
Terry Lynn Karl

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An expert in international and comparative politics, Terry Lynn Karl earned her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.(with distinction from Stanford University. After serving on the faculty in the Government Department of Harvard University, she joined Stanford University's Department of Political Science in 1987, where she taught for 35 years.

Karl has conducted field research, held visiting appointments or led workshops on democratization, human rights trials, and/or oil politics/extractive resources throughout Latin America, West Africa, the Middle East and Europe. She has published widely, with special emphasis on the politics/conflict of oil-exporting countries/regions, transitions from authoritarian rule and problems of democratization, the global politics of human rights, the politics of inequality, U.S. foreign policy, and civil wars. A multilingual scholar, her work has been translated into at least 25 languages; she is frequently cited in international and domestic media. Her main interests follow:

Crimes Against Humanity, Transitional Justice and Human Rights: A pioneer in using political science methodologies as investigative techniques and the Nuremberg doctrine of command responsibility in trials charging crimes against humanity and major human rights violations., Karl serves as expert witness in the U.S., Spain, and Latin America testifying for the Department of Justice and the War Crimes Unit of Homeland Security, the High Court of Spain, and various national courts in Latin America. See, for example, <https://scrippsnews.com/stories/exclusive-ice-arrests-salvadoran-man-wanted-for-war-crimes/> and Colombia: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/06/11/chiquita-banana-human-rights-lawsuit-colombia/>

Trials include the massacre of El Mozote (Latin America's largest contemporary massacre,) d the 1989 murders of Jesuit priests in El Salvador's Central American University (*Audiencia Nacional*, Madrid, Spain,) and Chiquita Brands for its role in paying terrorist paramilitares to operate in Colombia. She served as expert witness for the U'wa indigenous people in their successful and path-breaking 2002 lawsuit in Colombia against Occidental Petroleum. These testimonies have helped to set important legal precedents, e.g., Karl was cited extensively in rulings that resulted in the first jury verdict in U.S. history against foreign military commanders living in the U.S. for murder and torture under the doctrine of command responsibility (*Romagoza et al v Garcia/Vides Casanova*) and the first jury verdict in U.S. history finding commanders responsible for "crimes against humanity" under the doctrine of command responsibility (*Chavez et al v Carranza*).

Other policy work includes serving as both informal and formal advisor to the U.N. Assistant Secretary General during peace negotiations in El Salvador and Guatemala and the House Committee on Inter-American Affairs, and she has testified before Congress regarding U.S. policy towards Latin America and transparency in the oil industry. Karl has presented hundreds of written testimonies to the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S Attorney General, U.S. Circuit courts, and U.S. immigration courts for political asylum seekers.

Transitions from Authoritarian Rule and Democratization: Karl's work on transitions from authoritarian rule and comparative democratization first introduced the concepts of "pact-making," "modes of transitions" "electoralism", and "hybrid regimes," which are now considered part of the political science lexicon. Her article with Philippe Schmitter, "What Democracy Is and Is Not," is considered a political science classic. An expert on Latin America, her most recent book on democratization assesses the lessons from Latin America and elsewhere for the United States "Extreme Inequality and State Capture: The Crisis of Democracy in the United States" (in English, Spanish and Chinese, 2019).

The Politics of Oil: Karl's notion of "the paradox of plenty" (*The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States*, University of California Press, 1998) or what is now called the "political resource curse" "was recognized by *Time Magazine* as one of "ten ideas that are changing our world." Considered seminal, this book has been translated into Arabic, Farsi, and Spanish, and is regularly quoted in the media. Other books and chapters include: *Oil Wars* (edited with Mary Kaldor and Yahia Said, *Overcoming the Resource Curse* (with Joseph Stiglitz, Jeffrey Sachs and Macartan Humphreys in the volume of the same name,) and *Democracy over a Barrel: Africa's Oil Boom and the Poor* (in English, French and Spanish) Karl also narrates or has appeared in numerous documentaries and videos on oil, national security, democracy and war themes, for example, the prize winning *A Crude Awakening*.

Current work: Her main work in progress, "A Minor Misunderstanding?" Fale (?:) Memory in Russia, Ukraine and the U.S" uses original research in and/or documents from Italy, Germany, England, the U.S., Egypt, Russia and Israel to reveal what may be the first major breach in what became the Cold War.

Honors for Research, Teaching: and Women's Rights: Karl was awarded the Latin American Studies Association Guillermo O'Donnell Prize in May 2023 for her extensive work on democratization, human rights and justice. She was designated Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from the University of San Francisco and the Miriam Roland Volunteer Service Prize from Stanford University for her "exceptional commitment to public service in the cause of human rights and social justice." The Latin American Studies Association awarded her the Oxfam Martin Diskin Prize in Toronto in 2010 for "excellence in combining scholarship and policy activism." At Stanford Karl has won all of Stanford's major teaching awards, especially the Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Graduate and Undergraduate Teaching (1997), which is the University's highest academic prize. At Harvard Karl was chosen Radcliffe's "mentor of the year" in her first year of teaching. In recognition for "exceptional teaching throughout her career," she is a Stanford Bass All-University Fellow.

Karl is widely recognized as the first woman to charge a major university (Harvard in 1983) with protecting sexual harassers and subsequently be able to protect her own career—almost a decade before Anita Hill's testimony. In a path-breaking action for that university, in 2021 (a mere forty years later), Harvard's president issued a public apology to Karl, acknowledging her consistent support for female scholars throughout her career and Harvard's "debt of gratitude" to her for "doing the right thing when it was especially difficult and for being persistent in her efforts to demand justice." A prize is being established in her honor.

Media: Karl has most recently appeared on a number of podcasts and in the *Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *Politico*, *Slate*, *New York Times*, *NBC*, *BBC*, *NPR*, *Newsweek*, *Fox News*, *USA Today*, the *Guardian*, *El Faro*, *El Comercio*, *La Prensa Grafica*, *El Mundo*, *El Pais*, *El Nuevo Herald*, *Just Security*, *the Conversation*, *The Council of Foreign Relations*, *Whistleblowers*, *the Jewish News in Northern California*, and *the Chronicle of Higher Education*.
