

# Isabel G. Laterzo

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Department of Political Science  
Pauli Murray Hall  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Phone: (347) 448-1420  
Email: [ilaterzo@live.unc.edu](mailto:ilaterzo@live.unc.edu)

## Education

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** *Chapel Hill, NC, USA*

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, *Expected 2023*

M.A., Political Science, *May 2020*

*Subfields:* Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methodology

*Committee:* Dr. Jonathan Hartlyn (Chair), Dr. Cecilia Martínez-Gallardo, Dr. Santiago Olivella, Dr. Evelyne Huber, Dr. Omar García-Ponce (The George Washington University)

**Claremont McKenna College** *Claremont, CA, USA*

B.A., International Relations (Latin American Regional Focus), *May 2016*

*Thesis:* “Violent Crime and Citizen Insecurity in Latin America”

*Advisor:* Dr. William Ascher

*Accolades:* Cum Laude and Honors

**Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina** *Florianópolis, Brazil*

Advanced Portuguese Extension Coursework (Virtual), *October 2020-November 2020*

**Universidad ORT** *Montevideo, Uruguay*

Exchange Coursework towards B.A., *August 2014 - December 2014*

## Research Interests

**Comparative Politics:** Latin America, security, political participation, sub-national politics

**Political Methodology:** Mixed methods opinion prediction (Bayesian and regression-based), survey design, causal inference

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

Laterzo, Isabel G. “Political Engagement and Victimization: A Causal Analysis,” *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública*, 2021.

## Papers in Preparation

“Should I Stay (Home) or Should I Go? Citizen Response to COVID-19 Containment Measures in Brazil and Mexico” (*With Claire Dunn*), Invited for Peer Review for the *Journal of Politics in Latin America’s* Special Issue on COVID-19

“Estimating Actual Crime Rates and the ‘Dark Figure’ of Crime Using Bayesian Additive Regression Trees Plus Poststratification (BARP)”

“Explaining Youth Crime in Urban Mexico: Incentives and Justifications” (*With Omar García-Ponce & Vivian Bronsoler*)

“Progressive Ideology and Support for Tough-on-Crime Policy: Experimental Evidence from Brazil and Argentina”

“Perceptions and Normalization of Violence in Mexico’s Drug War” (*With Omar García-Ponce*)

## Data Science & Technological Skills

**Languages:** R (expert), JavaScript and html for survey programming (proficient), Python (basic)

**Programs:** Qualtrics (survey & experimental design), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**Data Visualization:** Visualization in R (ggplot2, RShiny), GIS (R-based), Tableau

**High Performance Computing:** Linux-based computing systems

**Statistical modeling:** Classic regression models, generalized linear models, multilevel/mixed modeling, sampling bias correction and small-area estimation (MRP, BARP), imputation

## Conference & Workshop Presentations

“Explaining Youth Crime in Urban Mexico: Incentives and Justifications” (*With Omar García-Ponce & Vivian Bronsoler*)

- *REPAL (Network for the Study of Latin American Political Economy), Scheduled July 2021*

- *UNC Political Science Methods and Design (MAD) Workshop, April 2021*

“Should I Stay (Home) or Should I Go? Citizen Response to COVID-19 Containment Measures in Brazil and Mexico” (*With Claire Dunn*)

- *Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress, Scheduled May 2021*

- *UNC-Duke Latin American Working Group Conference, April 2021*

- *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, January 2021*

“Perceptions and Normalization of Violence in Mexico’s Drug War” (*With Omar García-Ponce*)

- *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Scheduled September 2021*

“Progressive Ideology and Support for Tough-on-Crime Policy: Experimental Evidence from Brazil and Argentina”

- *Latin American Politics and Party Competition Workshop at Duke University, Scheduled May 2021*

- *Injustice and Justice Mini-Conference Poster (in conjunction with the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting), Scheduled September 2021*

“Estimating Actual Crime Rates and the ‘Dark Figure’ of Crime Using Bayesian Additive Regression Trees Plus Poststratification (BARP)”

- *Latin American PolMeth, November 2020*

- *Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, July 2020*

- *Minnesota Graduate Student Methods Conference, Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic*

- *UNC-Duke Latin American Working Group Conference, February 2020*

“Asking the Right Questions About Poverty Alleviation, Growth, and Distribution: A Case Study of Mexico” (*With William Ascher*)

- *The Annual Institute of the Society of Policy Scientists at The World Bank, November 2015*

## Workshops and Training

**Summer 2019:** Advancing Research on Conflict (ARC) Summer Program

*Selected as an outstanding doctoral student to attend an intensive, residential summer program to receive field methods and ethics training to conduct rigorous, ethical research in violence affected areas*

## Awards & Grants

**2020:** UNC-Chapel Hill Three Minute Thesis Competition, People's Choice Award (\$400)

**2020:** Graduate Research Award, Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill (\$1,500)

**2020:** Critical Language Scholarship Virtual Institute for Brazilian Portuguese (Fall), U.S. Department of State (full language course tuition)

**2020:** Critical Language Scholarship for Brazilian Portuguese (Summer), U.S. Department of State (accepted but canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

**2020:** Pre-dissertation Field Research Grant, Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill (\$1,500, canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

**2020:** Brazil Initiation Scholarship, Brazilian Studies Association (\$1,500)

**2020:** UNC Political Science Uhlman Seminar Three Minute Thesis Presentation, 1st Place (\$1,000)

**2019-2020:** Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship, Brazilian Portuguese (stipend and full tuition)

**2019:** Departmental Top-Up Grant, UNC Political Science (\$2,000)

**2019:** Society of Policy Scientists Annual Institute Travel Award (\$850)

**2019:** Summer Program Partial Scholarship, Advancing Research on Conflict (ARC) Consortium (\$900)

**2019:** Uhlman Summer Fellowship, UNC Political Science (\$2,000)

**2019-2023:** Summer Funding Award, UNC Political Science (\$3,000/year)

**2016:** Society of Policy Scientists Undergraduate Student Prize for an Unpublished Paper (\$250)

**2016:** Society of Policy Scientists Annual Institute Travel Award (\$1,000)

## Teaching & Research Experience

### **Instructor:**

Poli 784 Lab: Intermediate Statistics (PhD Level), UNC-Chapel Hill (Spring 2021)

### **Teaching Assistant:**

Poli 180: Introduction to Comparative Politics, UNC-Chapel Hill, Rahsaan Maxwell (Fall 2020)

Intro to R, Intermediate R, Advanced R: UNC-Chapel Hill's Odum Institute Data Matters Short Course Series (1 week, Summer 2019)

### **Grader:**

Poli 281: Quantitative Research in Political Science, UNC-Chapel Hill, Leah Christiani (Spring 2019)

Poli 180: Introduction to Comparative Politics, UNC-Chapel Hill, Rahsaan Maxwell (Fall 2018)

### **Research Assistant:**

Jonathan Hartlyn, UNC-Chapel Hill (Dec 2018-Present)

Ted Enamorado, UNC-Chapel Hill (April 2020-June 2020)

William Ascher, Claremont McKenna College (Dec 2015-May 2016)

## Fieldwork & Exchange Coursework

**Brazil (Virtual):** 2 months intensive language coursework

**Chile:** 1 month of fieldwork (elite, academic, and NGO interviews)

**Uruguay:** 5 months in-person exchange coursework

## Professional Work Experience

**Conflict and Development Foundation**, College Station, T.X. (Remote)

*Senior Research Associate (October 2020-Present)*

Researcher and statistical consultant for the performance evaluation of USAID/Mexico's Crime and Violence Prevention Activity implemented by the Center on Conflict and Development at Texas A&M University

**EAB**, Washington, D.C.

*Analyst (July 2017-May 2018); Research Associate (July 2016-July 2017)*

Served as a researcher and consultant for higher education and primary school clients on issues related to academic program launch and faculty professional development; Conducted market research analysis and over 200 qualitative interviews for about 70 research reports

**Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, U.S. Department of Defense**, Washington, D.C.

*Western Hemisphere Affairs Intern (June 2015-August 2015)*

**Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate**, Washington, D.C.

*Foreign Affairs and Defense Intern (June 2014-July 2014)*

## Professional Service

### **Departmental:**

2020-Present: Coordinator, Duke-UNC Latin American Politics Working Group

2019-2020: Graduate Student Executive Committee Member, UNC-Chapel Hill Political Science

2019: Selection Committee for the Charles Robson Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction, UNC-Chapel Hill Political Science

### **Discipline & Educational:**

2021-Present: Academic Mentor for Students in Prison, UNC Correctional Education Program

Referee: Research & Politics

## Related Skills & Memberships

**Languages:** Portuguese (advanced), Spanish (advanced)

**Certifications:** Mental Health First Aid for Higher Education

**Memberships:** American Political Science Association; Southern Political Science Association; The Society for Political Methodology; The Latin American Studies Association