Leonardo da Rocha Loures Bueno

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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), Franscisco 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