John Polga–Hecimovich

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Academic Positions

United States Naval Academy 2021-present
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Universidad de Salamanca 2022-2023
Visiting Researcher, Instituto de Iberoamérica

United States Naval Academy 2016-2021
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

College of William and Mary 2015-2016
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Government

Wake Forest University 2014-2015
Visiting Instructor, Department of Politics and International Affairs

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Quito 2012, 2013
Visiting Instructor, Departamento de Ciencias Políticas

Education

University of Pittsburgh 2015
Ph.D. Political Science

Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Quito 2006
M.A. Latin American Studies

Dartmouth College 2004
B.A. Government & Spanish

Publications

Books

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2010. *Políticos, militares y ciudadanos: un análisis de las caídas presidenciales en Ecuador (1997-2005)*, Quito: Corporación Editora Nacional-Abya Yala

Edited Books

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí. 2025. *Authoritarian Consolidation in Times of Crisis: Venezuela under Nicolás Maduro*, New York: Routledge. doi:10.4324/9781003457886.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí. 2026. Venezuela 2025: Chronicle of a Fall Foretold, *Revista de Ciencia Política*, 46(2).

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Fabiana Perera. 2026. Tracing bilateral security cooperation: the asymmetric deterioration of US–Venezuelan defense relations, *International Politics*, 63: 633–658. doi:10.1057/s41311-024-00613-5.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Javier Rodríguez Sandoval. 2025. Las elecciones presidenciales de Ecuador 2025: Del multipartidismo al bipartidismo sin partidos, *Revista Uruguaya de Ciencia Política*. doi:10.26851/rucp.34.20.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2025. Transnational Organized Crime and the Venezuelan State, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 26(1): 238-246. doi:10.1353/gia.2025.a965801.

Mustillo, Thomas J., John Polga-Hecimovich, and Francisco Sánchez. 2025. The Logic of Ambitious Legislators in Fluid Party Systems, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 50(2): 148-165. doi:10.1111/lsq.12465.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí. 2024. Political Survival and... Authoritarian Consolidation? The Maduro Government and Venezuela's Political Crisis, *Pensamiento Propio*, 28(58): 17-49.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2022. Coaliciones reformistas y tipo de régimen: Una teoría del cambio electoral aplicado al Ecuador, *Revista Ecuatoriana de Ciencia Política*, 1(1): 81–100.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2022. Venezuelan Regional Elections, Democratic Backsliding, and Autocratization in the 2010s, *Regional and Federal Studies*, 32(4): 437–458. doi:10.1080/13597566.2022.2063846.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2021. The Bureaucratic Perils of Presidentialism: Political Impediments to Good Governance in Latin America, *Journal of Policy Studies*, 36(4): 1–14. doi:10.52372/kjps36401.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, John M. Carey and Yusaku Horiuchi. 2021. Student Attitudes Toward Campus Diversity at the United States Naval Academy: Evidence from Conjoint Survey Experiments, *Armed Forces & Society*, 47(2): 386–409. doi:10.1177/0095327X18824665.

Mustillo, Thomas J., and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2020. Party, Candidate, and Voter Incentives under Free List Proportional Representation, *The Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 32(1): 143–167. doi:10.1177/0951629819893023.

Meier, Kenneth J., Mallory Compton, John Polga-Hecimovich, Miyeon Song, and Cameron Wimpy. 2019. Bureaucracy and the Failure of Politics: Challenges to Democratic Governance, *Administration & Society*, 51(10): 1576–1605. doi:10.1177/0095399719874759.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. Bureaucratic Politicization, Partisan Attachments, and the Limits of Public Agency Legitimacy: the Venezuelan Armed Forces under Chavismo. *Latin American Research Review*, 52(2): 476–498. doi:10.25222/larr.142.

Sánchez, Francisco, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2019. The Tools of Institutional Change under Post-Neoliberalism: Rafael Correa's Ecuador. *Journal of Latin American Studies* 51(2): 379–408. doi:10.1017/S0022216X1800072X.

Mustillo, Thomas J., and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2018. Measures and Votes: Party Performance under Free List Proportional Representation with Evidence from Ecuador. *Electoral Studies*, 56: 124–135. doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2018.09.011.

Pérez-Liñán, Aníbal, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2017. Explaining Military Coups and Impeachments in Latin America. *Democratization* 24(5): 839–858. doi:10.1080/13510347.2016.1251905.

Basabe Serrano, Santiago, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2017. Crisis económicas y protestas sociales como explicación de las caídas presidenciales: un análisis de causalidad coyuntural múltiple aplicado al caso ecuatoriano. *Perfiles Latinoamericanos* 25(50): 129–153. doi:10.18504/pl2550-007-2017.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Luis Alejandro Trelles. 2016. The Organizational Consequences of Politics: A Research Agenda for the Study of Bureaucratic Politics in Latin America. *Latin American Politics and Society*, 58(4): 56–79. doi:10.1111/laps.12002.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Peter M. Siavelis. 2015. Here's the Bias! A (Re-)reassessment of the Chilean Electoral System. *Electoral Studies* 40: 268–279. doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2015.09.006.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2014. Hacía una superación del clivaje regional? La evolución de la nacionalización de los partidos políticos ecuatorianos desde el retorno a la democracia. *América Latina Hoy*, 67:

91–118. doi:10.14201/alh20146791118.

Morgenstern, Scott, John Polga-Hecimovich, and Peter M. Siavelis. 2014. *Ni Chicha ni Limoná*: Party Nationalization in Pre- and Post-Authoritarian Chile. *Party Politics*, 20(5): 751–766. doi:10.1177/1354068812453370.

Morgenstern, Scott, John Polga-Hecimovich, and Peter M. Siavelis. 2014. Seven Imperatives for Improving the Measurement of Party Nationalization with Evidence from Chile. *Electoral Studies*, 33: 186–199. doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2013.07.002.

Morgenstern, Scott, John Polga-Hecimovich, and Sarah Shair-Rosenfield. 2013. Tall, Grande, or Venti, but not Short: Comparing Presidential Powers in the U.S. and Latin America. *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, 5(2): 37–70. doi:10.1177/1866802X1300500202.

Basabe Serrano, Santiago, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2013. Legislative Coalitions and Judicial Turnover under Political Uncertainty: The Case of Ecuador. *Political Research Quarterly*, 66(1): 153–166. doi:10.1177/1065912911436319.

Mejía Acosta, Andrés, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2011. Coalition Erosion and Presidential Instability in Ecuador. *Latin American Politics and Society*, 53(2): 87–111. doi:10.1111/j.1548-2456.2011.00118.x.

Spanish translation: Mejía Acosta, Andrés, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2011. *Soluciones parliamentarias a las crisis presidenciales en Ecuador*. *Revista Latinoamericana de Política Comparada*, 4(1): 49–73.

Carey, John M., and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2006. Primary Elections and Candidate Strength in Latin America. *The Journal of Politics*, 68(3): 530–543. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2508.2006.00443.x.

Editor-Reviewed Journal Articles

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2025. Presidential Failure–or Party Failure? A Review Essay, *Political Science Quarterly*. doi:10.1093/psquar/qqaf118.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Francisco Sánchez. 2021. Ecuador's Return to the Past. *Journal of Democracy*, 32(3): 5–18. doi:10.1353/jod.2021.0030

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. La presidencia del ejecutivo unitario de Rafael Correa. *Revista Latinoamericana de Política Comparada*, 15: 99–122.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, Iñaki Sagarzazu, and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí. 2017. Venezuelan Overview. *LASA Forum* 48(1): 35–38.

Coordinator on LASA Forum special issue on Venezuela with Iñaki Sagarzazu and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí

Eichorst, Jason, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2014. The 2013 Ecuadorian General Elections. *Electoral Studies* 34: 361–365. doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2013.09.014.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2013. Ecuador: Estabilidad institucional y la consolidación de poder de Rafael Correa. *Revista de Ciencia Política*, Chile 33(1): 135–160. doi:10.4067/S0718-090X2013000100007.

Book Chapters

Martinez Osorio, Sofia, and John Polga-Hecimovich. Forthcoming. The Politicization of the Salvadoran Bureaucracy under Nayib Bukele, in *The Handbook of Populism and Bureaucracy*, Eds. K. Yesilkagit, J. Pierre, B. G. Peters, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Bunker, Kenneth, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2025. Representation and Party Dynamics: The Interplay of Electoral Systems, Social Cleavages, and Political Ideas in Chile, in *Crisis de la representatividad de la democracia liberal presente y futuro*, Ed. J. Abedrapo Rojas, Santiago (Chile): Tirant lo Blanch. 81–118.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí. 2025. Introduction: Venezuela's Political Crisis and the Concept of Authoritarian Consolidation, in *Authoritarian Consolidation in Times of Crisis:*

Venezuela under Nicolás Maduro, Eds. J. Polga-Hecimovich, and R. Sánchez Urribarrí, New York: Routledge. pp.1-20. doi:10.4324/9781003457886-1.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2025. Coup-Proofing the Venezuelan Military: Maduro's Innovations in the Face of Adversity, in *Authoritarian Consolidation in Times of Crisis: Venezuela under Nicolás Maduro*, Eds. J. Polga-Hecimovich, and R. Sánchez Urribarrí, New York: Routledge. pp.23-41. doi:10.4324/9781003457886-2.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí. 2025. Evaluating Authoritarian Consolidation in Venezuela, in *Authoritarian Consolidation in Times of Crisis: Venezuela under Nicolás Maduro*, Eds. J. Polga-Hecimovich, and R. Sánchez Urribarrí, New York: Routledge. pp.299-311. doi:10.4324/9781003457886-16.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2025. Prólogo, in *¿Cuál es el impacto real de las sanciones sobre Cuba y Venezuela? Una mirada plural alejada de la propaganda oficial*. Ed. S. Angel Baquero, Bogotá: Universidad Sergio Arboleda. 9-11.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2024. Latin America, in *The Routledge Handbook of Autocratization*, Eds. A. Croissant and L. Tomini. Abingdon: Routledge.doi:10.4324/9781003306900-41.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2024. Latin America: Between Governability Crises and the Impeachment Trap, in *Impeachment in a Global Context: Law, Politics and Comparative Practice*, Eds. C. Monaghan, A. Huq, and M. Flinders, New York: Routledge. 100-115. doi:10.4324/9781003256007-8.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2023. Civil-Military Relations and Democracy in Latin America in the 2020s, in *Latin America in Times of Turbulence: Presidentialism under Stress*, Eds. M. Llanos and L. Marsteintredet, New York: Routledge. 188-205. doi:10.4324/9781003324249-10.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2023. The Evolution of Crime Policy and Attitudes Toward Mano Dura in Ecuador, in *Mano Dura Policies in Latin America*, Eds. S. Cutrona and J. Rosen, New York: Routledge. 99-114. doi:10.4324/9781003398417-7.

Nutt, Cullen, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2023. La persecución de los secretos: cómo las agencias de inteligencia se arriesgan a socavar a los líderes, in *Inteligencia Estratégica del futuro: Pensamiento crítico e interconectado en un mundo global*, Ed. M.D. Ordóñez, Alcalá: Marcial Pons, Ediciones Jurídicas y Sociales. 99-112.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2022. Divergent paths of (de-)politicization: the Colombian and Venezuelan public administrations, in *The Politics of Public Administration*, Eds. A. Ladner and F. Sager, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing. 380–392. doi:10.4337/9781839109447.00043.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2021. Venezuela: The Erosion of Security Capacity, in *Security and Democracy in Latin America*, Eds. G. Marcella, O. Pérez and B. Fonseca, Abingdon: Routledge. 157–174. doi:10.4324/9780429291258-11.

Fonseca, Brian, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2021. Two Nations, One Revolution: The Evolution of Contemporary Cuba–Venezuela Relations, in *Venezuela's Authoritarian Allies: The Ties that Bind*, Ed. C. Arnson, Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center. 102–121.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2020. Hacía una superación del clivaje regional? La evolución de la nacionalización de los partidos políticos ecuatorianos desde el retorno a la democracia, in *Antología de la Democracia Ecuatoriana, 1979–2020*, Eds. M. Calderón, Quito: Instituto de la Democracia. 279–320.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2020. Reshaping the State: The Unitary Executive Presidency of Rafael Correa, in *Assessing the Left Turn in Ecuador*, Eds. S. Pachano and F. Sánchez, New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 15–39. doi:10.1007/978-3-030-27625-6_2.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. Ideologia versus Capacidade: Dilma Rousseff, as Forças Armadas, e o Programa de Aceleração do Crescimento, in *Instituições, Comportamento Politíco e Democracia*, Ed. L. Santana, Alagoas: Editora Universidade Federal de Alagoas (UFAL). 33–60.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. Bureaucracy in Latin America, in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, Ed. G. Prevost, Oxford: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.0

13.1675.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. The Rise of Organized Crime in Venezuela under Chavismo, in *The Criminalization of the State: The Relationship Between States and Organized Crime*, Eds. J. Rosen, B. Bagley, and J. Chabat, Lanham: Lexington Press. 189–207.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2018. Presidential Candidate Selection in Comparative Perspective, in *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*, Ed. Sandy Maisel, Oxford: Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/obo/9780199756223-0257.

Pérez-Liñán, Aníbal, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2018. Explaining military coups and impeachments in Latin America, in *The Military's Impact on Democratic Development. Midwives or Gravediggers of Democracy?*, Ed. D. Kuehn, London and New York: Routledge. 57–76. doi:10.4324/9781351048774-4.

Basabe-Serrano, Santiago, Andrés Mejía Acosta, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2018. Against all odds: Unilateral Executives and Portfolio Allocation in Ecuador (1979-2015), in *Government Formation and Minister Turnover in Presidential Cabinets. Comparative Analysis in the Americas*, Eds. M. Camerlo and C. Martínez-Gallardo, London: Routledge. 182–206. doi:10.4324/9781315466491-9.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2015. Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation in Latin America, in *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy (EPAP)*, Third Edition, Eds. M. Dubnick and D. Bearfield, New York: Taylor & Francis. doi:10.1081/E-EPAP3-120052756.

Basabe Serrano, Santiago, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2015. Desempeño económico y protesta ciudadana como causas de las caídas presidenciales: evidencia empírica en el caso ecuatoriano, in *Democracia local y participación ciudadana desde una perspectiva latinoamericana*, Ed. M.L. Eberhardt, Buenos Aires: Universidad Nacional Arturo Jauretche. 73–102.

Mejía Acosta, Andrés, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2010. Parliamentary Solutions to Presidential Crises, in *Presidential Crises in Latin America*, Eds. L. Marsteintredet and M. Llanos, New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 73–90. doi:10.1057/9780230105812_5.

Spanish translation: Mejía Acosta, Andrés, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2011. *Soluciones parlamentarias a las crisis presidenciales*, in *Algo más que Presidentes. El papel del Poder Legislativo en América Latina*, Eds. M. Alcántara and M. García Montero, Zaragoza: Fundación Manuel Giménez Abad. 479–505.

Carey, John M., and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2008. The primary election 'bonus' in Latin America, in *Designing Democratic Government: Making Institutions Work*, Eds. M. Levi, J. Johnson, J. Knight, and S. Stokes, New York: Russell Sage Foundation Press. 227–247.

Book Reviews

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2024. Maxwell Cameron and Grace Jaramillo. Challenges to Democracy in the Andes: Strongmen, Broken Constitutions, and Regimes in Crisis (Boulder: Lynne Rienner; 2022), *Latin American Politics and Society*. 66(1): 193-196. doi:10.1017/lap.2023.10.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2024. Fortunato Musella. Monocratic Government: The Impact of Personalization on Democratic Regimes (Berlin, De Gruyter; 2022), *Contemporary Italian Politics*. 16(1): 99-101. doi:10.1080/23248823.2023.2299052.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2023. Javier Corrales. Autocracy Rising: How Venezuela Transitioned to Authoritarianism (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press; 2023), *ReVista, the Harvard Review of Latin America*.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2016. Barry Cannon. The Right in Latin America. Elite Power, Hegemony and the Struggle for the State (New York: Routledge; 2016), *E-International Relations*.

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Peter M. Siavelis. 2016. Rosario Queirolo, The Success of the Left in Latin America (South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press; 2013), *Democratization* 23(2): 370-372. doi:10.1080/13510347.2015.1048228.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2013. Santiago Basabe Serrano, Jueces sin toga: políticas judiciales y toma de

decisiones en el Tribunal Constitutional del Ecuador (1999-2007), (Quito: FLACSO; 2011), *Revista de Ciencia Política* 33(3): 729-33. doi:10.4067/S0718-090X2013000300009.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2010. John M. Carey, Legislative Voting and Accountability *Política y Gobierno*, Mexico, XVII(2): 396-99.

Policy Papers and Essays

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2020. "Foro Cubano: Las sanciones económicas en Cuba y Venezuela" (English and Spanish versions) in *Foro Cubano*, 3(23).

Issue Coordinator for special issue on economic sanctions

Fonseca, Brian, and John Polga-Hecimovich. 2020. "Two Nations, One Revolution: The Evolution of Contemporary Cuba-Venezuela Relations". Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. *Ecuadorian Military Culture*. Miami: Florida International University

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. A Transition from Above or from Below in Venezuela? *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Georgetown University (August 30).

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2019. "Las nuevas sanciones económicas de los Estados Unidos contra Venezuela" in *Foro Cubano*, 2(10).

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2018. "Constitutional Change in Ecuador: Improving Democratic Accountability—and Constraining a Rival" in *ConstitutionNet*, International IDEA, March 31.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2017. The Roots of Venezuela's Failing State. *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, 10(9).

Spanish translation: Polga-Hecimovich, John. *Las raíces del estado fallido venezolano*

Chinese translation: Polga-Hecimovich, John. 当前委内瑞拉危机的历史根源

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2017. In Venezuela's Political Prisoner Revolving Door, Maduro is the Doorman. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Georgetown University (April 20).

Fonseca, Brian, John Polga-Hecimovich, and Harold Trinkunas. 2016. *Venezuelan Military Culture*. Miami: Florida International University.

Polga-Hecimovich, John. 2013. La (re-)reelección y el poder presidencial. *Carta Económica*, Quito, 19(8): 2-4

Polga-Hecimovich, John, and Sofia Vera Rojas. 2012. Elecciones en los Estados Unidos: Actores, reglas y estrategias. *Revista Argumentos*, Peru, 6(5).

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Festa Summer Fellow, U.S. Naval Academy	2026
Department of War Special Act Award	2026
Festa Summer Fellow, U.S. Naval Academy	2025
Miller Summer Fellow, U.S. Naval Academy	2024
Volgenau Faculty Fellowship, U.S. Naval Academy	2023–2026
Olmsted Summer Fellow, U.S. Naval Academy	2023
Center for Regional Studies (CRS) Travel Grant, U.S. Naval Academy	2022
Senior Naval Academy Research Council (NARC) Grant, U.S. Naval Academy	2021
Senior Naval Academy Research Council (NARC) Grant, U.S. Naval Academy	2020
Volgenau Faculty Fellowship for Research, U.S. Naval Academy	2019–2022
Junior Naval Academy Research Council (NARC) Grant, U.S. Naval Academy	2019
Junior Naval Academy Research Council (NARC) Grant, U.S. Naval Academy	2018
Junior Naval Academy Research Council (NARC) Grant, U.S. Naval Academy	2017
NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Award SES-1263092	2013–2014
Umberger Post-Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2013
Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2012–2013
Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (SSDD), University of Pittsburgh	2011–2012
CLAS Graduate Student Field Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh	2011
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLASF) for Portuguese	2010–2011
Political Science Summer Research Funding, University of Pittsburgh	2010
FLASF Fellowship for Portuguese, University of Pittsburgh	2009–2010
International Studies Fund Award, University of Pittsburgh	2009

Invited Talks and Addresses

2026

"Cuba & Venezuela: Authoritarian Resilience and Opportunities", National Security Conference 2026, The Citadel, Charleston, SC, September 30.

"Venezuela's Path to Elections", Scenario Planning Exercise, Florida International University and The Atlantic Council, Washington, D.C., September 29.

Brief: "Latin American Regional Elections Overview", US Army Western Hemisphere Command (WHC), Washington, D.C., September 8.

"La FANB tras el 3 de enero" ("The Venezuelan Armed Forces after January 3"), Venezuela Crisis Group, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) at Harvard University, May 29.

"Regional cooperation and maritime interagency coordination", I Foro Internacional de Oficiales Estudiantes de Guerra de Superficie (1st International Forum of Peruvian Surface Warfare Officer Students), Peruvian Navy Officer School, Lima, Peru, March 26.

"Rebuilding Democracy in Venezuela: Transforming the Security Sector", Democracy Action Lab at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, March 13.

"Authoritarian Resilience and Regime Capture: Venezuela in the Age of Great Power Politics", Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council (SECWAC), East Lyme, CT, February 12.

"Authoritarian Resilience and Regime Capture: Venezuela in the Age of Great Power Politics", Washington College, Chestertown, MD, February 11.

"Transformación del sistema internacional: la administración de Venezuela", Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar , Ecuador, January 30.

"Venezuela and Latin America at a Geopolitical Crossroads: Power and Regional Realign-

ment", Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, January 27.

"After Maduro: What's Next in Venezuela", Hudson Institute, Washington, DC, January 22.

2025

"War Drums: Venezuela at Crosshairs", Columbia in DC/Yale Club of DC/Brown Club of DC, December 11.

"Political Scenarios under Nicolás Maduro's Survival", Venezuela Crisis Group, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) at Harvard University, December 11.

"US Policy and the Path to Democracy in Venezuela", The Atlantic Council, November 13.

"Legislative–Executive Relations in Latin America", Governance Program, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, October 28.

"Crime Across Borders: State and Non-State Actors in the Shadows", Americas Security and Defense Series: A Prelude to HSC 2026, Washington, DC, October 14.

Briefing, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Washington, DC, October 3.

"Authoritarian Consolidation in Times of Crisis", Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, September 25.

"Tren de Aragua in the United States", Intelligence briefing, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), August 14.

"The Role of Academia in Generating Solutions to Security Problems", University of the Armed Forces (ESPE), Ecuador, June 19.

"Strategic Thinking for Solving Complex Security Problems in Ecuador", University of the Armed Forces (ESPE), Ecuador, June 18.

Roundtable: **"U.S. and Latin American Relations: Security, Governance, Trade and Energy"**, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Santiago, Chile, April 10.

"Can Ecuador Subdue Organized Crime?", Hudson Institute, Washington, DC, March 17.

2024

"La inestabilidad presidencial en América Latina", II Jornada sobre Liderazgo Político en América Latina, Universidad de Buenos Aires, November 22.

"¿Por qué los votantes eligieron a Trump otra vez?", Conversación de politólogos, Bogotá, Colombia, November 13.

"U.S. Speaker Series: Entendiendo las elecciones en los Estados Unidos", U.S. Embassy in Equatorial Guinea, October 24.

"U.S. Speaker Series: Understanding U.S. Elections", U.S. Embassy in South Africa, October 22.

"Electoral Analysis: Democracy, Disinformation, and Elections in the U.S.", Red de Observación e Integridad Electoral de América Latina y el Caribe, Bogotá, October 15.

"¿Existe una trampa del juicio político en América Latina?", Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Lima, September 24.

"Serie retos para América Latina: La crisis política venezolana, un reto regional", Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Quito, September 20.

"The Deepening of Autocracy in Venezuela", *Charlemos*, University of Pittsburgh, September 13.

"Venezuela: A Playbook for Digital Repression", Atlantic Council, Washington, DC, July 22.

"Presidential Interruptions in Latin America: The Emergence of an Impeachment Trap", University of Bergen, June 6.

"Venezuela's Democratic Decline in Comparative Perspective and Election Prospects", Norwegian Nobel Institute, Oslo, June 4.

"Security Cooperation in Latin America", Roundtable *"The Americas at Risk"*, George Mason University, April 9.

2023

"Las mejoras en la representación política ecuatoriana (1979–2023)", Seminar *Evaluation of Ecuadorian Democracy Four Decades (and More) after the Return*, FLACSO, Quito, December 11–12.

"Is There an Impeachment Trap in Latin America?", Center for Inter-American Policy & Research (CIPR), Tulane University, October 9.

"Political Parties and Democracy", Universidad de Burgos, Spain, March 7.

2022

"Midterm Elections in the United States", Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, November 28.

"Institutional Design and Democracy in Ecuador", Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, November 28.

"Where is Latin America Going with the 'Lula Effect'?", Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, November 23.

"Where's the Party? The Role of Political Parties in Supporting Democracy", Universidad Sergio Arboleda, Colombia, November 21.

"The Return of the Military in Latin America?", Universitat de València, Spain, November 11.

"Authoritarianism in Latin America", Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, September 29.

"Venezuelan Security Capacity", *Hemispheric Security Conference*, Florida International University, Miami, May 20.

"International Support for Authoritarian Leaders in the Americas", *US Policies in the Americas: Fresh Thinking Amidst Changing Geopolitics*, Institute of the Americas, UC San Diego, May 13.

2021

"The New Geopolitics of the Western Hemisphere", Keynote, Inter-American Defense College Class 61, December 15.

"Venezuela: Pandemic and Authoritarianism", Hispanic Society, Winchester College, UK, November 16.

Consultant, U.S. Department of State on Venezuela's Political Negotiations, September

"Venezuela's Authoritarian Allies: The Ties that Bind", Roundtable, Woodrow Wilson Center, June 29.

"The Future of Military Institutions in Latin America", *Hemispheric Security Conference*, FIU, May 19.

"Chinese–Latin American Defense Relations", MA seminar, Johns Hopkins SAIS, April 5.

"Elections in Ecuador", *Charlemos* Series, Latin American Studies Association, March 15.

"The Return of the Military in Latin America?", DRCLAS, Harvard University, March 2.

"Unfit to Serve? Presidential Removal, the 25th Amendment, and the Latin American Experience", Dickey Center, Dartmouth College, February 3.

2020

"La persistente inestabilidad ecuatoriana y los desafíos políticos de la época pos-Moreno", International University of Ecuador, December 10.

Consultant, U.S. Department of State on Venezuelan Security and the Military, October.

"How COVID Has Changed Latin American Politics", DRCLAS, Harvard University, September 8.

"¿Hacía una superación del clivaje regional?", Casa Grande Univ., Ecuador, June 19.

"¿Hacía una superación del clivaje regional?", University of Cuenca, Ecuador, June 2.

"Latin American Update Digital Roundtable", CLAS, University of Pittsburgh, March 25.

Keynote: **"El papel de la sociedad civil en fortalecer la democracia y la integridad electoral"**, Alianza ONG, Dominican Republic, March 9–12.

Keynote: **"El desencanto de la democracia y el rol de las instituciones en América Latina"**, Instituto Electoral de la Ciudad de México, February 20.

"The Venezuela Crisis: Causes, Consequences, and Lessons", University of Pittsburgh, January 17.

2019

"Latin American Update Digital Roundtable", CLAS, University of Pittsburgh, November 18.

Consultant for South American militaries, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Washington, DC, September 26.

"The Venezuela Crisis", International Baccalaureate teacher workshop, Fairfax County, VA, September 25.

Briefing: **"Ecuadorian Military Culture"**, U.S. Southern Command, Miami, September 17.

"Las sanciones económicas a Venezuela", *Defensa de la Democracia en América Latina*, University Sergio Arboleda, Bogotá, August 6.

"Venezuela Scenarios and the Post-ALBA Landscape", FAO training, SOUTHCOM, Miami, June 13.

"Scenarios of Armed Conflict and Insecurity in a Democratic Transition in Venezuela", USIP, Washington, DC, May 29.

Consultant, U.S. Department of State on Venezuela's Political Crisis, April.

"Crisis in Venezuela", Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, April 26.

"Post-Neoliberalism, Political Institutions, and the State", FLACSO–Ecuador, April 10.

"Human Rights and Repression in Nicaragua", Perry Center, National Defense University, Washington, DC, March 27.

"Venezuela on Fire: The Trump Administration Faces Crisis in Latin America", Hudson Institute, Washington, DC, March 8.

2018

"2018 Nicaraguan Protests: President Ortega's Violent Crackdown", Hudson Institute, Washington, DC, August 8.

"Latinoamérica: Panorama Electoral 2018", Webinar, Red Mexicana de Servidores Públicos, May 4.

"A Guide to the 2018 Latin American Elections", Roundtable, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, March 20.

"The State of Democracy in Latin America", Invited Professor, University Católica de Temuco, Chile, March 12–17.

"Corruption in Latin America: Is There Any Good News?", Hudson Institute, Washington, DC, March 5.

"Political Science Fieldwork", Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU, Washington, DC, February 9.

2017

"Conversatorio: La crisis política en Venezuela", Roundtable, FLACSO–Ecuador, June 20.

"The Ecuadorian Elections and Their Implications for the Region", Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), Washington, DC, April 20.

"The Venezuela Crisis", *Hemispheric Security Conference*, FIU, Miami, March 9.

2016

"Future Scenarios for Venezuela", U.S. Southern Command, Miami, August 15.

"Political Science and Research in the U.S.", Ecuadorian Political Science Association, Quito, May 25.

"Venezuelan Military Culture", Florida International University, Miami, February 8–9.

2013

"Overcoming the Regional Cleavage?", FLACSO–Ecuador, July.

2011

"Research Design in the Social Science", Thesis seminar, FLACSO–Ecuador, May.

"Dictablanda: Authoritarianism in Ecuador", University of California of Pennsylvania, February.

"Life in the Río de la Plata", CLAS undergraduate seminar, University of Pittsburgh, February.

Conference Participation

American Political Science Association (APSA)	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Latin American Association of Political Science (ALACIP)	2011, 2012, 2013, 2017, 2019, 2024
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015

Teaching

Courses Taught

U.S. Naval Academy

Introduction to Comparative Politics	Fall 2016–2026
Political Science Research Methods	Spring 2018
Comparative Politics of Latin America	Fall 2016–Spring 2026
Foreign Relations of Latin America	Spring 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026
Capstone: Coups and Impeachments in Comparative Perspective	Fall 2017–2026
Capstone: Unilateral Executive Power in the U.S. and the Americas	Spring 2019

College of William and Mary

Introduction to Comparative Politics	Fall 2015
Latin American Politics and Government	Fall 2015
From Perón to Hugo: Populism in Latin America	Spring 2016
Seminar: Coups and Impeachment in Comparative Perspective	Spring 2016

Wake Forest University

Introduction to International Relations	Fall 2014
Latin American Politics	Fall 2014; Spring 2015
Research Design and Qualitative Methods	Spring 2015
Quantitative Methods in Political Science	Spring 2015

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Quito

Comparative Politics (M.A.)	Spring 2012; Summer 2013

University of Pittsburgh

Research Methods in Political Science	Summer 2011, 2012

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor

María Teresa Castillo Salom	2026–2027
Gavin Frazer	2025–2026
Tyler Morasse	2025–2026
Emma Slavens	2021–2022
William Donohoe	2020–2021
Brooke Fraasch	2020–2021
Alexander Larralde	2020–2021
Ana Mier	2018–2019
Maeve Owens	2017–2018
Taylor Adams	2016–2017

Independent Studies

Kevin Tanaka	Spring 2024
Rachel LaBuda	Spring 2018

Other advisory roles

Student Conference on U.S. Affairs (SCUSA) 74, Latin America Co-Chair, U.S. Military Academy, 1–4 November 2023.

Student Conference on U.S. Affairs (SCUSA) 73, Latin America Co-Chair, U.S. Military Academy, 2–5 November 2022.

Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) Senior Advisor, "Venezuela: Can It Survive the Struggle?", 10–12 April 2018

Research Awards

Honorable Mention, Naval Academy Class of 1951 Research Excellence Award, AY2026

Departmental / University Service

Departmental

Coordinator, Political Science Honors	AY25–26, AY27–28
Chair, International Relations Hiring Committee	AY24
Member, International Relations & Comparative Politics Hiring Committee	AY20
Member, Political Science Hiring Priorities Committee	AY18, AY19, AY20
Director, USNA branch of Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honor Society	AY18, AY19, AY20

Campus-wide

Senator, Naval Academy Faculty Senate	AY26–28
Member, Trident Scholar Committee	AY24–26
Director, Forum for Latin American Studies (FLAS)	AY21–22, AY24–25
Program manager, Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) trip, Bolivia & Paraguay	AY27
Program manager, Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) trip, Peru & the Amazon	AY26
Program manager, Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) trip, Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands	AY25
Program manager, Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) trip, Argentina & Uruguay	AY24

Service to the Profession

Editorial Board Member

América Latina Hoy (Spain)	2020–present
Revista Chilena de Derecho y Ciencia Política (Chile)	2018–present
Revista Foro Cubano (Colombia)	2020–present
Revista Ecuatoriana de Ciencia Política (Ecuador)	2021–present
Revista JNE, Revista Derecho Electoral, Educación Ciudadana y Participación Política (Peru)	2024–present

Board Member

Charlemos	2023–present

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA)	2008–present
Presidents and Executive Politics Section	2017–present
Representation and Electoral Systems Section	2017–present
Executive Committee Member	2021–2022
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)	2008–present
Political Institutions Section	2016–present
Selection Committee, Donna Lee Van Cott Best Book Award	2018
Ecuadorian Studies Section	2017–present
Venezuelan Studies Section	2017–present
Executive Committee Member	2020–2022
Track Chair, "Politics and Public Policy"	2018
Bryce Wood Best Book Award Committee Member	2023
Latin American Association of Political Science (ALACIP)	2009–present
Executive Committee Member	2023–present
Selection Committee, Guillermo O'Donnell Best Dissertation Award	2024
Ecuadorian Association of Political Science (AECIP)	2011–present

Book Manuscript Reviewer

Routledge Press	2022, 2025
Rowman & Littlefield	2024
Palgrave MacMillan	2023
Cambridge University Press	2021
Notre Dame University Press	2018
Oxford University Press	2016, 2017, 2020
FLACSO–Mexico University Press	2016

Journal Manuscript Reviewer

Verified reviews: Web of Science

African Journal of Political Science and International Relations
América Latina Hoy
American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Brazilian Political Science Review
British Journal of Political Science
Bulletin of Latin American Research
Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Comparative Political Studies
Comparative Politics
DADOS–Revista de Ciências Sociais
Democratization
Electoral Studies
European Journal of International Relations
European Political Science Review
European Political Science
European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Global Crime
Governance
Íconos
International Journal of Public Opinion Research
International Studies Quarterly
Journal of Latin American Studies
Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization
Journal of Politics
Journal of Politics in Latin America
Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory
Journal of Theoretical Politics
The Latin Americanist
Latin American Politics and Society
Latin American Research Review
Legislative Studies Quarterly
Local Government Studies
Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos
Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies
Parliamentary Affairs

Party Politics
Policy Studies
Política y Gobierno
Political Analysis
Political Behavior
Political Geography
Political Studies
Political Research Quarterly
Politics
P.S.: Political Science & Poltics
Public Choice
Publius: The Journal of Federalism
Revista Colombia Internacional
Revista de Ciencia Política
Revista de Democracias
Revista Ecuatoriana de Ciencia Política
Revista Latinoamericana de Política Comparada
Revista Temas Sociológicos
Third World Quarterly
World Politics

Project Evaluations

Commission for Scientific Research (CSIC) — Sept 24, 2026
La Universidad de la República, Uruguay,

IX Annual Interamerican Prize in Public Policy Innovation — Nov 8–9, 2021
Organization of American States (OAS)

Fondo Clemente Estable Program, Social Sciences — Aug 2021
Uruguayan National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII), Uruguay

National Scientific and Technological Development Fund, Judicial and Political Sciences — Aug–Sep 2019
National Committee for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT), Chile

Judge, VI Annual Interamerican Prize in Public Policy Innovation — Aug 2018
Organization of American States (OAS)

Other Professional Skills

Languages

English: Native

Spanish: Primary fluency (Alta-certified translator)

Portuguese: Full professional proficiency

Software and Statistical Packages

Stata, R, ArcGIS, Maple, LaTeX

References

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