

# Dr Elena Butti

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## Academic positions

<b>Research Fellow, Geneva Graduate Institute</b> <i>Centre on Conflict, Development &amp; Peacebuilding</i>	Oct 2023 - present
<b>Visiting Professor, National University of Colombia</b> <i>Faculty of Human and Economic Sciences</i>	Mar 2024 – present
<b>Honorary Research Fellow, University College London</b> <i>Institute of the Americas</i>	Oct 2021 - Sep 2023
<b>Postdoctoral Fellow, Geneva Graduate Institute</b> <i>Centre on Conflict, Development &amp; Peacebuilding</i>	Jan - Jun 2021
<b>Knowledge Exchange Fellow, University of Oxford</b> <i>Department of Politics and International Relations</i>	Jan - Apr 2019

## Practitioner positions

<b>War Child Holland</b> <i>Youth Empowerment Specialist, Programme Quality Team</i>	Apr 2019 - Sep 2023
<b>International Committee of the Red Cross</b> <i>Support to Urban Violence Protection delegate in Medellín, Colombia</i>	Jan - Apr 2019
<b>United Nations</b> <i>Expert contributor on Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security</i>	Aug - Sep 2017
<b>UNICEF</b> <i>Intern, Child Protection team in Bogotá, Colombia</i>	Nov 2015 - Mar 2016
<b>International Center for Transitional Justice</b> <i>Intern, Reparations team in Bogotá, Colombia</i>	Aug - Oct 2015

## Education

<b>DPhil (PhD), University of Oxford</b> <i>Centre for Socio-Legal Studies</i> Awarded on 5 June 2019 ( <i>without corrections</i> )	Oct 2014 - Jun 2019
<b>Visiting Fellow, Antioquia University</b> <i>Faculty of Law and Political Science</i>	Mar - Apr 2018
<b>Visiting Fellow, Geneva Graduate Institute</b> <i>Centre on Conflict, Development &amp; Peacebuilding</i>	Jan - Feb 2018
<b>Visiting Student, SciencesPo Paris</b> <i>Undergraduate exchange</i>	Aug - Dec 2013
<b>BA (Hons) Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences, University College Utrecht</b> Major: Law, Politics & Anthropology Minor: Qualitative Research Methods <i>Summa cum Laude</i> (GPA 3.97/4.0) and Year Valedictorian	Aug 2011 - Aug 2014

## Research grants

<b>Swiss National Science Foundation – Horizon Europe transitional measures [MSCA Individual Fellowship replacement] (CHF 266,310)</b> ‘Young Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia’s Urban Peripheries: Criminals, Criminalized or Change-Makers?’	Oct 2023 - Sep 2025
<b>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship - EUTOPIA (€103,160) [declined]</b> ‘Young Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia’s Urban Peripheries: Criminals, Criminalized or Change-Makers?’	Sep 2023 - Aug 2025
<b>Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship (CHF 21,000)</b> ‘Connecting Research with Criminal Adolescents in Medellín to Global Debates on Peace and Security’	Jan - Jun 2021
<b>Higher Education Innovation Fund Knowledge Exchange Fellowship (£14,381)</b> ‘Co-Designing a Participatory Project on Urban Peacebuilding with Youths in Medellín’	Jan - Apr 2019
<b>Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) PhD Studentship (£39,000)</b> ‘Children in Transitional Justice: Between Legal Protection and Lived Experiences’	Oct 2014 - Dec 2018

## Teaching

### Tutorial courses

- \* *Human Rights Law: Jurisprudential Foundations* Stanford University in Oxford Apr- Jun 2017
- \* *Child Rights: Anthropological Perspectives* Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies Apr- Jun 2017

### Short modules

- \* *Methods for Conducting Research with Children* University of Oxford, Social Science Division Jan - Jun 2017
- \* *Approaches to Interviewing* University of Oxford, Social Science Division Jan - Jun 2017

### Guest lectures

- \* University of California, *MA Media and Cultural Studies* Mar 2023
- \* Geneva Graduate Institute, *Conflict & Fragility Summer School* Aug 2022
- \* Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, *Minor Peace & Conflict Studies* Jan 2022
- \* Leiden University, *Children’s Rights Summer School* Jul 2017
- \* University College London, *MA Sociology of Childhood* Apr 2017
- \* University of Oxford, *MSc Criminology & Criminal Justice* March 2017
- \* London Metropolitan University, *BA Peace & Conflict Studies* Feb 2017
- \* Universidad del Rosario, *BA in Law* Jan 2016
- \* Universidad Nacional de Colombia, *BA in Law* Sep 2015

## Supervision

- \* Julien Fehlmann  
*MSc in Conflict and Fragility Management*, Geneva Graduate Institute (Oct 2023 – Jan 2024)
- \* Arveen Sodhi, Anisha Jalan and Anna Becker  
*MSc Development Studies*, Geneva Graduate Institute (Apr – Aug 2021)

## Publications

### Journal articles

- Butti, E. (2022). From Family to Franchise? Friendship, Individualism, and the Marketization of the Colombian Youth Gang. *Youth and Globalization*, Special issue *Gangs and Globalization*, edited by Carles Feixa and Jose Sánchez-García, 3 308-331.
- Chávez, C. and Butti, E. (2020). 'If You Don't Have an Education, You Are No One': Understanding the School Experiences of Youth involved in Drug-Related Crime in Mexico and Colombia. *Journal of Education in Emergencies*, Special Issue on *Education and the War on Drugs*, edited by María José Bermeo and Diana Rodríguez Gómez, 6 (1) 148-174.
- Butti, E. and McGonigle, B. (2019). Intersectionality and Transformative Reparations: The Case of Colombian Marginal Youths. *International Criminal Law Review*, Special Issue *The Ethnography of Armed Conflict*, edited by Noha Aboueldahab, 19 (5) 753-782.
- Butti, E. (2016). The Invisible Violence behind the Legal Façade: Challenges of and Strategies for Conducting Research in High-Risk Settings. *Journal of the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Notes from the Field*, 1.

### Book chapters

- Butti, E. [forthcoming 2024]. Safe and Ethical Ethnography: Looking Inwards. In: *Inclusive Ethnography: Making fieldwork safer, healthier and more ethical*, edited by Caitlin Procter and Brawen Spector. London: SAGE.
- Butti, E. (2022). From the 'Law of the Whip' to the 'Law of the Street': Youth, Norms and Violence in Colombia's Criminal World. *Violence and Justice in Latin America*, edited by Carlos Solar and Carlos Perez. London: Routledge.

### Commissioned reports

- Butti, E. (2019). El Uso y Utilización de Menores de Edad por Parte de los Grupos Armados en Granizal. *International Committee of the Red Cross – Medellín* [internal report].
- Butti, E. (2018). Involving Non-Organised 'Outcast' Youth in Peacebuilding. *A contribution to the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security mandated by Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)*. Available [here](#).
- Butti, E. (2015). El Enfoque Diferencial de Niñez en la Ley de Víctimas: Marco Normativo e Implementación. *International Center for Transitional Justice – Bogotá* [internal report].

### Work in Progress

- Butti, E. *We Are the Nobodies: Youth, gangs, and precarity in neoliberal Colombia*. Book manuscript R&R with New York University Press.
- Butti, E. *The Emotional and Moral Worlds of Crime-Involved Youth*. Book chapter preliminarily accepted in the Handbook on the Anthropology of Crime and Criminalisation, UCL Press, edited by Casciano, D., Swetzer, L., and Oosterban, M.
- Abello-Colak, A., Butti, E. and Lergos, S. (eds.). *Critical Perspectives on Medellín: Transformations, commodifications, and paradoxes*. Special Issue in development.
- Butti, E., and Feixa, C. (eds.). *Juvenicide: Conceptualizing systematic violence against young people*. Special Issue in development.
- Bonvillani, A., Butti, E., and Feixa, C. (eds.). *Juvenicidios, Violencias y Resistencias Sociales*. Edited Book in development.

## Organised conferences

*Juvenile, Violence and Social Resistance*. Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 11-15 November 2024 [scheduled]

*South-South Migration: The Venezuelan-Colombian case and beyond*. Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 14-15 May 2024 [scheduled]

*Rethinking Transitional Justice: What does it Mean Today?* University of Oxford, 22 June 2017

*Children's Rights in Fragile Contexts: Theory and Methods*. University of Oxford, 6 June 2015

## Conference presentations

### 2024

*'Doing and Un-Doing with Anthropology'*, European Association of Social Anthropologists Biennial Conference, University of Barcelona, 23-26 July 2024 [scheduled]

*'In/Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean'*, Society for Latin American Studies Annual Meeting, University of Amsterdam, 13-15 July 2024 [scheduled]

*'Justice Juvénile et Vie Quotidienne dans les Périphéries Urbaines: Expériences et imaginaires du continuum socio-pénal'*, Université de Fribourg, 24-25 June 2024 [scheduled]

*'Reaction and Resistance, Imagining Possible Futures in the Americas'*, Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Universidad Javeriana, 14-15 June 2024 [scheduled]

*'Global Gangs'*, University of California, Riverdale, 24 April 2024 [scheduled]

### 2023

*'EUROGANG: The Eurogang Programme of Research.'* Les Avellanes, 18-20 May 2023

*'TRANSGANG & LEBAN Final Conference: Researching Youth Street Groups in the Global Age.'* Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 15-17 May 2023

*'Negotiated Criminality: Practices, People, and Organizations in Illegalized Economies.'* Ethnographic Institute, Emlyon Business School, 25 April 2023

### 2022

*'Urban Violence and Collective Memory in the Americas'*, Geneva University, 17 September 2022

*'Justice, Politics, and Security: Understanding Transitions across Colombia's Margins'*, Freie Universität Berlin, 16 June 2022

*'Anthropology of Crime and Security'*, Joint conference of the Anthropology of Crime and Criminalisation and the Anthropology of Security EASA networks, University of Bologna, 17-19 May 2022

### 2021

*'IV Seminario Internacional del Crimen Organizado'*, Universidad del Rosario, 2 December 2021

*'Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference'*, online, 31 August 2021

### 2019

*'Governance, Crime & International Security'*, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, 23-27 September 2019

*'Security and Criminality in the Americas'*, University of Oxford, 3-4 June 2019

### 2018

*'The Micro-Dynamics of Violence'*, University of Oxford, 17-18 October 2018

*'Biannual meeting of the Society for Cultural Anthropology'*, online, 19-21 April 2018

## 2017

- 'South-South Human Rights Forum', Shandong University, 4 December 2017
- 'Colombia after the Peace Accords.' University of Oxford, 1 December 2017
- 'Examining Peace and Violence in Colombia', Newcastle University, 29 September 2017
- 'Ending Violence in Turbulent Times: Exploring the Conflict, Peace, and Violence Nexus', Conflict Research Society Annual Conference, University of Oxford, 17-18 September 2017
- 'The Making of Peace, Conflict and Security', Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology Biannual Conference, University of Amsterdam, 27-30 August 2017
- 'Transitional Justice, Social Justice, and Human Rights.' Utrecht University, 8 June 2017
- 'Testimonies for Transformation', University of Oxford, 24 May 2017
- 'Positive Peace: Concepts and Practices', University of Oxford, 6 May 2017

## 2015

- 'Rights in Conflict: Socio-Legal & Critical Approaches', University College Cork, 8-9 June 2015

## 2014

- 'International Conference 25 Years CRC', Leiden University, 17-19 November 2014
- 'Methods for Ethnographic Fieldwork with Children', London School of Economics, 6 May 2014

## Invited Seminars

### 2024

- 'Critical perspectives on Medellin's trajectory to become a Global City', London School of Economics, 14 March 2024 [scheduled]

### 2023

- 'Worthless yet Essential: Understanding Adolescents at the Bottom of Colombia's Criminal Machine.' Institute of Americas Seminar Series, University College London, 6 December 2023
- 'From Family to Franchise? Friendship, Individualism, and the Marketization of the Colombian Youth Gang.' Oxford Criminology Seminar Series, University of Oxford, 14 December 2023
- 'Participatory Film and Marginalized Young People.' Introduction to Media and Cultural Studies, University of California, Riverside, 15 March 2023

### 2022

- 'Young People at the Margins.' Conflict Management and Fragility summer course, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, Geneva Graduate Institute, 4 August 2022
- 'Why the World Needs Anthropologists' Department of Anthropology, Workshop Anthropology of Organizations, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 15 February 2022
- 'Decoloniality and Humanitarian Work: Supporting Children and Young People in Strengths-Based Ways.' Department of Political Science, Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 18 January 2022

### 2021

- 'The Criminal Franchise: Gang Marketization and the Precarization of Life among Low-level Drug Dealers in Medellin, Colombia.' Anthropology and Sociology Department, Geneva Graduate Institute, 19 October 2021

*'Another Life, Maybe? Ambivalence, Self-blame and Attempts to Change Life among Adolescent Gang Members at Colombia's Urban Margins.'* Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, Geneva Graduate Institute, 16 June 2021

*'Becoming Someone: Youth, Violence and Drug-Dealing in Colombia.'* CONPEACE Programme, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, 5 May 2021

## 2018

*'Filming Transition: Documenting Colombia's Peace Process.'* Institute of the Americas, University College London, 27 November 2018

*'ReSTORYing Peace: Arts, storytelling and transformation.'* Geneva Peace Week, Geneva Graduate Institute, 6 November 2018

*'Colombian Outcast Youth and the Broken Promises of Transformative Justice.'* Oxford Transitional Justice Research, University of Oxford, 29 October 2018

*'The Rise of Urban Violence.'* War Child Peace Expert Session, Amsterdam, 21 September 2018

*'From the Law of the Whip to the Law of the Street: Reflections on Youth, Violence, and Punishment.'* Seminar series of the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford, 30 May 2018

*'De la Ley del Rejo a la Ley del Barrio: Jóvenes, Violencias y Castigos.'* Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias Políticas, Universidad de Antioquia, 26 April 2018

*'Jóvenes Urbanos, Delincuencia y el Pos-Conflicto.'* Rodeemos el Diálogo, 3 March 2018

*'Challenges to Youth Inclusion in Peacebuilding: Colombia.'* Inclusive Peace & Transition, Geneva Graduate Institute, 23 February 2018

*'Bringing Empathy in Academic Research: Film-Making, Storytelling & Transformation.'* Conflict & Human Rights Initiative, Geneva Graduate Institute, 21 February 2018

## 2017

*'Children's Rights, Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding: The Colombian Case.'* Frontiers of Children's Rights Summer School, Leiden University, 7 July 2017

*'Children's Rights in Colombia's Transition to Peace: Between Rhetoric and Reality.'* Children's Rights in Practice course, University College London, 9 April 2017

*'Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in Colombia: Bridging the Gap between Academia and Policy.'* London Metropolitan University, 14 March 2017

## Service

Reviewer for the following journals:

- \* *The European Journal of Social Work*
- \* *Children's Geographies*
- \* *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*
- \* *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*
- \* *Latin American Politics and Society*

## Memberships

- \* European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- \* EASA Anthropology of Crime and Criminalisation Network (EASA AnthroCrime)
- \* Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
- \* Society of Latin American Studies (SLAS)
- \* Société Suisse des Américanistes (SSA)
- \* Conflict Research Society (CRS)
- \* Centre on Armed Groups Expert Network

## Participatory film-making

**‘Realidades Juveniles’** - five participatory micro-documentaries showcasing how youth from Medellín’s peripheries build urban peace (links: [La Parceria](#) | [Mujer Joven y Vida](#) | [RA1](#) | [In Lak’ech](#) | [Casa del Amor y la Cultura](#)) 2019

**‘Somos’** participatory documentary on Colombian adolescents’ views on peace, selected for the film section of the Society for Cultural Anthropology 2018 Conference ([trailer](#)) 2016

## Languages

**English** - full proficiency in Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing

**Spanish** - full proficiency in Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing

**Italian** - full proficiency in Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing

**French** - full proficiency in Speaking, Reading; medium proficiency in Listening, Writing

**Portuguese** – low proficiency in Speaking, Reading; medium proficiency Listening, Writing