

# Dr. Dennis RODGERS

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## Summary

I am a political anthropologist, specialised in the study of urban development issues, including in particular conflict, violence, and governance in Nicaragua and Argentina. I have conducted extensive fieldwork in both countries, and have an established track record of interdisciplinary teaching and research, as well as international consultancy experience.

## Personal

*Date of birth:* 9 September 1973  
*Gender:* Male  
*Place of birth:* Bangkok, Thailand  
*Nationality:* British and French  
*Family status:* Married  
*Languages:* English, French, Spanish.

## Education

1995-2000 **PhD in Social Anthropology**, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK.  
1998 **MA (Cantab) in Archaeology and Anthropology**, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK.  
1994-1995 **Certificate of International Studies**, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland (bilingual English/French degree).  
1991-1994 **BA (Hons) in Archaeology and Anthropology**, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK.

## Employment

2007- **Senior Research Fellow**, Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI), University of Manchester, UK.  
2005-2007 **Lecturer in urban development**, Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK.  
2000-2005 **Lecturer in development studies**, Development Studies Institute (DESTIN), London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK.  
1999-2000 **Assistant statistician**, Service de la Recherche en Education (SRED), Département de l'Instruction Publique (DIP), Geneva, Switzerland.  
1994-1995 **Researcher**, Population Activities Unit (PAU), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), Geneva, Switzerland.

## Professional affiliations and activities

2008- Associate editor, *European Journal of Development Research* (Geneva, Switzerland).  
2007- Visiting Senior Fellow, Crisis States Research Centre, LSE, UK.  
2007- Member, Editorial Board, *Encuentro* (Managua, Nicaragua),  
2006- Member, "Markets for Peace?" research network, Danish Institute of International Studies, Denmark.

- 2005- Founder and member of the Brighton Syndicate.  
 2005- Member, Academic Advisory Board, Jornadas sobre Democracia Participativa, Red Argentina de Ciencia Política.

### **Recent publications (selected)**

- 2009 (edited with G. A. Jones), *Youth Violence in Latin America: Gangs and Juvenile Justice in Perspective*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming.
- 2008 (with David Lewis and Michael Woolcock), “The fiction of development: Literary representation as a source of authoritative knowledge”, *Journal of Development Studies*, 44(2): 187-205.
- 2008 “A symptom called Managua”, *New Left Review*, 49 (January-February): 103-120.
- 2007 “Joining the gang and becoming a *broder*: The violence of ethnography in contemporary Nicaragua”, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 27(4): 444-61.
- 2007 “Gangs, violence, and asset-building”, in C. Moser (ed.), *Reducing Global Poverty: The Case for Asset Accumulation*, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2007.
- 2007 “Managua”, in K. Koonings and D. Kruijt (eds.), *Fractured Cities: Social Exclusion, Urban Violence and Contested Spaces in Latin America*, London: Zed.
- 2007 “Each to their own: Ethnographic notes on the economic organization of poor households in urban Nicaragua”, *Journal of Development Studies*, 43(3): 391-419.
- 2007 “Subverting the spaces of invitation? Local politics and participatory budgeting in post-crisis Buenos Aires”, in A. Cornwall and V. Coelho (eds.), *Spaces for Change: The Politics of Participation in New Democratic Arenas*, London: Zed.
- 2006 “¡Son como esponjas! Notas antropológicas entorno de diálogos con el MTD La Matanza”, in Toty Flores (ed.), *Cuando con Otros Somos Nosotros: La Experiencia Asociativa del Movimiento de Trabajadores Desocupados MTD La Matanza*, Buenos Aires: MTD Editora.
- 2006 “The state as a gang: Conceptualising the governmentality of violence in contemporary Nicaragua”, *Critique of Anthropology*, 26(3): 315-30.
- 2006 “Cuando la pandilla se pone mala: Violencia juvenil y cambio social en Nicaragua”, *Etnografías Contemporáneas*, 2(2): 75-98.
- 2006 “Living in the shadow of death: Gangs, violence, and social order in urban Nicaragua, 1996-2002”, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 38(2): 267-92.
- 2004 “Disembedding the city: Crime, insecurity, and spatial organisation in Managua, Nicaragua”, *Environment and Urbanization*, 16(2): 113-124.

### **Current research**

I am presently completing a book manuscript on the dynamics of gang violence in urban Nicaragua entitled *Gang Rule: Violence and Social Order in Post-Revolutionary Nicaragua*, based on a 10-year longitudinal ethnographic study of a Managua gang. I plan to follow this up with a more ecumenical volume entitled *The Gang in History*, inspired by Lewis Mumford’s 1961 classic *The City in History*. This would explore the general evolution of gangs, both in history and cross-culturally, in order to illustrate how “the gang, in short, is life, often rough and untamed, yet rich in elemental social processes significant to the student of society and human nature” (Frederick Thrasher, *The Gang*, Chicago University Press, 1927, p. iii). A second area of research concerns the spatial politics of urban planning. My current work in this regard explores the changing experience of urban space in cities in a comparative perspective, focusing particularly on instances where cities have undergone different processes of planned urban transformation, in order to better understand the political dynamics that underlie the constitution of urban space. My principal case study is Managua, the capital city of Nicaragua.