

SAR UNITED STATES STEERING COMMITTEE (2021-2023)

Nancy Postero

Professor of Anthropology, University of California, San Diego

Nancy Postero is a socio-cultural anthropologist whose work has focused on the intersection of race, politics, and the environment in Latin America. After 10 years as a criminal defense and immigration attorney in Arizona, and 4 years as a radio documentary maker for NPR, she received her PhD in Anthropology from UC Berkeley in 2001. She has been at University of California San Diego since then, teaching in Anthropology, Human Rights, and International Studies, while undertaking many leadership roles related to these areas. She was a co-founder of the Human Rights program, and now serves as Co-Director of the Human Rights and Migration program. In 2016, she became a co-founder and Director of the International Institute, a multi-disciplinary organization encompassing social sciences, humanities and natural sciences. She directs the Institute's Global Indigenous Peoples Faculty Group and was a co-PI of the International Institute's 2018-19 Mellon Foundation-funded Sawyer Seminar, *Claiming the City: Urban Citizenship, Hybrid Cultures, and Governance in the Modern Era*. She also initiated UCSD's first Scholar at Risk project, finding funding for a post-doctoral fellowship for a scholar in exile from Turkey. UCSD is currently working to extend the SAR project to bring Afghan scholars to campus after a successful crowdfunding initiative. She is currently the Vice-Chair of UCSD's Academic Senate.



For the last twenty-five years, she has carried out research in Bolivia, where she has followed the efforts of Indigenous people to gain sovereignty over their lands and resources. Her first monograph, *Now We Are Citizens* (Stanford University Press, 2007) traced the neoliberal multicultural era, when Indigenous groups began organizing and seeking recognition from the state. Making comparisons between the Bolivian case and the rest of Latin America, she collaborated with Leon Zamosc (UCSD Sociology) on a 2004 edited volume, *The Struggle for Indigenous Rights in Latin America*, and with Mark Goodale (U Lausanne) on a 2013 edited volume, *Neoliberalism, Interrupted: Social Change and Contested Governance in Contemporary Latin America*. Her most recent single-authored book, *The Indigenous State: Race, Politics, and Performance* (UC Press 2017), traces the administration of Bolivia's first Indigenous-led government and the contentious cultural and environmental politics it produced. Her newest project is a *Routledge Handbook on Indigenous Development*. Working with Indigenous co-editors from Guatemala and New Zealand, she has assembled a team of mostly Native scholars and activists who are rethinking Indigenous futures.

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