

Elin Skaar – curriculum vitae

<i>Current position:</i>	Senior Researcher Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) Political Scientist	<i>Address:</i>	Chr. Michelsen Institute P.O. Box 6033, Postterminalen N-5892 Bergen Norway
<i>Born:</i>	1965	<i>Phone:</i>	+47 47 93 80 50
<i>Citizenship:</i>	Norwegian	<i>Fax:</i>	+47 47 93 80 01
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Key Qualifications

Political scientist with around twenty-five years of working experience in research, teaching and development aid. Specialisation in democratisation, human rights, transitional justice, reconciliation, judicial reform, and development issues. Regions of interest: South America (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay) and Southern Africa (Angola, Mozambique, Namibia).

Skaar has been Research Director of the “Rights, Democracy and Development” programme (2007-2009); is currently coordinator for the Cluster on Rights and Legal Institutions (2009- present) and heads research on transitional justice at the CMI (2007-present).

Skaar has done programme work for the UNDP and served as a consultant for NORAD, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nordic Consulting Group A/S, and Ireland Aid.

Education

- **PhD** from the Department of Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles, May 2002. Title of dissertation: *Judicial Independence: A Key to Justice. An Analysis of Latin America in the 1990.*
- **Mag. Art. degree** (MA) from the Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Norway, 1994. Title of thesis “*Human Rights Violations and the Paradox of Democratic Transition – A Study of Chile and Argentina*”.
- **Cand. Mag. degree** (BA) from the Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Norway, 1991, with the following subjects: Political Science, English, Spanish, and Turkish.

Professional Experience

Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway

- Senior Researcher. 2002 – to date
- Cluster coordinator. 2009-- to date
- Research Director. 2007 – 2009

- Researcher. 1996 – 2002 and
- Research Assistant. 1994 - 1995

Department of Political Science, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), USA

Teaching Assistant. 1997- 1999

United Nations Development Programme, Windhoek, Namibia

Programme Officer. 1995 – 1996

Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

Research and Teaching Assistant. 1992 - 1993

Norwegian Public Broadcasting System, Oslo, Norway

Television presenter. 1991 – 1992

Project Experience

International **Beyond Words: Implementing Latin American Truth Commission Recommendations**

Project head. This interdisciplinary research project will analyze the recommendations of fourteen Latin American truth commissions established by twelve countries since 1982 in order to gather more knowledge about their implementation. While recognizing that implementation is also determined by broader contextual factors, this project focuses on the triangular relationship between the processes that shape the formulation of TC recommendations, the nature of these recommendations, and the degree of implementation. Funded by the Research Council of Norway (2014-2017).

International **Everyday Manoeuvres: Military-Civilian Relations in Latin America and the Middle East**

Project member. This interdisciplinary project aims to foster links between Brazilian, Norwegian and Middle Eastern research institutions and individual researchers, contributing to the building of a strong interdisciplinary development research networks across these regions. The project introduces a novel comparative perspective on the contrasting roles of the military in the Latin American and Middle Eastern processes of political transition. Funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013-2016).

International **Reconceptualising Transitional Justice: The Latin American Experience**

Project head. This interdisciplinary project provides explorative empirical analysis of the significance of four transitional justice mechanisms (trials, truth commissions, victims' reparations and amnesties) on accountability for past human rights violations in nine 'post-authoritarian' and 'post-conflict' cases in Latin America, using a common template. Funded by the Research Council of Norway (2010-2014).

- International **Drivers of Justice: The Dynamics of Accountability Mechanisms in Transitions from Violent Conflict**
Project head. The project theoretically and empirically explores the interplay between local, national (non-state), and international actors in the pursuit of justice for past human rights violations after armed conflict in Afghanistan, Sudan, Lebanon and Mozambique. Funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010-2013).
- International **Transitional Justice Mechanisms: Assessing the Impact on Violence and Reconciliation**
Project head. The main focus of the project is to understand what effects various transitional justice mechanisms (such as truth commissions, trials, amnesties and local justice mechanism etc.) have on reconciliation and violence in societies emerging from armed conflict and/or repressive rule. Case studies are Angola, Rwanda, Peru and Uruguay. Funded by CMI's Programme for Human Rights (2007-2009) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010-2012).
- International **Refugee Convention Article 1 F and Articles C-E**
Member of team. The project analyses central judicial issues linked to the recognition as a refugee. Special focus is placed on the moral and practical problems that arise when the asylum seeker is suspected of having committed gross human rights violations, or of having participated in terrorist activities. The project presents an analysis of the international legal framework with respect to exclusion and cessation, combined with a comparative study of five selected countries (Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Canada). Commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (2004-2005).
- International **Courts in Transition**
Member of team. Strategic institute programme. Analyses the political role of courts in new democracies, principally in Africa and Latin America. Partly financed by the NFR (Norway-South Africa Research Collaboration), the University of Bergen (postdoctoral funding, CMI-UiB collaborative fund). Course for graduate students, international workshops, academic publications, commissioned work. Co-operation with Department of Comparative Politics, and Faculty of Law, University of Bergen and international research team (2002-2007).
- International **Reconciliation and Democratisation**
Project head. The project analyses institutional mechanisms and processes to deal with crimes of former regimes after transitions to authoritarian and repressive rule, with particular focus on the role of international community and the UN. Conference on "Roads to Reconciliation" in April 2002. Commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sparebank 1 Vest. 2001-2002.
- Angola **Norwegian Aid to Angola**
Member of team. Aided NORAD in preparing background policy paper to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assessing Norwegian Aid to Angola in the 1990s and mapping out strategies for future aid to the

country. Commissioned by NORAD. 2002.

Guatemala Honduras	Ireland Aid Review Member of team. The main objective of this review is to outline strengths and weaknesses of Ireland Aid's Human Rights and Development scheme to date and to suggest practical options for its future direction. The empirical focus for the study is Central America and Asia. Particular importance is attached to the impact of projects on awareness of HRD issues at the grassroots community level. Commissioned by Ireland Aid. 2002.
Namibia	Poverty Issues Extensive work on poverty issues through UNDP's "Poverty Reduction Team", 1995-96. Aided Namibian government in preparing a report for roundtable discussions on poverty reduction.

Language Skills

Mother tongue:Norwegian

	Write			Speak			Understand		
	Excellent	Good	Basic	Excellent	Good	Basic	Excellent	Good	Basic
English	X			X			X		
Spanish		X			X			X	
German			X			X			X

Long-term Assignments Abroad

- Mozambique: fieldwork. 2005 (2 weeks)
- Angola: fieldwork. 2003 and 2004 (one month)
- Uruguay: fieldwork. 2001 (one month)
- Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay: fieldwork. 2000 (4 months)
- USA: PhD related work at UCLA. 1996-2000
- Namibia: UNDP Programme Officer, Windhoek. 1995-96
- Chile and Argentina: fieldwork. 1993 (4 months)

Selected Publications

In progress

Beyond Words. Implementing Latin American Truth Commission Recommendations, with Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm and Jemima García-Godos (book manuscript in progress)

Implementing Truth Commission Recommendations: The Latin American Experience, CMI Report, edited with Jemima García-Godos and Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm (forthcoming June 2016).

2016

(co-edited with Jemima García-Godos and Cath Collins). *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability*. London: Routledge.

(co-written with Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins). "Introduction: the accountability challenge." In *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability*, edited by Elin Skaar, Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins. London: Routledge.

(co-written with Cath Collins and Jemima García-Godos). "Analytical framework." In *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability*, edited by Elin Skaar, Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins. London: Routledge.

(co-written with Francesca Lessa). "Uruguay: halfway towards accountability." In *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability*, edited by Elin Skaar, Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins. London: Routledge.

(co-written with Cath Collins and Jemima García-Godos). "Conclusions: the uneven road towards accountability in Latin America." In *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability*, edited by Elin Skaar, Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins. London: Routledge.

(co-written with Jemima García-Godos). "Norwegian Research on Human Rights and Justice in Latin America", in *Norwegian Social Thought on Latin America*, edited by Benedicte Bull. Buenos Aires: CLACSO, pp. 155-82.

"Menneskerettar og demokrati", in *Den dannede opprører Bernt Hagtvet 70 år*, edited by Nik. Brandal and Dag Einar Thorsen. Oslo: Dreyers Forlag, pp. 368-93.

"See you in court! Holding the military to account in Latin America". Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Insight no. 2), pp. 1-9.

2015

(co-written with Camila Gianella Malca and Trine Eide) *After Violence: Transitional Justice, Peace, and Democracy*. London: Routledge.

(co-written with Jemima García-Godos) "Derechos Humanos y Justicia en América Latina en la agenda académica noruega", in *Pensamiento social noruego sobre América Latina*, edited by Benedicte Bull. CLACSO.

2014

(with Camila Gianella Malca) "Latin American Civil-Military Relations in a Historical Perspective: A Literature Review", Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Working Paper WP 2014:6), pp. 1-36.

2013

“Wavering Courts: From Impunity to Accountability in Uruguay”, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 03, pp. 483-512 (August 2013).

(co-edited with Astri Suhrke) *Drivers of Justice*. Special Issue, *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 117-288.

(co-written with Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm) “Drivers of Justice after Violent Conflict: An Introduction”, *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 119-126.

(co-written with Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm) “The Drivers of Transitional Justice: An Analytical Framework for Assessing the Role of Actors”, *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 127-148.

(co-written with Victor Igreja) “A Conflict Does Not Rot”: State and Civil Society Responses to Civil War Offences in Mozambique, *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 149-175.

“Prosecute and Punish” and “Transitional Justice Methods, Processes and Practices”, both entries in Nadya Nedelsky and Laivinia Stan (eds.): *Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice*. New York: Cambridge University Press, vol. 1.

“Accountability” and “Transition type”, both entries in Nadya Nedelsky and Laivinia Stan (eds.): *Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice*. New York: Cambridge University Press, vol. 2.

2012

“Puede la Independencia Judicial Explicar la Justicia Pos-Transicional?”, *América Latina Hoy. Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, vol. 61 no. August pp. 15-49 (in Spanish).

“Reconciliation in a Transitional Justice Perspective”, *Transitional Justice Review*, vol. 1 no. 1 pp. 54-103.

“Uruguay”, in *Latin Amerika Boken 2012*. Oslo: Latin Amerika Gruppen (LAG) (in Norwegian).

(co-written with Camila Gianella Malca and Trine Eide) *A way out of violent conflict. The impact of transitional justice on peace and democracy*. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (Commissioned report, MFA, unpublished) 178 p.

with Åse Johanne Roti Dahl. “Dealing with a violent past: The impact of transitional justice”. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Brief Vol. 11, No. 5, 4 pp.).

2011

Judicial Independence and Human Rights in Latin America: Violations, Politics, and Prosecution. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1-297.

“Impunidade versus responsabilidade no Uruguai: o papel da Ley de Caducidad”, in Leigh A. Payne, Paulo Abrão, Marcelo D. Torelly: *A Anistia na Era da*

Responsabilização: O Brasil em Perspectiva Internacional e Comparada. Centro de Estudos Latino-Americanos, Universidade de Oxford, Reino Unido, pp. 429-468 (in Portuguese).

“Impunidad versus Responsabilidad Jurídica en el Uruguay: El Rol de la Ley de Caducidad”, in Gabriela Fried y Francesca Lessa (editores) Con la colaboración de Brenda Falero: Luchas contra la impunidad: Uruguay 1985-2011. Montevideo: Trilce (in Spanish).

2010

(co-written with Siri Gloppen, Bruce Wilson, Roberto Gargarella, and Morten Kinander). *Courts and Power in Latin America and Africa* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), pp. 1-287.

“Does Legal Tradition Matter? The Emerging Accountability Functions of Mozambican High Courts”, in Siri Gloppen, Bruce Wilson, Roberto Gargarella, Elin Skaar, and Morten Kinander. *Courts and Power in Latin America and Africa*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 127-147.

2009

“Lang veg mot fred og forsoning”, *FN-Magasinet* 3 (2009) nr. 1, pp. 4-7.

2007

“Legal Development and Human Rights in Uruguay: 1985-2002”, *Human Rights Review*, Vol. 8, No. 2, January-March, pp. 52-70.

2006

(co-written with Terje Einarsen and Vigdis Vevstad). “The New Asylum Dilemma: Refugee, War Criminal or Terrorist?” Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Brief).

(co-written with Terje Einarsen and Vigdis Vevstad). *Flyktningekonvensjonen Artikkel 1 C-F. Folkerettslig og Komparativ Studie av Eksklusjons- og Opphørsgrunnene*. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Report R 2006: 2) pp. 1-107.

(with José Octávio Serra Van-Dúnem) “Courts under construction in Angola: What can they do for the poor?”, in Roberto Gargarella, Pilar Domingo and Theunis Roux (eds.) *Courts and Social Transformation in New Democracies: An Institutional Voice for the Poor?* Aldershot/Burlington: Ashgate, pp. 213-232.

(with José Octávio Serra Van-Dúnem) “Courts under construction in Angola: What can they do for the poor?”, Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Working Paper WP 2006: 20).

2005

(co-edited with Siri Gloppen and Astri Suhrke). *Roads to Reconciliation*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, pp. 1-318.

“Argentina: Truth, Justice and Reconciliation”, in Elin Skaar, Siri Gloppen, and Astri Suhrke (eds.). *Roads to Reconciliation*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, pp. 157-175.

(co-written with Siri Gloppen and Astri Suhrke), "Introduction", in Elin Skaar, Siri Gloppen, and Astri Suhrke (eds.). *Roads to Reconciliation*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, pp. 3-15.

"Truth Commissions, Trials – or Nothing? Policy Options in Democratic Transitions", in Ivar Kolstad and Hugo Stokke (eds.): *Writing Rights: Human Rights Research at the Chr. Michelsen Institute 1984-2004*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget, pp. 149-171.

2004

(co-written with Ingrid Samset and Siri Gloppen), *Aid to Judicial Reform: Norwegian and International Experiences*. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Report R 2004: 12), pp. 1-104.

(co-edited with Siri Gloppen and Roberto Gargarella) *Democratization and the Judiciary: The Accountability Function of Courts in New Democracies*, London: Frank Cass, pp. 1-210.

2003

(co-written with Siri Gloppen and Roberto Gargarella) "Introduction: The Accountability Function of Courts in New Democracies". *Democratization*, vol. 10 no 4 (Special Issue, winter 2003), pp. 1-6.

"Un análisis de las reformas judiciales de la Argentina, Chile, y Uruguay". *América Latina Hoy*, No. 34, (August 2003), pp. 147-186 (in Spanish).

"The Prosecution of Military Officers in Latin America" *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*. Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 277-291 (in Norwegian).

2002

(co-written with Gunnar Sørnbø and Hugo Stokke). *A Review of Ireland Aid's Human Rights and Democratisation Scheme*. Bergen, Chr. Michelsen Institute, 2002 (CMI Report R 2002:20), pp. 1-103.

Judicial Independence: A Key to Justice. An Analysis of Latin America in the 1990s. Doctoral dissertation, Department of Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, pp. 1-237.

2001

"Judicial independence and human rights policies in Argentina and Chile". Working paper, No. 15. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute, pp. 1-24.

"How may different political mechanisms bring about reconciliation?" in *The Difficult Reconciliation. Constructing Trust and Reconciliation after Wars and Conflicts*. Oslo: The Norwegian Helsinki Committee. Report No. 2, pp. 60-65 (in Norwegian).

1999

"Truth Commissions, Trials, - or Nothing? Policy Options in Democratic Transitions", in *Third World Quarterly*, Vol.20 (6) 99, pp. 1109-1128.

1998

(co-edited with Bård-Anders Andreassen). *Reconciliation or Justice? Protecting Human Rights through Truth Commissions and Trials*, Oslo: Cappelen Akademisk Forlag, 1998, pp. 1-384 (in Norwegian).

(co-written with Bård-Anders Andreassen). "Dealing with Gross Human Rights Violations in Transitions to Democracy", in *Reconciliation or Justice? Protecting Human Rights through Truth Commissions and Trials*, Bård-Anders Andreassen and Elin Skaar (eds), Oslo: Cappelen Akademisk Forlag, 1998, pp. 10-49 (in Norwegian).

Translated into Serbo-Croatian and reprinted in Enver Djuliman (ed). 2001. *The Difficult Reconciliation*. (original title: *Tesko Pomirenje*). Oslo- Sarajevo: The Norwegian Helsinki Committee, pp. 15-50.

"Profit or Morals? A Discussion on Trade Interests and Human Rights". Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Working Paper WP 1998: 2) pp. 1-21 (in Norwegian).

1994

Human Rights Violations and the Paradox of Democratic Transition – A Study of Chile and Argentina. Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI Report R 1994: 5), pp. 1-191.

Solicited Book Reviews:**2009**

Audrey R. Chapman and Hugo van der Merwe (eds), 2008, *Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: Did the TRC Deliver?* and Claire Moon, *Narrating Political Reconciliation: South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission*, in *International Journal of Transitional Justice* Vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 150-152.

2003

Pilar Domingo and Rachel Sieder (eds). 2001. *Rule of Law in Latin America: The International Promotion of Judicial Reform*. London: Institute of Latin American Studies. In *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 153-58.

2001

Christina Biebesheimer and Francisco Mejía (eds). 2001. *Justice Beyond our Borders. Judicial Reforms for Latin America and the Caribbean*. Washington D.C.: Inter-American Development Bank. In *The Law and Politics Book Review*, Vol. 11, No. 6, pp. 299-301. (see also electronic publication of The Law and Courts Section of APSA: <http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/lpbr/>)

Luis Roniger and Mario Sznajder. 1999. *The Legacy of Human Rights Violations in the Southern Cone. Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay*. New York: Oxford University Press. In *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 43, No.1, pp. 149-53.