

Gustavo Diaz

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Education

PhD in Political Science

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015-Present (Expected Spring 2021)
Major Fields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methodology

MA in Political Science

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2017

BA in Political Science

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), 2014

Interests

Political Economy, Political Behavior, Accountability, Developing Countries, Causal Inference, Machine Learning

Dissertation

“Revealed Corruption and Electoral Accountability in Brazil: How Politicians Anticipate Voting Behavior.”

Committee: Jake Bowers (chair), Avital Livny, Gisela Sin, Matt Winters

This project argues that politicians respond strategically to revealed corruption in anticipation of voter sanctions. I evaluate this argument analyzing data from a long-running anti-corruption program in Brazil, combining tools from causal inference and machine learning to inform data collection and research design. The main finding is that politicians anticipate electoral sanctions from corruption even when they are not directly responsible for it.

Research

Publications

2020. “[Light in the Midst of Chaos: COVID-19 and Female Political Representation.](#)” *World Development* 136: 105125 (with Kelly Senters Piazza)

2020. “[Survey Experiments and the Quest for Valid Interpretation.](#)” In *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*, edited by Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese. London: Sage (with Christopher Grady and James H. Kuklinski)

2014. “[Civic Education and Electoral Participation under Voluntary Voting.](#)” *Revista Política* 52 (1): 61-91 (In Spanish)

Working Papers

“[Bad Neighbors Make Good Fences: How Politicians Mitigate the Electoral Consequences of Nearby Corruption in Brazil](#)”

“[Women Can’t Win: Electoral Double Standards in the Face of Corruption.](#)” (with Kelly Senters Piazza)

Talks and Presentations

- “A Variable Selection Approach to Spillovers.” Polmeth 2020, Polmeth Latin America 2019
- “Women Can’t Win: Electoral Double Standards in the Face of Corruption.” MPSA 2020 (canceled)
- “Revisiting Double List Experiments to Address Design Effects.” NYU CESS Conference on Experimental Political Science 2020
- “The Electoral Consequences of Exposure to Nearby Corruption in Brazil.” APSA 2019, SLAMM! 2019
- “Structural Topic Modeling for Supervised Learning: Coding Corruption from Audit Reports.” Minnesota Political Methodology Colloquium 2019
- “Creating the Subnational Resource Curse: Voting Rules and Equalization Grants in Chile.” MPSA 2018, WashU-Illinois Political Science Graduate Student Exchange 2018
- “Accountability Without Term Limits: Tenure and Economic Performance in Chilean Subnational Elections.” MPSA 2017

Research Assistant

- Jake Bowers. University of Illinois. Summer 2018, Summer 2020
- Gisela Sin. University of Illinois. Fall 2018-Spring 2019
- Subject Pool Survey Coordinator. University of Illinois. Fall 2017-Spring 2018
- Avital Livny. University of Illinois. Spring-Summer 2017.

Teaching

Instructor

- Comparative Politics in Developing Nations (Online). University of Illinois, Summer 2019
- Mathcamp for Political Scientists. University of Illinois, Fall 2017-2019

Teaching Assistant

- Graduate Methods Sequence. University of Illinois. Fall 2020
- IPSA-USP Summer School (Causal Inference track). University of São Paulo. 2020
- Introduction to Quantitative Political Research. Jake Bowers, University of Illinois. Fall 2017
- Comparative Politics in Developing Nations. Avital Livny, University of Illinois. Fall 2016
- Introduction to Comparative Politics. M. Valeria Palanza, PUC. Spring 2011, 2013, 2014
- Quantitative Methods. Anthony Pezzola PUC, Spring 2013, 2014
- Comparative Political Behavior in Latin America. Roody Reserve, PUC, Fall 2013
- Qualitative Methods. Julieta Suárez-Cao, PUC Fall 2013
- Subnational Politics in Latin America. Julieta Suárez-Cao, PUC, Spring 2013

Awards & Honors

2019. Best Poster Award. Latin American Political Methodology Meeting. Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2019-2020. Werner Baer Dissertation Writing Fellowship. Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, University of Illinois
2016. Rita and Leonard Ogren Award for Academic Excellence. Department of Political Science, University of Illinois

Additional Training

2019. Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Summer Institute. Emory University

2014. Summer School on Mixed Methods. Department of Political Science, PUC

Languages

Spanish, French, Portuguese

Software and Programming

R, STATA, QGIS, GeoDa, GitHub, L^AT_EX, Markdown

Last updated: October 24, 2020