

Alonso López

✉ alonso@newschool.edu

Sociologist, MA in Urban Development and Sociology PhD Student. My research interests aim at the intersection of housing policy, its application, and the underlying conceptual reflection in Chile and Latin America. I have transdisciplinary experience with scholarly work, the United Nations System, and Civil Society Organizations.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- 2023 – to the present **PhD Student in Sociology** (expected completion: 2028). Sociology Department, The New School for Social Research, New York. Dissertation project: "Bricolage Citizenship: Building Belonging in Santiago's Autoconstructed Settlements" (proposal defense: December 2026). Committee: Virág Molnár (chair), Carlos Forment, Antina von Schnitzler.
- 2021 **MA in Urban Development**, graduated with two distinction votes. Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
- 2018 **BA in Sociology**, graduated with maximum distinction and Ranking Nº1. Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile.
- 2016 **Minor in Contemporary Thought**, Institute of Humanities, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024 – to the present **General Editor, *Cuadernos de Teoría Social*.**
Main responsible, with Francisca Benítez, of leading, editing and publishing the indexed journal on social thought. Visit [here](#).
- 2024 – to the present **Research Assistant, The New School for Social Research**
For all the projects concerning Professor Carlos Forment, including studies on Plebeian Citizenship in Argentina, and Professor Terri Gordon, including studies on memory and literature in Chile.
- 2022 – 2023 **Head of Studies and Research Area, *Enlace-Urbano* NGO.**
Sociologist in charge of developing, executing and monitoring the methodological intervention strategy in informal settlements throughout Chile.
- 2019 – 2023 **Research Coordinator, Social Transformation LAB.**
Sociologist coordinating research activities of the LAB members. Lecturer of extension courses, connecting students with applied social research. Universidad Diego Portales, Chile.
- 2023 **Fieldwork Consultant**

For the project "Local Clean Technologies Catalog for the Climate Action", with Dr. Tomás Ariztía. Universidad Diego Portales, Chile.

- 2022 – 2023 **United Nations Research Consultant.**
Researcher for the project "Inclusive, sustainable and Smart Cities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda". Social Development Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations.
- 2021 **Research Consultant**
For the Fondecyt Project N°1200208 "The Autonomy and Secularization of Modernity. A study on Philosophical Sociology". Dr. Daniel Chernilo and Dr. Rodrigo Cordero, chief researchers. Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile.
- 2020 **MA Research Assistant**
For the Fondecyt Project N°1201488 "The politics of Urban Marginality: Poverty Institutionalization and gender roles in the re-configuration of "emblematic poblaciones". Dr. Javier Ruiz-Tagle, Chief Researcher.
- 2019 **Research Assistant**
For the formulation of the project "The autonomy of modernity: The secularization debate(s) revisited", with Dr. Daniel Chernilo, Chief Researcher.
- 2019 – 2021 **Fieldwork Consultant**
For the Fondecyt Project N° 11180099, "Peasant and indigenous agricultures in movement: Alternative alimentary systems and the logistic turn in Santiago. Dr. Martín Arboleda, Chief Researcher.
- 2019 **Management Assistant**
For the project "Fondecyt N° 1181585: "Political constitution and the re-programming of social order: A study on the production of society's concept in the discussion and writing of the Chilean Constitution of 1980". Dr. Rodrigo Cordero, Chief Researcher.
- 2019 **Translation Assistant**
For the book "Political Investigations", of Robert Fine, with the main translators Daniel Chernilo and Rodrigo Cordero. Metales Pesados Editions
- 2018 – 2019 **Executive Coordinator**
Social Theory Research Cluster. Social Sciences and History Faculty, Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2018 **Fieldwork Consultant**
For the postdoctoral Fondecyt Project N° 3160542, "Struggles for the right to housing in the Great Santiago: critical meanings towards social and political inequality in contexts of residential proximity". Dr. Nicolás Angelcos, Main Researcher.
- 2018 **Internship in United Nations**

As research consultant in the Social Development Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Supervised by Ernesto Espíndola and Claudia Robles.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| 2025 | <p>Thesis Reader Professor
"Close to order: micropolitics of order, communitarian practices and moral disputes in closed streets and lanes". Thesis for the grade of Professional Sociologist, Students Sebastián Aliaga and Gabriel Farías. Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.</p> |
| 2023 | <p>Instructor Professor
For the Courses "Introduction to Sociology" and "Housing Crisis: the problem of Housing in Chile. Social Sciences and History Faculty, Universidad Diego Portales.</p> |
| 2022 | <p>Thesis Reader Professor
"Building a <i>Nuevo Amanecer</i>". Production of social habitat in the migrant shanty town "Nuevo Amanecer, Santiago de Chile". Thesis for the grade of Professional Sociologist, Students Tamara Sanhueza and Paula Jerez. Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.</p> |
| 2021 – 2022 | <p>Instructor Professor
"Sociological Theory II: The problem of action. Sociology Department, Universidad Mayor.</p> |
| 2020 – 2021 | <p>Instructor of Summer Schools
For the courses "Understanding the Social Transformation from the Classical Sociological Approach", "Theoretical competences" and "Applied Urban Ethnography". Universidad Diego Portales.</p> |
| 2020 – 2023 | <p>Instructor of Internships
"Digital Ethnography and Popular Politics", "Making Power Visible: Theoretical and methodological queries on process of urban resistance in Chile". Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.</p> |
| 2018 – 2020 | <p>Teaching Professor
For the courses "Sociological Theory III: The problem of action" and "Classical Sociology I: The classics". Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.</p> |
| 2015 – 2018 | <p>Teaching Assistant
For the courses: "Urban Sociology"; Logic of Social Inquiry"; "Sociological Theory III"; "Introduction to Sociology"; "Advanced Data Analysis"; "Statistics II"; "Statistics I". Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.</p> |

PUBLICATIONS

- 2027 **López, A.** Hacia un paisaje emocional de la autoconstrucción. Miedo, inversión e incertidumbre entre habitantes del Campamento Alto, Santiago de Chile. *Eure*. (Forthcoming, January 2027)
- 2025 **López, A.** & González, R. Construir un futuro incierto. *Revista Abismo*. [Available here.](#)
- 2025 **López, A.** & Ruiz-Tagle, J. Violent demonstrations in marginal territories and their place in politics: A case study in Lo Hermida, Santiago de Chile. *Anthropological Theory*. [Available here.](#)
- 2022 **(CEPAL).** R. Martínez, C. Maldonado y J. Schönsteiner (eds.), "Inclusión y movilidad urbana con un enfoque de derechos humanos e igualdad de género: marco de análisis e identificación de instrumentos de política para el desarrollo de sistemas sostenibles de movilidad urbana en América Latina", *Documentos de Proyectos* (LC/TS.2022/74), Santiago, Caribe (CEPAL). [Available here.](#)
- 2021 **López, A.** "‘Que se den cuenta que el pueblo tiene fervor’. Manifestaciones violentas en territorios marginales y su lugar en lo político. Estudio de caso en Lo Hermida, Santiago de Chile". MA Thesis, graded with Maximum Distinction. Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. [Available here.](#)
- 2021 **López, A.** y Ruiz-Tagle, J. "Violencia Estructural en la Población Lo Hermida". Artículos de Incidencia 1, COES. [Available here.](#)
- 2020 **López, A.** y Orlando, L. "Lucha por la vivienda y procesos de subjetivación moral: "El caso de Parque Habitacional Las Perdices, La Reina."". *Contenido* 10(2). [Available here.](#)
- 2019 **López, A.** "Artesanía intelectual en tiempos difíciles". *Cuadernos De Teoría Social*, 5(10), 5-10. [Available here.](#)
- 2019 Isola, E. y **López, A.** "La resistencia como forma de vida: elementos para la apropiación sociológica de un concepto". *Persona y sociedad* 23 (1), p. 33-62. [Available here.](#)
- 2018 **(CEPAL)** "Hacia una agenda regional de desarrollo social inclusivo: Bases y propuesta inicial". (LC/MDS.2/2), Santiago, 2018. [Available here.](#)

ACADEMIC EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- 2026 **Presentation** at the RC21 World Conference in the session #15-2/2 " Rethinking the Urban Home: Self-Help Housing Re/constructions and Contemporary Challenges". Presentation title: "Towards an Emotional Landscape of autoconstruction: Fear,

Investment, and Uncertainty among Residents of Campamento Alto, Santiago de Chile”.

- 2026-
to the present **Convenor** – Urban Theory Workshop. Independent network of 120+ postgraduate and doctoral researchers across 56 universities in 21 countries, focused on critical urban studies and political ecology. Visit [here](#).
- 2025 **Presentation** at the Urban Worlds Colloquium: Cities, Spaces, and Materialities in the 21st Century. Laboratory of Urban, Spatial and Landscape Research, New York. Presentation title: *Dwelling with Uncertainty in an Informal Settlement in Santiago, Chile*.
- 2025 **Presentation** at the Sociology Graduate Conference. Paper presented: “Subjective Auto-construction: Ethnographic Study of Informal Settlement Dwellers in Latin America.”
- 2024 **Presentation** at the RC21 World Conference in the session N47 “Bridging the Gap: Understanding the complex relationship between popular urbanization and the State”. Presentation title: “Self-construction in Peripheral Urbanization: Insurgent Citizenship among informal urban settlements.”
- 2024 **Participant** at the 7th RC21-IJURR Foundation-IJURR Doctoral School in Comparative Urban Studies, Santiago de Chile. 14-26 July 2024.
- 2023 **Organizer** of the International Colloquium “Memory and future of *Dependentism*. Balance 50 years after the military coup in Chile”. Social Transformations Lab, Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2023 **Presentation** at the Chilean Congress of Anthropology: “‘Que se den cuenta que el pueblo tiene fervor’: manifestaciones violentas en territorios marginales y su lugar en lo político. Estudio de caso en Lo Hermida, Santiago de Chile”.
- 2022 **Presentation** at the XI Chilean Congress of Sociology and Pre-ALAS, Concepción 2022: “‘Que se den cuenta que el pueblo tiene fervor’: manifestaciones violentas en territorios marginales y su lugar en lo político. Estudio de caso en Lo Hermida, Santiago de Chile”.
- 2021 **Presentation** at the National Colloquium of Secularization: Values, Time, Politics and Technology: “La marginalidad urbana como tensión secular: la lucha por la vivienda en Chile en disputa con la gubernamentalidad del territorio”.
- 2020 **Presentation** at the IV Doctoral Symposium of the PhD program on Political Processes and Institutions, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez: “La dimensión de lo político de las manifestaciones violentas. Hacia un nuevo paradigma conceptual de las revueltas en los márgenes urbanos”.
- 2019 **Guest Editor** for the review “*Cuadernos de Teoría Social*”. Special Issue: “Artesanía intelectual en tiempos difíciles”.

- 2019 **Organizer** of the workshop: "Representing the absolute: Visual Culture and Capitalism". Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2019 **Organizer** of the International Colloquium "Between Sociology and Philosophy." Social Theory Research Cluster, Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2016-2018 **Coordinator** of Study Groups: "Other Politics: *Pobladores* and Forms of Life"; "Hannah Arendt and the freedom problem" and "Michel Foucault's History of Sexuality I, II y III." Social Theory Research Cluster, Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2016 **Presentation** at the 9th Sociology National Congress: "Symbolic Boundaries in the Housing Struggle" Universidad Católica del Maule.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2024 **RC21-IJURR Doctoral School Fellowship.** Granted by the board committee, covering travel expenses, accommodation, and all fees for the doctoral school and the conference.
- 2024-2026 **Janey Program for Latin American Studies, The New School for Social Research.** Funding for fieldwork expenses during summer term, 2024 and 2026.
- 2023 **ANID Doctoral Fellowship Abroad (Becas Chile),** Granted by Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (ANID), Science and Technology Ministry of Chile. Full tuition cover and stipends for doctoral studies.
- 2023 **The Prize Fellowship,** granted by The New School for Social Research, New York. Full tuition cover and stipend for doctoral studies.
- 2020 **Academic Excellence Fellowship,** granted to the grade point average of the MA programs on Urban Development and Environmental and Human Settlements. Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
- 2019 **National MA Fellowship,** Granted by Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo, Science and Technology Ministry of Chile. Full tuition cover and stipends for doctoral studies.
- 2019 **Admission Fellowship,** Granted to Admission Profile, Covering the 50% of tuition for MA Studies. Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
- 2018 **Academic Excellence Prize,** granted to the best grade point average (Ranking N°1) for the 2018 cohort from Sociology Department. Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2017 **Best TA Prize,** granted to the best Teaching Assistant in the Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.

- 2016 **Honor Scholarship**, granted to the best grade point average from the 2018 cohort of the Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.
- 2014 **Honor Diploma Scholarship**, granted to top 10% students, covering the tuition for Contemporary Thought Diploma. Humanities Institute, Universidad Diego Portales.

LANGUAGES

- English** Full academic competence.
- French** Intermediate, DELF B2, Institut français du Chili.
- Spanish** Mother Tongue.

REFERENCES

- Carlos Forment** Emeritus Professor, The New School for Social Research, New York.
Contact: formentc@newschool.edu
- Rodrigo Cordero** Professor and Director of the Sociology Department, Universidad Diego Portales.
Contact: rodrigo.cordero@udp.cl
- Virág Molnár** Associate Professor & Chair of the Sociology Department, The New School for Social Research, New York.
Contact: molnarv@newschool.edu
- Javier Ruiz-Tagle** Assistant Professor & Director of the interdisciplinary Diploma on Housing Policies. Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
Contact: jaruiz-tagle@uc.cl