

Isabel G. Laterzo

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Department of Political Science

Chapel Hill, NC, USA

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Education

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

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, *Expected 2024*

Subfields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methodology

Dissertation: Progressive, Punitive, or Somewhere in Between: Political Responsiveness to Crime and Violence in Latin America

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

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

Claremont McKenna College *Claremont, CA, USA*

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

Academic Appointments

Fundação Getúlio Vargas *Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil*

Visiting Researcher, Centro de Ciência Aplicada à Segurança Pública, *May-August 2022*

Federal University of Bahia *Salvador, BA, Brazil*

Visiting Researcher, Laboratório de Estudos sobre Crime e Sociedade, *August-October 2022*

Federal University of Minas Gerais *Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil*

Visiting Researcher, *October-December 2022*

Research Interests

Comparative Politics: Latin America, security, political participation, subnational politics

Political Methodology: Natural language processing, mixed methods opinion prediction (Bayesian and regression-based), survey experiments

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Dunn, Claire E. and **Isabel G. Laterzo**, “State-Level Citizen Response to COVID-19 Containment Measures in Brazil and Mexico,” *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, 2021.

- Covered in *The Washington Post* in [November 2021](#)

- Winner of the 2022 LASA Subnational Politics and Society Best Paper Award

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

Working Papers

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

“Who is to Blame? Understanding the Justifications for Youth Crime in Urban Mexico” *Under Review*,
(With Omar García-Ponce, Vivian Bronsoler, Elisa Lavore Fanjul, & Shahriar Kibriya)

- Covered in *El Diario de Juárez* in [April 2022](#)

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

Technical Publications

Bronsoler, Vivian Nurko, Omar García-Ponce, Shahriar Kibriya, **Isabel G. Laterzo**, and Elisa Lavore Fanjul. “Performance Evaluation of USAID/Mexico’s Crime and Violence Prevention Activity.” Produced for the United States Agency for International Development by the Center on Conflict and Development, Texas A&M University

Papers in Preparation

“Partisanship & Electoral Cycle Effects in Latin America: Correction Measures and Implications” (With Jonathan Hartlyn)

“Youth Exposure to Violence and Political Attitudes: Evidence from Urban Mexico” (With Omar García-Ponce)

Conference & Workshop Presentations

Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2020, 2022)
 Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, Politics of Insecurity Workshop (2022)
 Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress (2021, 2022)
 Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (2022)
 American Political Science Association (2021)
 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2021)
 REPAL (Network for the Study of Latin American Political Economy) (2021)
 UNC-Duke Latin American Working Group Conference (2020, 2021)
 North Carolina Conference on Latin American Studies (2019, 2020, 2022)
 Latin American PolMeth (2020)
 Society for Policy Scientists Annual Institute (2015, 2019, 2021)

Awards & Grants

2021-2022: Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Grant (approx. \$22,000)
2021: ARPA Graduate Degree Completion Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill (\$7,850)
2021: American Political Science Association Travel Award (\$300)
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, U.S. Department of State
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
2019: Departmental Top-Up Grant, UNC Political Science (\$2,000)
2019: Society of Policy Scientists Annual Institute Travel Award (\$850)
2019: Summer Program 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 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics, UNC-Chapel Hill (Spring 2022)
 Poli 281: Data in Politics I, UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2021)
 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, Intermed., & Adv. R: UNC-Chapel Hill's Odum Institute Short Course Series (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)
 Omar García-Ponce, George Washington University (June 2021-August 2021)
 Ted Enamorado, UNC-Chapel Hill (April 2020-June 2020)
 William Ascher, Claremont McKenna College (Dec 2015-May 2016)

Field Experience

Mexico: Virtual and in-person survey consultation
Brazil: 7 months expert interviews and election observation (ongoing), 2 months virtual intensive language coursework
Chile: 1 month of 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-November 2021)

EAB, Washington, D.C.

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

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)

Data Science & Technological Skills

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

Programs: Qualtrics (survey & experimental design), L^AT_EX, Overleaf

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

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

Additional Workshops and Training

Spring 2021: Text Analysis Using R, UNC Odum Institute Short Course Series

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

Professional Service

Departmental:

2020-2021: 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: Academic Mentor for Students in Prison, UNC Correctional Education Program

Referee: Research & Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Revista Papel Político, Colombia Internacional

Related Skills & Memberships

Languages: English (native), 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