

Tara Patricia Cookson, PhD

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of British Columbia, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, Assistant Professor (2021-current)

University of British Columbia, Geography Department, Associate Member (2021-current)

University of British Columbia, Geography Department, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-2019)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of Cambridge**, Department of Geography (2015). Gates Cambridge Scholar.

Dissertation: “Rural women and the uneven process of inclusion: an institutional ethnography of Peru's conditional cash transfer programme.”

M.A. **University of Toronto**, Institute for Women and Gender Studies (2010).

B.A. **University of British Columbia**, Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, International Relations and Spanish (2009).

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Cookson, T.P. (2018). *Unjust conditions: Women's work and the hidden cost of cash transfer programs*. University of California Press. Open Access. <https://doi.org/10.1525/luminos.49>

- Winner of the Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography, American Association of Geographers, 2019
- Winner of the Sarah A. Whaley Book Prize, National Women's Studies Association, 2019
- Honorable Mention, Global Development Studies Book Award, International Studies Association, 2020

Journal articles

Zulver J., Cookson T.P. & Fuentes L. “COVID-19 and gender-based violence: Insights from a 'data for development' project on the Colombia-Venezuela border.” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Forthcoming.

- Cookson T.P., Jha S., Fuentes L. & Saxena A. (2020). “Programmatic norms change to eliminate violence against children: Insights for practitioners and researchers from a UNICEF global mapping study.” *Global Public Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2020.1839931>
- Fuentes, L. & Cookson, T.P. (2020). “Counting gender (in) equality? a feminist geographical critique of the ‘gender data revolution’.” *Gender, Place & Culture*. 27(6), 881-902. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2019.1681371>
- Cookson, T.P. (2016). “Working for Inclusion? Conditional Cash Transfers, Rural Women, and the Reproduction of Inequality.” *Antipode*, 48(5), 1187-1205. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12256>
- Holeman, I., Cookson, T. P., & Pagliari, C. (2016). Digital technology for health sector governance in low and middle income countries: a scoping review. *Journal of global health*, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.7189/jogh.06.020408>

Book chapters

- Cookson, T. P. (2018). Peruvian mothers contending with conditional aid and its selective inattention to the conditions of rural life. In Balen, M.E. & Fotta, M. (Eds.), *Money from the Government in Latin America: Conditional Cash Transfer Programs and Rural Lives* (pp. 63-78). <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351173162>.

Research reports

- Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). *Gender Equality at Home Report: A Gender Data Snapshot of Life During COVID-19*. San Francisco: Facebook. Available at: <https://dataforgood.fb.com/docs/gendersurveyreport/>
- Cookson, T.P., Fuentes, L., Zulver, J. & Langworthy, M. (2020). *Building alliances for gender Equality: How the tech community can strengthen the gender data ecosystem*. Ladysmith and Facebook. <https://ladysmithcollective.com/report-building-alliances-for-gender-equality/>.
- Cookson, T.P. & Kofman, E. (2019). “Families on the Move.” In *Progress of the World’s Women 2019 2020: Families in a Changing World*. New York: UN Women. Published in English, French, Spanish and Russian.
- UN Women. (2019). *Progress of the World’s Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World*. New York: UN Women. 285 pages. Published in English, French, Spanish and Russian. Substantive Editor.
- Seattle Women’s Commission and Housing Justice Project. (2018). *Losing home: The human cost of eviction in Seattle*. Seattle Women’s Commission and the King County Bar Association.
- UN Women (2017). *Women migrant workers in the ASEAN Economic Community*. Bangkok: UN Women and FES. Authors: Shreyasi Jha, Abha Saxena, Tara Patricia Cookson.

Holeman I., Cookson T.P., & Pagliari C. (2015). Digital Technology for Health Sector Governance: A Scoping Review of Research and Practice. USAID.

Policy briefs

Cookson, T.P., Sandoval, R., Staab, S. & Tabbush, C. Towards universal, gender sensitive social protection? A global review of national social protection policies. Social Protection for All Issue Brief. International Labour Organization and UN Women. Forthcoming.

Cookson, T.P., Sandoval, R., Staab, S., & Tabbush, C. Extending social security to workers in the informal economy: A global review of national social protection policies. Social Protection for All Issue Brief. International Labour Organization. Forthcoming.

Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). East Asia and Pacific: Survey on Gender Equality at Home Regional Brief. San Francisco: Facebook.

Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). Europe and Central Asia: Survey on Gender Equality at Home Regional Brief. San Francisco: Facebook.

Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). Latin America and the Caribbean: Survey on Gender Equality at Home Regional Brief. San Francisco: Facebook.

Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). Middle East and North Africa: Survey on Gender Equality at Home Regional Brief. San Francisco: Facebook.

Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). North America: Survey on Gender Equality at Home Regional Brief. San Francisco: Facebook.

Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). South Asia: Survey on Gender Equality at Home Regional Brief. San Francisco: Facebook.

Cookson T.P., Carlitz R., Fuentes L., & Berryhill A. (2020). Sub-Saharan Africa: Survey on Gender Equality at Home Regional Brief. San Francisco: Facebook.

UN Women (2020). COVID-19 and Conflict: Advancing Women's Meaningful Participation in Ceasefires and Peace Processes. UN Women Policy Brief No. 19. Substantive editor.

UN Women. (2020). COVID-19 and women's leadership: From an effective response to building back better. UN Women Policy Brief No. 18. Substantive editor.

UN Women. (2020). COVID-19 and violence against women and girls: Addressing the shadow pandemic. Policy Brief No. 17. Substantive editor.

UN Women. (2020). COVID-19 and the care economy: Immediate action and structural transformation for a gender-responsive recovery. Policy Brief No. 16. Substantive editor.

UN Women. (2020). Addressing the economic fallout of COVID-19: Pathways and policy options for a gender-responsive recovery. Policy Brief No. 15. Substantive editor.

Cookson, T.P. (2019). Family Oriented Cash Transfers from a Gender Perspective: Are Conditionalities Really Justified? New York: UN Women.

Cookson, T.P. (2018). Social Protection and Access to Public Services in the Age of Conditionality. Expert Paper prepared for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations.

Cookson, T.P. (2017). The Unseen Gender Impact of Conditionality: Extra-Official Conditions. UNDP International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth. Published in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Conference presentations

“Just Give Money to the Poor?— and the Fleeing? The Gendered Tensions of Cash-Based Assistance in Development and Humanitarian Contexts.” Presented at the International Conference on Moralizing Misfortune: Anthropological Perspectives on Finance, Care and Morality, at Leiden University, Netherlands, June 2019.

“Gender Equality in the Pink-Tide Backlash: Critical Reflections on a Scholar-Activist Intervention.” Presented at the XXXVII Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Boston, May 2019.

“Counting Gender (In)Equality, Dis-counting Space: A Feminist Geographical Critique of the Measurement Imperative.” Presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in New Orleans, April 2018.

“Institutional Ethnography as a Feminist Methodology for Understanding CCT Impacts.” Presented at the XXXV Congress of the Latin American Studies Association at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, April 2017.

“Dilemmas of Difference: An Author Meets Critics Session with Sarah Radcliffe.” Hosted session at the XXXV Congress of the Latin American Studies Association at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, April 2017.

“Conditional Cash Transfers: ‘Modernizing’ Indigenous Families?” Presented at the XXXIV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in New York, May 2016.

“A Critical Exploration of Poverty Reduction and Wealth Production in Peru.” Presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in San Francisco, March 2016.

“Cash, Conditions and ‘Inclusion’: A case study of women and social policy in Peru.” Presented at the University of Cambridge Wolfson 50th Anniversary Research Event, May 2015.

“Social Inclusion, Citizenship and Gender in Peru’s CCT Program.” The Transformation of Latin American Social Policy, University of Bath, November 2014 .

“Gendered Relations of Ruling: An Institutional Ethnography of Peru’s CCT program. International Political Science Association (IPSA) 23rd World Congress, July 2014.

“Women, Discipline and Responsibility in Peru’s Juntos Program.” Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) 50th Anniversary Conference, April 2014.

“Conditions, Cash and Gender in Latin America: A Critical Exploration of Assumptions and Realities.” Gates Cambridge Annual Scholar’s Symposium, May 2014.

“Women's Unpaid Caring Labor in Post-neoliberal Latin America: The Radical Promise of Article 88.” Globalization and the Changes in Cultures of Care and Survival: Local and Global Dimensions, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. February, 2012.

Departmental lectures

“Gender Perspectives on Conditional Cash Transfers: Are They Really Efficient?” Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington, November 2020.

“Counting Gender (In)equality: A Case Study in Why the Gender Data Gap is Also Qualitative.” Department of Geology and Geography, West Virginia University, February 2020.

“Gender Perspectives on Conditional Cash Transfers: Are They Really Efficient?” Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington, November 2019.

“Is the Gender Data Revolution Feminist? Reflections on Scholarly-Activist Pathways for Change.” Women’s and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto, September 2019.

“Integrating gender-based analysis across disciplines: Employing a practitioner-based approach.” Discussion with the Collective for Gender+ Research at the Office of Regional and International Community Engagement, University of British Columbia, October 2019.

“The Hidden Costs of ‘Efficient’ Development: Women’s Work and Cash-based Aid.” Geography Department, University of British Columbia, January 2019.

“Unjust Conditions: A Book Talk.” Internet Communication Technology for Development Lab, Paul Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington. December 2018.

“Cash Transfers and Women’s Empowerment.” Presentation at the Gender and Digital Financial Services Workshop hosted by the Digital Financial Services Research Group, University of Washington. October 2018.

“Unjust Conditions: A Book Talk.” Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington. November 2018.

“Can Giving Cash Really Alleviate Poverty?” Geography Department, University of Washington, January 2017.

“Subsidizing the State: Women’s Unpaid Labor in Peru’s Conditional Cash Transfer Program.” Department of Development Studies, University of London, Birkbeck. September 2016.

“Rural Women and Inclusion: Institutional Ethnography in Peru.” Institut des Hautes Etudes de l’Amerique Latine (IHEAL), Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle, November 2015.

“Reflections on Institutional Ethnography and Conducting Field Research.” Centre de Recherches sur les Mondes Americains (CERMA), Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), November 2015.

Public lectures and talks

“Advancing Gender Equality with Data: Technology partnerships for the SDGs.” Gender Data event hosted by Facebook during the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, September 22, 2020.

“Gender Data 101: Case Studies.” Invited lecture for the Gender Data 101 online course run by TechChange and Facebook, June 2020.

“What Can Gender Data Teach Us About COVID-19?” Presentation for the One Hour @ UBC Public Lecture Series (online), University of British Columbia, May 2020.

“How Data Can Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls.” Inaugural webinar for the Gender Data Series: Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls. Hosted by Facebook and Devex, May 2020.

“Gender and Digital Technology Considerations in the COVID-19 Crisis.” Global Digital Development Forum, May 2020.

“Qualitative Methods to Understand Gender, Intersectionality, and Leaving No One Behind.” Global Conference on the Measurement of Gender Equality, Leave No One Behind, and Intersecting Inequalities. United Nations Statistical Division and UN Women. February 26-27, 2020.

Book Talk: Unjust Conditions. World Food Programme of the United Nations. January 13, 2020.

“Driving Change with Gender Data: Building Bridges Between Theory and Practice.” Keynote lecture at the Driving Forces: 2019 Symposium on Global Sustainable Development, University of British Columbia, October 2019.

“Conditionality and Targeting in Cash Transfers: Ethnographic Evidence of the Hidden Costs.” International Conference on Universal Child Grants. UNICEF, International Labour Organization, Overseas Development Institute. Geneva. February 6-8, 2019.

“Social Protection and Public Services: Tensions and Synergies in the Age of Conditional Cash

Transfers.” Expert panel, 63rd Commission on the Status of Women. United Nations. March 2019.

“Conditional Cash Transfers and Social Protection: From ‘Using’ Gender Norms to Changing Them.” Social Protection, Gender Norms and Adolescence: an expert dialogue. Overseas Development Institute. September 10, 2018.

“Unjust Conditions: Impacts of Cash Transfers on Women’s Economic Empowerment.” Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. June 11, 2018.

“Measuring Gender Outcomes in Social Protection Programmes.” Webinar. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth. March 13, 2018.

Keynote. Path from Poverty International Gala. September 30, 2017.

“Subsidizing the State: Women’s Unpaid Labor in Peru’s Conditional Cash Transfer Program.” University of London, Birkbeck. September 12, 2016.

“Using Women’s Perspectives to Inform Policy Evaluation.” Canadian Evaluation Society BC and Yukon Chapter. August 26, 2015.

“How Can We Encourage Women Leaders?” Women's Leadership Network: Inspire Series. Kelowna Chamber of Commerce. December 11, 2014.

Public commentary and analysis

“Qualitative data is key to ensuring no one gets left behind by the coronavirus response.” With Lorena Fuentes in UN Women’s *Women Count*, May 2020.

“Tech companies can support women in the COVID-19 response, too.” With Julia Zulver and Lorena Fuentes in *Devex*, April 2020.

“COVID-19’s total burden of disease extends beyond those who get sick, and this has potentially deadly consequences for women and girls.” With Julia Zulver and Lorena Fuentes in *Development Pathways*, April 2020.

“Covid-19, VBG y la respuesta humanitaria en Cúcuta.” With Julia Zulver, Lorena Fuentes, Alejandra Vera and Jackeline Alba in *La Silla Vacía*, March 2020.

“How can the international community guarantee women's rights during migration?” With Julia Zulver in *Devex*, January 2020.

“Not a magic bullet: Families need more than cash transfers to thrive.” In *Stabroek News*, October 2019.

“Want to Promote Gender Equality? Give Women Cash, No Strings Attached.” In *BRIGHT Magazine*, June 2019.

“For Equality, Women Need Power in Their Hands.” With Lorena Fuentes in the *Toronto Star*, June 2019.

“Menstruation in Crisis.” With Lorena Fuentes in *BRIGHT Magazine*. May 2019.

“The Invisible Care of Women.” In the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, October 2018.

“Costly Conditions.” In *The Scholar Magazine*, April 2018.

“The Impact of Periods.” with Leah Spelman in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Fall 2017 Issue.

“Melinda Gates picks up the torch for a caring economy.” In *Women’s eNews*, April 2016.

“Counting What Matters: Time Poverty and Women’s Care Work.” In *Devex*, March 2016.

Published reviews of *Unjust Conditions: Women’s Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*.

Turley, B. (2020). Review of *Unjust Conditions: Women’s Work and the Hidden Costs of Cash Transfer Programs*, by Tara Patricia Cookson. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 27(3), 455-457.

Thiede, B.C. (2020). Review of *Unjust Conditions: Women’s Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*, by Tara Patricia Cookson. *American Journal of Sociology*, 125 (5), 1403-1405.

Gideon, J. (2019). Review of *Unjust Conditions: Women’s Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*, by Tara Patricia Cookson. *Gender and Development*, 27(2), 409-410.

Purewal, N. K. (2019). “Thematic Review: The Politics of Gender and Development in Neoliberal Times.” Review of *Unjust Conditions: Women’s Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*, by Tara Patricia Cookson, *Engendering Transformative Change in International Development* by Gillian Fletcher, *Gender Justice and Human Rights in International Development Assistance* by Sarah Forti, and *The Gender Effect* by Kathryn Moeller. *Politics & Gender*, 15(3), 9-15.

Sax, M. (2019). Review of *Unjust Conditions: Women’s Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*, by Tara Patricia Cookson. *Anthropologica*, 61(1), 165-166.

Media coverage and interviews

“When a contagion comes, women bear a heavy burden,” by Gayathri Vaidyanathan, *Undark*, August 2020.

“How companies can support employees as they return to work,” by Maddy Simpson, *Employee Benefit News*, June 2020.

“Violence against women up amid Latin America COVID-19 lockdowns,” by Megan Janetsky. Al-Jazeera, April 2020.

“Facebook announces gender data plans, nudges tech companies to follow suit,” by Kelli Rogers, Devex, March 2020.

“We don't take up enough space and we should': A&S alumna Tara Patricia Cookson's research on the gender data gap,” by Sarah MacFarlane. University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Sciences News, March 2020.

“Pilot program tackles 'problematic' data requirements for gender-based violence,” by Kelli Rogers, Devex, February 2020.

“What do women really want?” by Sonia Narang, YES! Magazine, October 2019.

“The ghost statistic that haunts women’s empowerment,” by Kathryn Moeller, The New Yorker, January 2019.

“Practitioner Profile: Tara Cookson and Lorena Fuentes,” Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action Podcast, The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, March 2018.

MEMBERSHIPS ON COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND NETWORKS

Member of the **Feminist AI Research Network**, funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (2020-present).

Member of the **Alumni UBC Advisory Council**, University of British Columbia (2018-present).

Member of the **Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors** (2018-present).

Commissioner on the **City of Seattle Women’s Commission** (2017-2019).

Member of the **Organizing Committee for the 2016 Gates Cambridge Biennial Alumni Event** (2015-16).

Founding Director of **Learning for Purpose**, University of Cambridge (2013-15).

Female Welfare Officer, **Wolfson College Student Association**, University of Cambridge (2013-14).