

Curtis Kline

Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy
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Education

Colorado State University, Ph.D., Political Science, 2019 – 2025

Subfields: Comparative Politics, Environmental Politics, Political Theory.

Dissertation: When the People Are the Territory: The Politics of Seeds and the Production of GMO-Free Territories in Colombia.

Committee: Marcela Velasco (Chair), Bradley MacDonald, Julia Lee, Stephanie Malin, and David Bartecchi (external/practitioner representative).

University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, MA, International Human Rights, 2013.

Concentration: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Advisor: Dr. Aaron Schneider

Alliant International University, B.A., International Relations; minor in Business Management, 2007.

Additional Training

Rohlfing, Ingo. *Process Tracing: Introduction to Methods and Applications*. Instats Inc., 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.61700/RQIPCW8ATQQES706>

National Science Foundation, Interdisciplinary Training, Education and Research in Food-Energy-Water Systems (InTERFEWS) Graduate Program, Colorado State University, Trainee, 2019-2023.

Employing Model-Based Reasoning for Socio-Environmental Synthesis (EMBeRS), National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center, University of Maryland, 2021.

Sustainable Community Development, Village Earth and Colorado State University Online (2018).

Approaches to community development, community-based organizing, community mobilization, community based mapping, political empowerment of communities.

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, México, Summer Study Abroad Program, studied alongside indigenous communities to better understand the practice, theory, and context of the Zapatista movement (06/2012 – 08/2012).

Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona, 2025 - present

Research Interests

Indigenous politics, sustainable community development, food systems, Latin American politics, socio-environmental conflict, territorial politics, collaborative conservation.

Publications

Peer Reviewed

Velasco, Marcela & **Curtis Kline**. 2025. "Indigenous Autonomy in Latin America: The Impact of the

Indigenous Rights Revolution on the Study of Politics.” *The Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. 10(2): 312-340.

Arsenault, S., Do, N. D., Kline, C., Ceron M., & Nickels, A. 2025. “What do we Mean by “Community”? Defining Community for Civically Engaged Research.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 1-20.

Mitra, A., **Curtis Kline** & Angie Bautista-Chavez. 2024. “Civically Engaged Research in Political Science: A Methodological Guide”. *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 1-28.

Kline, C., A. Cafer, M. Rosenthal. 2023. “Local Food Systems and Health Interventions: an exploratory study of farmers’ perspectives on food prescription programs in the Mississippi Delta”. *Local Environment*, 29(1): 105-117.

Kline, Curtis. 2022. “The Open Marxism of José Carlos Mariátegui”. *Latin American Perspectives*, 49(4): 94-109.

Book Reviews and Others

Kline, Curtis. 2021. “Science by the People: Participation, Power, and the Politics of Environmental Knowledge” (book review), *Social Movement Studies*, 23(1): 130-132.

Kline, Curtis. 2021. “Makers of Democracy: A Transnational History of the Middle Classes in Colombia” (book review). *Latin American Politics and Society*, 63(2): 164-166.

Kline, Curtis. 2021. “Global activism in food politics: power shift” (book review), *Social Movement Studies*, 21(4): 566-567.

Kline, Curtis. 2014. “A Funder's Toolkit: Implementation of the United Nations’ Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” *International Funders for Indigenous Peoples*, June 2014.

Working Papers

“Theory and Action: An Exploration of Civically Engaged Research, Environmental Justice, and Political Theories of Democracy,” with Rosa Krewson (revise and resubmit).

"When Do Environmental Conflicts Turn Violent? The Role of Indigenous Identity and Institutional Recourse" (with Julia Lee and Marika Caspo)

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Fellow, American Political Science Association’s Institute for Civically Engaged Research, APSA, 2023.

Fellow, Office of the Vice President of Research Graduate Fellowship, Colorado State University, (2023-2024) (\$4,000).

Fellowship Project: Designing Agroecological Strategies to Protect Biodiversity and Livelihoods.

Fellow, Center for Collaborative Conservation, Colorado State University, (2022– 2023) Fellow (\$14,500).

Fellowship project: Designing Territorial Strategies for the Defense of Common Goods, Biodiversity, and Livelihoods in Colombia.

Awardee, Summer Course on *The Political Ecology of Pandemics: Global Impacts of Industrial Food Systems*, awarded by SUM Research School at the Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo, Summer 2021.

Trainee, Interdisciplinary Training, Research, and Education on Food-Energy-Water Systems (InTERFEWS). Trainee (\$12,500).

NSF-NRT Program at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO (2019-2023).

Presentations and Invited Talks

“Graduate Student Research: Perspectives on Transdisciplinary Approaches to Wicked Problems”, *Just Social-Ecological Transitions in Latin America Seminar*, 22 April 2024

“Exploring Indigenous Autonomy and Political Empowerment in Latin America: A Comprehensive Literature

Review from the 1990s Onward”, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 02 September 2023.

“You Can’t Say You’re Sovereign if You Have No Seeds: The Contribution of Seeds to Indigenous Autonomy and Food Sovereignty”, *CSU Food Systems Institute Student Symposium*. 26 April 2023.

“GMO-Free Territories and the Defense of Traditional Seed Systems”, *Hydrology Days*. 21 March 2023.

“Innovative International Conservation through the Collaborative Conservation Fellows Program”, *International Symposium*. 28 February 2023.

“Local Food Systems and Health Interventions: An Exploratory Study of Farmers Perspectives on Food Prescription Programs in the Mississippi Delta”, *Southern Rural Sociological Association’s Annual Meeting*. 13 February 2022.

“Institutional Changes and Vanguard Court Decisions: The Case of the Colombian Atrato River”, *Environmental Governance for Peace in Colombia*. 18-19 March 2021.

“Human Rights and Economic Democracy: Reinvigorating the Human Rights Movements.” *The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy*. 1-4 October 2019.

“Faith-based Resistance, Human Rights, and Emancipatory Practices.” *The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy*. 8 November 2017.

“Human Rights and Emerging Actors: Indigenous Peoples and Peasants Redefining the Issues”. *The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy*. 4 October 2013.

Teaching

Adjunct Faculty

- The Politics of Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Race, University of Northern Colorado (Spring 2024)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- State and Local Government, Colorado State University (Fall 2019).
- Comparative Government and Politics, Colorado State University (Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023).
- American Politics, Colorado State University (Spring 2021).

Specialized Training and Skills

Skills: NVivo, MAXQDA, WordPress website design, Qualtrics, Process Tracing, Science Communication,

Languages: Bilingual in English and Spanish

Fieldwork: Mississippi Delta (2021); Cauca, Nariño, & Córdoba, Colombia (2022, 2023)

Service

Member, Advisory Board, *Indigenous Studies Network of the American Political Science Association* (2024)

Member, Advisory Consortium, *The Bert and Phyllis Lamb Prize in Political Science*

Judge, CSU CURC - *Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium* (2023)

Advisory Member, *Working Group on Community Food Systems of the Poudre Food Partnership* (2023)

Referee, *Agriculture and Human Values; Politics, Groups, and Identities*

Professional Experience

Communications Production Intern, Center for Environmental Justice, Fort Collins, CO (02/2022 – 07/2022).

- Designed website for food justice toolkit.
- Networked with food justice-oriented organizations across Northern Colorado.
- Worked with students to create content for food justice toolkit:
<https://environmentaljustice.colostate.edu/noco-food-justice/>

Graduate Research Assistant, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Fort Collins, CO (07/2021 – present).

- Support the development, deployment, analysis, and reporting of social science research with scholars and communities.
- Develop research plans and tools, collect various forms of data, analyze data, produce tables and visualizations of data and written reports.

Peace-building and Human Rights Trainer – Colombia, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL (07/2014 – 07/2019).

- Accompanied local communities to conduct community-based participatory research for developing community projects: issues such as external debt, food sovereignty, afro-Colombian and indigenous peoples' rights, as well as peace and reconciliation.
- Taught courses in Spanish on human rights and community development at the Lutheran School of Theology of Colombia.
- Accompanied communities that are reintegration sites for ex-combatants.
- Managed program budget.

Volunteer, Global GreenGrants Fund, Boulder, CO (04/2013 – 07/2013).

- Researched and wrote report for internal review regarding design and implementation of gender focused grant-making.

Consultant, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, San Francisco, CA (9/13 – 6/14).

- Successfully conducted research into donors' ability to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Wrote and designed toolkit to assist donors in protecting Indigenous Peoples' rights:
<https://internationalfunders.org/undrip-toolkit/>
- Developed marketing campaign to promote toolkit with funders and other philanthropic entities.
- Coordinated international advisory committee of experts and practitioners.

Observer, Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Center for Human Rights, Chiapas, Mexico (6/12 - 8/12).

- Observed, monitored, and documented the indigenous human rights situation in Chiapas, Mexico.

Outreach Coordinator & Campaigns Researcher, Cultural Survival, Boulder, CO (04/2011 – 09/2013).

- Researched for and implemented advocacy campaigns in partnership with indigenous peoples and organizations to protect lands, languages and cultures.
- Represented the organization as invited guest lecturer for university courses.
- Contributed to strategic planning with executive committee and board of directors.
- Drafted communications with public officials and wrote human rights reports to UN bodies.

Site Director, Zambia, Africa Hope, Grand Junction, CO (04/09 - 03/10).

- Developed and facilitated community development and educational programs.
- Managed finances and staff.
- Facilitated diverse community dialogues.

AmeriCorps Member, Multicultural Communities in Action, Minneapolis, MN (09/2008 - 4/2009).

- Coordinated and developed programs empowering refugee, immigrant, and marginalized communities.
- Created evaluation criteria to better succeed in program goals.
- Facilitated dialogue and engagement around community concerns.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, Minnesota Alliance with Youth, Minneapolis, MN (09/2007 - 08/2008).

- Managed regional anti-discrimination educational programs.
- Created diversity training curriculum.
- Recruited, trained, and managed over 100 volunteers and interns.
- Built a network of organizations for resource sharing.

Intern, International Rescue Committee, San Diego, CA (09/2006-12/2006).

- Designed and implemented food security program for refugee, immigrant and marginalized communities.
- Developed partnerships with other food and health related organizations in Southern California.