

My project examines the relationship between agricultural exports and consolidation of water and land in Chile's Petorca Province. A wide body of literature has documented inequities in water and land ownership in areas—like Petorca—with extensive production of export-oriented commodity crops. However, little research has focused on how Chile's agro-export model has impacted these inequities, as well as how the virtual movement of water through agricultural exports relates to domestic redistributions of water through water markets and government allocations of water rights. During my time in Chile, I spoke to the Conservador de Bienes Raíces (Property Registrar) of La Ligua and Petorca—both located in Petorca Province—to inquire about their land registry data. Unfortunately, while their land transaction documents are digitised and available to the public, they do not have a consolidated dataset of land parcel ownership. Moreover, I spoke with the public agency Centro de Información de Recursos Naturales (CIREN) to inquire about their spatial data of land parcels. This also turned into a bit of a dead end, as the data is only available for purchase and far exceeds my research budget. One activity that went really well is my visit to the Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo (FAU) at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago. There, I met with professor Maria Christina Fragkou, whose research focuses on water justice in Chile and who has done a lot of work in Petorca. I had a really fruitful conversation with her to guide the trajectory of my project and draw upon her connections with water justice groups in Petorca. Ultimately, my trip facilitated a pivot for my project to focus mainly on water rather than the water-land nexus, and my discussions taught me a great deal about the Chilean academic and governmental space around water rights data.

Moreover, I loved getting a better sense of the academic culture in Chile, especially since it is so different from the culture at American universities I have experienced. I also really enjoyed reconnecting with my family and friends during the visit, especially my mom. Another incredible aspect of the trip was exploring springtime in the Andean foothills, which were as green as I've ever seen them thanks to all the rain Santiago received this past winter.