

# Isabel G. Laterzo

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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, Political Methodology  
*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), *Cum Laude, May 2016*

## Academic Appointments

**Getulio Vargas Foundation** *Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil*  
Visiting Researcher, Center for Science Applied to Public Security, *May-August 2022*  
**Federal University of Bahia** *Salvador, BA, Brazil*  
Visiting Researcher, Laboratory for Studies of Crime and Society, *August-October 2022*  
**Federal University of Minas Gerais** *Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil*  
Visiting Researcher, Center for Legislative Studies *October-December 2022*

## 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 Punitive Crime Policy: Evidence from Brazil and Argentina” *Revise & Resubmit at Comparative Political Studies*

- Covered in *The Washington Post* in [October 2022](#)

“The Legacy of Mexico’s Drug War on Youth Political Attitudes” *Revise & Resubmit at The Journal of Politics, (With Omar García-Ponce)*

“Who is to Blame? Understanding the Justifications for Youth Crime in Urban Mexico” *Revise & Resubmit at The Journal of Criminal Justice, (With Omar García-Ponce, Vivian Bronsoler, Elisa Lavore Fanjul, & Shahriar Kibriya)*

- Covered in *El Diario de Juárez* in [April 2022](#)
- Covered by Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) in [August 2022](#)

“A New Typology of Political Positions on Public Security: Evidence from Brazil” (Dissertation Chapter)

## Papers in Preparation

“Applications of Small Area Estimation Strategies for Non-Homicidal Crimes and Insecurity”

“The ‘Tough on Crime’ Left: Race, Gender, and Elections of Law and Order Democrats” (*With Leah Christiani*)

“A Bayesian Multilevel Wordfish Model for Ideological Scaling of Nested Text”

### Technical Publications

Bronsolero, 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

### Presentations

**Conference Presentations:** Public Choice Society Conference (2023); Latin American Peace Science Society Conference (2023) ; Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2021, 2023); Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress (2021, 2022, 2023); Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2020, 2022); Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (2022); American Political Science Association (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)

**Invited Presentations:** Center for Legislative Studies & Center for Criminality and Public Security Studies (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil) (2022); Laboratory for the Study of Crime and Society (LASSOS, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil) (2022); Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE, Mexico City) (2022); Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, Politics of Insecurity Workshop (2022)

### Awards & Grants

**2023:** Director’s Fund for Excellence, Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill (\$400)  
**2023:** Departmental Top-Up Grant, UNC Political Science (\$4,000)  
**2022:** UNC Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship (approx. \$3,000)  
**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:** Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship, Portuguese (\$7,500 + tuition)  
**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)

**Guest Lectures:**

Getulio Vargas Foundation School of Law (São Paulo, Brazil) (2022)

**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

**Brazil:** 7 months of expert interviews and election observation

**Mexico:** Virtual and in-person survey consultation

**Chile:** 1 month of expert 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 (Education Advisory Board)**, 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Overleaf

**Data Visualization:** Visualization in R, 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 & Training

**2022:** Version Control with Git and Github Material (UNC Odum Institute Short Course Series); Using Qualitative Research to Study Social Justice (UNC Odum Institute Short Course Series); Extracting Data from the Web: Web Scraping Using R (UNC Odum Institute Short Course Series)

**2021:** Text Analysis Using R (UNC Odum Institute Short Course Series)

**2019:** [Advancing Research on Conflict \(ARC\)](#) Summer Program

Professional Service**Departmental:**

2022-present: Vice President, Graduate Student Executive Committee (UNC-Chapel Hill Political Science)

2020-2021: Coordinator, Duke-UNC Latin American Politics Working Group

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

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

**Discipline & Educational:**

2022-present: Co-founder and Organizer, [Violence, Instability, and Peace \(VIP\) Workshop](#)

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

Referee: Political Research Quarterly, Journal of Politics in Latin America, Research & Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Revista Papel Político, Colombia Internacional

Related Skills & Memberships

**Languages:** English (native), Portuguese (fluent), 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