

Jessica K. Taft, PhD
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Latin American and Latino Studies
University of California at Santa Cruz
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Employment

Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, UC-Santa Cruz Affiliated faculty in Sociology; Education; Community Studies	2020-present
Associate Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, UC-Santa Cruz	2016-2020
Assistant Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, UC-Santa Cruz	2014-2016
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Davidson College Affiliated faculty in Gender and Sexuality Studies; Educational Studies	2009-2014
Lecturer in Sociology, Sonoma State University	2006-2009

Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara, 2008 Certificate in Women's Studies Dissertation: <i>Growing Up and Rising Up: Teenage Girl Activists and Social Movements in the Americas</i> Committee: Dr. Avery Gordon (Chair), Dr. Verta Taylor, Dr. Richard Flacks
M.A. in Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara, 2003 Received Honors Pass Master's Thesis: "I'm Not a Politics Person': Teenage Girls' Critical Rejection of Governmental Politics"
B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, 2000 Minors in Philosophy and Sociology Graduated Magna Cum Laude Honor's Thesis: "Girl Power Politics: The Relationship Between Girls and Feminism"

Publications

Books

Taft, Jessica K. 2019. *The Kids Are in Charge: Activism and Power in Peru's Movement of Working Children*. New York: New York University Press.

Taft, Jessica K. 2011. *Rebel Girls: Youth Activism and Social Change Across the Americas*. New York: New York University Press.

"We Are Not Ophelia: Empowerment and Activist Identities" reprinted in *Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology, 8th edition*. 2012. Edited by Margaret Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins. New York: Wadsworth Publishing.

Edited Volumes

Nenga, Sandi Kawecka and Jessica K. Taft, eds. 2013. *Youth Engagement: The Civic-Political Lives of Children and Youth, Volume 16 of Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Taft, Jessica K. 2020. "Hopeful, Harmless, and Heroic: Figuring the Girl Activist as Global Savior." *Girlhood Studies* 13(2): 1-17.

Taft, Jessica K. 2019. "Continually Redefining Protagonismo: The Peruvian Movement of Working Children and Political Change, 1976-2015." *Latin American Perspectives* 46(5): 90-110.

Taft, Jessica K. 2017. "Teenage Girls' Narratives of Becoming Activists." *Contemporary Social Science* 12(1-2): 27-39.

Taft, Jessica K. 2015. "Adults Talk Too Much: Intergenerational Dialogue and Power in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children." *Childhood: A Journal of Global Child Research* 22(4): 460-473.

Taft, Jessica K. 2014. "The Political Lives of Girls." *Sociology Compass* 8(3): 259-267.

Taft, Jessica K. and Hava Gordon. 2013. "Youth Activists, Youth Councils, and Constrained Democracy." *Education, Citizenship, and Social Justice* 8(1): 87-100.

Gordon, Hava and Jessica K. Taft. 2011. "Rethinking Youth Political Socialization: Teenage Activists Talk Back." *Youth & Society* 43(4): 1499-1527.

Taft, Jessica K. 2010. "Girlhood in Action: Contemporary U.S. Girls' Organizations and the Public Sphere." *Girlhood Studies* 3(2): 11-29.

Taft, Jessica K. 2006. "I'm Not a Politics Person: Teenage Girls, Oppositional Consciousness, and the Meaning of Politics." *Politics & Gender* 2: 329-352.

Book Chapters

Taft, Jessica K. 2022. "Intergenerational Activism as an Alternative to Child Saving: The Peruvian Movement of Working Children." In *Are We Really Saving the Children? International Child Protection in the 21st Century*, edited by Neil Howard and Samuel Okyere. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Taft, Jessica K. 2021. "Is it Okay to Criticize Youth Activists?: Notes on the Power and Danger of Complexity." In *Youth as Subjects, Objects and Agents*, edited by MJ Maynes, Fran Vavrus, and Deborah Levison. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Taft, Jessica K. and Alejandro Cussianovich. 2018. "Feminist Intuitions in Peru's Movement of Working Children: A Dialogue between Alejandro Cussianovich and Jessica Taft." In *Feminism and the Politics of Childhood*, edited by Rachel Rosen and Katherine Twamley. London: University College London Press.

Taft, Jessica K. and Hava R. Gordon. 2016. "Intergenerational Relationships in Youth Activist Networks." Volume 5, Families, Intergenerationality and Peer Group Relations, edited by Samantha Punch and Robert Vanderbeck, in the *Geographies of Children and Young People Major Reference Work*, edited by Tracy Skelton. Singapore: Springer.

Nenga, Sandi Kawecka and Jessica K. Taft. 2013. "Introduction: Conceptualizing Youth Engagement." In *Youth Engagement: The Civic-Political Lives of Children and Youth, Volume 16 of Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*, edited by SK Nenga and JK Taft. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing.

Taft, Jessica K. 2012. "The Rebel Girls of the Other Campaign: The EZLN and Teenage Activism in Mexico City." In *Cultural Politics and Resistance in the 21st Century: Community Based Social Movements and Global Change in the Americas*, edited by Clare Weber and Kara Dellacioppa. New York: Palgrave Mcmillan.

Taft, Jessica Karen. 2007. "Racing Age: Reflections on Anti-Racist Research with Teenage Girls." Pp. 203-225 in *Representing Youth: Methodological Dilemmas in Critical Youth Studies*, edited by Amy Best. New York: New York University Press.

Taft, Jessica K. 2004. "Girl Power Politics: Pop-Culture Barriers and Organizational Resistance." Pp 69-78 in *All About the Girl: Culture, Power and Identity*, edited by Anita Harris. New York: Routledge.

Reviews and Review Essays

Taft, Jessica K. 2011. Book Review of *Raising Brooklyn: Nannies, Childcare, and Caribbeans Creating Community* by Tamara Brown. Teachers College Record, May 2011. TCRRecord.org

Taft, Jessica K. 2007. "Girlhood, Identity and Power." *Feminist Collections* 28 (3): 7-10.

Taft, Jessica K. 2004. Book Review of *Choosing a Self: Young Women and the Individualization of Identity* by Shelley Budgeon. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 33: 194-195.

Other Publications

Taft, Jessica K. and Hava Gordon. 2014. "Youth Activism in the Bay Area." *ASA Footnotes* 42(6): 1.

Taft, Jessica K., ed. 2013. *Nothing About Us, Without Us: Critiques of the International Labor Organization's Approach to Child Labor from the Movements of Working Children*. IFEJANT: Lima, Peru.

Women's Economic Justice Project Research Team. 2006. *Enough Injustice: Voices of Central Coast Working Women*. Ventura, CA: Coastal Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy.

Public Engagement

Jessica K. Taft. 2020. "How Youth are Taking the Lead in Issues Local to Global." *KCET.org* <https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising/how-youth-are-taking-the-lead-in-issues-local-to-global>

Jessica K. Taft. 2020. "7 Ways to Support the Young Activists in Your Life." Embrace Race Action Guides. <https://www.embracerace.org/resources/7-ways-to-support-the-young-activists-in-your-life>

Jessica K. Taft. 2019. "A UN Treaty Guarantees Youth Rights Everywhere on Earth – Except the United States." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/a-un-treaty-guarantees-youth-rights-everywhere-on-earth-except-the-united-states-124338>

Jessica K. Taft. 2019. "How Adults are Unfairly Dismissing the Youth Climate Strike." Op-Ed in *San Francisco Chronicle*. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/Open-Forum-How-adults-are-unfairly-dismissing-14451133.php>

Jessica K. Taft. 2018. "Twenty Years of Millennials' Involvement in Social Movements." Online Essay published by Mobilizing Ideas, a project of the Center for the Study of Social Movements at the University of Notre Dame. <https://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2018/05/30/twenty-years-of-millennials-involvement-in-social-movements>

Jessica K. Taft. 2018. "What Responses Should I Expect from Adults When I Get Involved in Activism?" Video essay in the *Informing Activists* Series, published by Mobilizing Ideas, a project of the Center for the Study of Social Movements at the University of Notre Dame. <https://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2018/10/15/informing-activists-what-responses-should-i-expect-from-adults-when-i-get-involved-in-activism/>

Jessica K. Taft. 2016. "Supporting Working Children as Social, Political and Economic Agents." On-line essay published on Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, a project of OpenDemocracy.net. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/jessica-taft/supporting-working-children-as-social-political-and-economic-agents>

Media Interviews

Interviewed for and quoted in a variety of news articles on young people's activism including by National Public Radio, the Washington Post, National Geographic Family, 19th News, Mashable, Teen Vogue, Voices of Monterey Bay, KSQD.

Editorial Work

Series editor, *Critical Perspectives on Youth*, New York University Press

Invited Lectures and Presentations

"The Kids Are in Charge' But 'Adults Talk Too Much': Age and Power in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children." International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, May 2022.

"Analyzing the 'Rise' of the Youth Activist." Beyond Youth Empowerment: Constraints and Possibilities for Radical Democratic Action Webinar, Center for Urban Youth Research, Carleton University, May 2022.

"Protagonismo and Collective Action: Theorizing Children's Political Power with the Peruvian Movement of Working Children." The Centre for Children and Young People's Participation, University of Central Lancashire, March 2022.

"The Kids Are in Charge' But 'Adults Talk Too Much': Age and Power in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children." Institute for Development Studies and Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth, University of Sussex, March 2022.

"Intergenerational Collaboration and Children's Participation." A Child's Right to a Healthy Environment – Lessons Learned from an Intergenerational Approach. Royal Roads University, February 2022.

- “‘The Kids are in Charge’ But ‘Adults Talk Too Much’: Age and Power in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” Childhood Studies Research Group, University College London, February 2022.
- “Supporting Child and Youth Participation” Elevate Children Funders Group Annual Meeting, May 2021.
- “Sparkling an International Youth Activism Movement.” Cultivating Youth Activism Online Conference, October 2020.
- “The Kids Are in Charge: Challenging Assumptions about Childhood.” Parenting Forward Annual Conference, April 2020.
- “‘The Kids Are in Charge’ But ‘Adults Talk Too Much’: Age and Power in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, University of Minnesota, March 2018.
- “Intergenerational Relationships, Identity, and Power in Peru's Movement of Working Children.” Social Psychology Colloquium, University of California at Santa Cruz, October 2016.
- “Social Movements and the Meaning of Childhood: Pursuing Intergenerational Equality in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” Developmental Psychology Colloquium, University of California at Santa Cruz, March 2015.
- “Rebel Girls: Youth Activism and Social Change.” New York University Liberal Studies Program, November 2014.
- “Redefining Girlhood: Teenage Activists and Contemporary Feminisms in the Americas.” St. Mary's College, March 2014.
- “Redefining Girlhood: Teenage Activists and Contemporary Feminisms.” Gender ARC Lecture Series, National University of Ireland, Galway, October 2012.
- “Chicas Rebeldes: La Militancia de Jóvenes y El Cambio Social.” Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, Lima Peru, July 2012.
- “Chicas Rebeldes: La Militancia de Jóvenes y El Cambio Social.” Instituto de Formación de Educadores de Jóvenes, Adolescentes y Niños Trabajadores de América Latina y el Caribe, Lima Peru, July 2012.
- “Rebel Girls: Youth Activism and Social Change.” University of Pittsburgh Women's Studies Lecture Series, March 2012
- “Redefining Girlhood: Teenage Activists and Contemporary Feminisms.” Carlow University Women's History Month Lecture, March 2012.
- “Rebel Girls: Youth Activism and Social Change.” Dickinson College Latin American Studies Program Lecture, February 2012.
- “Beyond Citizens-in-the-Making: Changing Understandings of Youth Political Identities.” The Changing Landscape of Political Conventions, Charlotte Teacher's Institute, Exploding Canons Event Series, October 2011.

“Girls’ Studies.” Conversations for Change Discussion Series, Department of Women’s Studies, UC-Santa Barbara, February 2007.

“High School Youth Movements in Low-Income Communities: The Importance of Student Activism for Educational Justice.” Shining a Light on Poverty, Keene State College, April 2006.

“Does This Really Count? Teaching PAR and Defining the Discipline as a Graduate Student.” Building Capacity for Effective Participatory Action Research. Center for Labor Research and Education, UCLA, February 2004.

Conference Presentations

“Book Salon: *Black Boys Apart: Racial Uplift and Respectability in All-Male Public Schools* by Freeden Blume Oeur.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2020.

“Author Meets Critics: *Graffiti Grrlz: Performing Feminism in the Hip Hop Diaspora* by Jessica Nidia Pabón-Colón.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, November 2019.

“Teachers, Mothers, or Compañeros: Gender, Power, and Intergenerational Relationships in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2018.

“Que Saben los Niños?: Children’s Knowledge, Political Education, and Peru’s Movement of Working Children.” Conceptualizing Children and Youth Conference, Brock University, October 2017.

“Que Saben los Niños?: Children’s Knowledge, Political Education, and Peru’s Movement of Working Children.” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, April 2017.

“Children’s Movements, Knowledge Practices, and Political Legitimacy.” Childhoods in Motion: Children, Youth, Migration, and Education Conference, March 2017.

“Intergenerational Collaboration and the Pursuit of Egalitarian Relationships in Peru’s Movement of Working Children.” University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education Ethnography Forum, February 2017.

“Youth as Decision-Makers in the Present: Participatory Budgeting and Changing Perceptions of Youth Citizenship.” With Ginny Browne. *By the People: Participatory Democracy, Civic Engagement and Citizenship Education*, Arizona State University, December 2015.

“Imagining Intergenerational Collaboration: Approaches to Equality in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” American Sociological Association Meeting, August 2015.

“Seeking Dignity and Citizenship: Advocacy and Activism in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” Latin American Studies Association International Congress, May 2015.

- “Equality and Children’s Difference: Re-imagining Intergenerational Relationships in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” Fourth International Conference on the Geographies of Children, Youth, and Families, January 2015.
- “Cultures of Collaboration: Intergenerational Relationships in the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” University of Illinois Joint Area Centers Symposium: Childhood and Globalization, April 2014.
- “Author Meets Critics: *The U.S. Women’s Jury Movements and Strategic Adaptation: A More Just Verdict* by Holly McCammon.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 2013.
- “The Competent Child and the Neoliberal Self: Reflections from the Peruvian Movement of Working Children.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, March 2013.
- “Author Meets Critics: *Citizen Youth: Culture, Activism, and Agency in a Neoliberal Era* by Jacqueline Kennelly.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, March 2013.
- “Resisting War, Resisting Empire: Race, Nation, and Contemporary Girls’ Activism.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2012.
- “Children’s Participation and Child Labor Organizations in Vietnam.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2011.
- “Here and There: Girl Activists and Global Citizenship.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 2011.
- “‘The Issues Are So Big’: Girl Activists and Global Citizenship.” Reimagining Girlhood: Communities, Identities, Self-Portrayals, October 2010.
- “Internationalizing Girls’ Studies.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2009.
- “Youth Civic Engagement and Constrained Democracy.” With Hava Gordon. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2009.
- “We’re Not Special: Teenage Girl Activists and the ‘Exceptionalism’ of Youth Engagement.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, April 2008.
- “We Are the Present, Not Just the Future: Teenage Girl Activists’ Discourses of Political Agency.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2007.
- “‘So That the Youth Aren’t Sleeping’: Teenage Girl Activists’ Use of Political Education as a Social Movement Strategy.” ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Workshop, August 2007.
- “We Are the Present: Girl Activists Claiming Political Authority in the Americas.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, June 2007.
- “Open Your Eyes and See the Reality: Teenage Girl Activists’ Practices for Building Oppositional Consciousness.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, April 2007.

- “Capitalism Doesn’t Empower Me: Teenage Girl Activists Discuss Globalization.” Berkeley Journal of Sociology Annual Conference, UC-Berkeley, March 2007.
- “Another Girlhood Is Possible: Teenage Girls at the World Social Forum.” Midwest Popular Culture/American Culture Association Annual Meeting, November 2007.
- “Research With Girls: A Girls’ Studies Workshop.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, June 2005.
- “Growing Up and Rising Up: Notes on U.S. Girl Politics.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, April 2005.
- “Youth Civic Engagement and Democratic Political Practice.” Democracy and its Development Graduate Student Conference. Center for the Study of Democracy, UC-Irvine, February 2005.
- “Scouts and Activists: A Comparative Analysis of Girls’ Organizations.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2004.
- “Supporting Girl Activism: Ageism, Power and Coalitions.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, June 2004.
- “Focus Groups, the Sociological Imagination and Political Education.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, April 2003.
- “Defining Girl Power: The Culture Machine vs. The Girl Activist.” A New Girl Order: Young Women and the Future of Feminist Inquiry. London, November 2001.

Grants and Fellowships

Fulbright Global Scholar Award, 2022

Fellowship for research on the relationship between international children’s rights institutions and youth activists.

Faculty Research Grant, Committee on Research, UC Santa Cruz, 2021

Grant to support research on the relationship between international children’s rights institutions and youth activists.

Harvest Research Grant, Santa Cruz Institute for Social Transformation, UC Santa Cruz, 2019

*Support for developing and implementing workshops on intergenerational activism based on *The Kids Are in Charge**

UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity Faculty Research Grant, University of California, 2019

Support for “Multi-Institutional Youth Organizing and the Dynamics of Individual Transformation”

Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning, UC Santa Cruz, 2018

Participated in learning community focused on pedagogy and received support for the development of pedagogical training of LALS graduate students

New Faculty Research Grant, Committee on Research, UC Santa Cruz, 2014

Support for “Social Movements and the Meaning of Childhood: Intergenerational Collaboration in the Peruvian Working Children’s Movement”

Chicano Latino Research Center Faculty Grant, UC Santa Cruz, 2014

Support for “Social Movements and the Meaning of Childhood: Intergenerational Collaboration in the Peruvian Working Children’s Movement”

Kellogg Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame Visiting Fellowship, 2013

Residential fellowship providing support for writing related to “Social Movements and the Meaning of Childhood: Intergenerational Collaboration in the Peruvian Working Children’s Movement”

American Sociological Association Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline Grant, 2012

Support for field research for "Social Movements and the Meaning of Childhood: Intergenerational Collaboration in the Peruvian Working Children's Movement"

Faculty Study and Research Grant, Davidson College, 2012

Support for field research for "Social Movements and the Meaning of Childhood: Intergenerational Collaboration in the Peruvian Working Children's Movement"

Community Service Office Curriculum Development Grant, Davidson College, 2010

Support for the development of community-based learning practices for a course on the Sociology of Childhood.

Dean Rusk Faculty Travel Grant, Davidson College, 2010

Support for preliminary field research on child labor organizations in Vietnam.

Faculty Study and Research Grant, Davidson College, 2010

Support for preliminary field research on child labor organizations in Vietnam.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2003-2006

Multi-year fellowship support for graduate work and dissertation research.

UC-Santa Barbara Regent's Fellowship, 2001-2007

Multi-year fellowship support for graduate work and dissertation research.

Awards

Engaged Scholarship Award, Center for Civic Engagement, Davidson College, 2011

Junior Scholar Travel Award, Women in Politics: Global Perspectives Conference, 2009

Macalester College Women's and Gender Studies Senior Award, 2000