

# Leonardo da Rocha Loures Bueno

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Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science  
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## Research Interests

- Political Economy of Development
- Urban Politics and Policy
- Health Policy and Inequality
- Distributive Politics in Latin America

## Education

- Ph.D., Political Science, University of California, San Diego, expected 2026
- M.A., Political Science, University of California, San Diego, 2023
- Ph.D., Public Administration and Government, FGV/EAESP, 2021
- M.A., Public Administration and Government, FGV/EAESP, 2018
- B.A., Economics, University of São Paulo (FEA/USP), 2015

## Dissertation

Diagnosing Inequality: Political Mediation of Health Access in Brazil's Municipalities

Committee: Scott Desposato (chair), Francisco Garfias, Umberto Mignozzetti, Simeon Nichter.

An investigation into how territorial hierarchies and political networks shape access to public health care in Brazil's decentralized health system.

## Publications and Working Papers

- Health care infrastructure expansion and favored access to hospitalization. (Dissertation chapter)
- From Local Power to Regional Influence: Exploring Political Favoritism in Brazil's Decentralized Healthcare System. (Dissertation chapter)
- Housing, Social Cohesion, and Mental Health: Experimental Evidence from Brazilian Slums. With Natalia Bueno, Daniel Da Mata, Ciro Biderman, and George Avelino.
- It is not (just) the economy, stupid: Policy Innovation and Retrospective Voting in São Paulo, Brazil. With Ciro Biderman, George Avelino, and João V. Guedes-Neto.

- Race and Substantive Representation: Evidence from Brazil. With Scott Desposato and Andrew Janusz.
- Violent Legacies of Dictatorship in Brazil. With Mariana Carvalho and Tiago Ventura.

## Research Experience

- Lead Researcher – TECHO (Emergency Housing Field Experiment)
  - Designed and led a 3-year field experiment evaluating the impact of emergency housing on health and civic engagement in six Brazilian states.
  - Secured external funding (MIT GOV/LAB, Emory GHI); conducted fieldwork in over 20 favelas.
- Researcher – WRI Mexico: Demand-Responsive Transit
  - Co-authored global typology of DRT systems; analyzed 150+ global cases.

## Teaching Experience

- Instructor, “Machine Learning for Social Scientists,” Summer 2025 (Scheduled)
- Instructor, Data Analytics Prep Course, UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy, Summer 2024
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science and GPS, UCSD, 2021–present
  - Courses: POLI 30D, POLI 100W, POLI 120F, POLI 125D, POLI 134D, GPCO 454
- Teaching Assistant, FGV São Paulo (Econometrics and Microeconomics), 2017–2019

## Professional Experience

- Independent Consultant – Urban Policy & Governance
  - Advised NGOs and city governments (São Paulo, São José dos Campos) on housing, transport, and environmental policy.
  - Clients include Bloomberg Philanthropies, WRI, ITDP, Fundação Tide Setúbal, and Instituto Escolhas.
- Researcher – FIPE (Fundação Instituto de Pesquisas Econômicas)
  - Developed Input-Output models to assess fiscal reform and environmental impact.
  - Produced regional economic data for price indices and emissions analysis.
- Economist – LCA Consultores
  - Worked on economic forecasts and market studies.

## Grants and Awards

- Research Grant, MIT GOV/LAB
- Research Grant, Emory Global Health Institute
- Research Grant, FAPESP SPRINT
- CAPES Ph.D. Scholarship, Ministry of Education (Brazil)
- Honorable Mention, Best Doctoral Dissertation (FGV Pesquisa, 2021)

- Best Poster Award, IPSA-USP Summer School (Methods Section)

### **Additional Training**

- IPSA-USP Summer School (Causal Inference, Multi-Methods)
- FGV Methods Winter School (Experimental Methods, Spatial Data)
- IME/USP Probability Calculus Short Course

### **Languages and Technical Skills**

Languages: Portuguese (native), English (fluent), Spanish (proficient)

Software & Tools: R (Advanced), STATA (Advanced), LaTeX (Intermediate), Python (Basic), MaxQDA

### **Service and Outreach**

- Mentor, Computational Social Science Master's Program, UCSD (2022–2023)
- Volunteer, NGO TECHO (2019–2020)
- Former Director, Habonim Dror São Paulo Youth Movement
- Co-founder, Faz Diferença?, an advocacy group for social inequality reduction