

Introduction To Applied Qualitative Methods (EDLPS 549), Introduction to Applied Quantitative Research Methods (EDLPS 549), Basic Educational Statistics (EDPSY 490)

### **University of California, Berkeley**

Introduction to Research Inquiry: Power, Epistemology, and Method (EDUC 282), Advanced Qualitative Methods (EDUC 243), Measurement in Education and the Social Sciences I (EDUC 274A), Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (POLSCI 234A), Interdisciplinary Research Methods (AFRICAM 201A), Critical Theory and Social Science Methods (PBHLTH 290)

## **SELECTED REFERENCES**

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### **Tina Trujillo, Associate Professor (Dissertation Chair)**

Berkeley School of Education  
[trujillo@berkeley.edu](mailto:trujillo@berkeley.edu)

### **Janelle Scott, Professor**

Berkeley School of Education  
[jtscott@berkeley.edu](mailto:jtscott@berkeley.edu)

### **Cati de los Ríos, Associate Professor** Berkeley School of Education

[cdelosrios@berkeley.edu](mailto:cdelosrios@berkeley.edu)

### **Erin Murphy-Graham, Adjunct Professor**

Berkeley School of Education  
[emurphy@berkeley.edu](mailto:emurphy@berkeley.edu)