

FERNANDA M. GONZALEZ

512.745.6416 ◇ fg100@wellesley.edu ◇ fernandamayela.github.io

Education

Wellesley College B.A. In Political Science <i>Political Science & Computer Science</i>	2021 – 2025
Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>Cross-registered Student</i>	2021 – 2025
University of St Andrews <i>Semester Study Abroad</i>	Fall 2023

Research Interests

Latinx voter turnout and the factors influencing the success of progressive minority candidates in local state politics.

Research Experience

MIT Election Data + Science Lab (MEDSL) <i>Research Assistant</i> ↔ Dr. Alejandro Flores, Dr. Samuel Baltz, and Dr. Charles Stewart III	May 2023 – Present MIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted extensive research on the availability of online multilingual election-related information. Analyzing the steps public officials took to accommodate the linguistic needs of non-native English-speaking constituents, aiming to improve political engagement among these communities.Created nationwide precinct-level datasets for the 2020 and 2022 election cycles using Python, STATA, and R.Developed and cleaned 2020 presidential election audit datasets, which were later used for "Audits of the 2020 American Election".	
Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) <i>Research Fellow</i> ↔ Dr. Paula D. McClain	May 2024 – June 2024 Duke University
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exploring how the frequency and depth of Spanish-language appeals influence Latinx constituents' perceptions of their representatives. I hypothesize that when representatives use Spanish, regardless of proficiency, their Latinx constituents will perceive them as authentically engaging with their Latinidad, leading to increased feelings of trust, connection, and political participation	

Published Articles

Hidden Partisanship in American Elections <i>Institutional Publication</i> Reece, Mason and Péloquin-Skulski, Gabrielle and Murray, Kate and Loffredo, Joseph and Acevedo Jetter, Kevin E. and Gonzalez, Fernanda and Garai, Zachary Djanogly and Flores, Alejandro and Bulić Bračulj, Luka and Baltz, Samuel and Stewart III, Charles, <i>Hidden Partisanship in American Elections</i> (January 6, 2024). MIT Political Science Department Research Paper No. 2024-1, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4721012

Articles Under Review

Donde diablos voto? Unexamined Variations in Linguistic Responsiveness <i>with Alejandro Flores, Samuel Baltz, Thessalia Merivaki, Mara Suttman-Lee, and Charles Stewart III</i>

Working Projects

Audits of the 2020 American Election <i>with Samuel Baltz, Kevin Guo, Jacob Jaffe, and Charles Stewart III</i>

Conference Presentations

Audits of the 2020 American Election Show an Accurate Vote Count <i>Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration (ESRA) Conference: Information and Transparency in Election Administration: Building Trust with Voters</i>	2024
Donde diablos voto? Unexamined Variations in Linguistic Responsiveness <i>The Brennan Center for Justice: The Racial Turnout Gap in the 21st Century</i>	2024
Hidden Partisanship in American Elections <i>Southern Political Science Association Conference: Conference Within A Conference: Heterogeneity Across State and Local Elections</i>	2024
Cultivating an Informed Electorate Across a Linguistic Divide <i>Southern Political Science Association Conference: Conference Within A Conference: LEOs</i>	2023
Audits of the 2020 American Election <i>Southern Political Science Association Conference: Conference Within A Conference: Election Administration</i>	2024

Work Experience

- Texas Democratic Party

Data Science Intern

May 2024 – September 2024
- Conducted analysis on the effectiveness of the party’s vote-by-mail initiative
 - Wrote an automated script to scrape and clean voting locations across all of Texas
- Democratic National Committee (DNC)

Technology Consultant

September 2022 – November 2022
- Continued helping the Community Team in scraping, cleaning, and activating polling location data on IWillVote.com
 - Analyzed state-wide voter files for canvassing in collaboration with state parties
- Democratic National Committee (DNC)

Technology/Community Intern

May 2022 – September 2022
- Programmed software to collect polling location data from state websites to IWillVote.com using Python
 - Helped onboard state parties and organizations to nationwide voter registration datasets for the midterm elections

Skills

Languages	Native fluency in Spanish
Programming Languages	Python, R, Java, SQL, STATA, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Swift
Data & Research Software	Microsoft Office Suite, NGP VAN, Zendesk, BigQuery, and L ^A T _E X

Relevant Course Work

Political Science	Computer Science	Research
Campaigns & Elections	CS & Programming using Python	Research Methods in Poli. Sci.
Latino/a/x Politics	Fundamentals of Programming	Data Science for the Web
Political Communication & Media	Computational Thinking & Data Science	Probability & Basic Regression
Political Psychology	Fundamentals of Programming	
Seminar: Race & American Politics	Foundations of Computer Systems	
Seminar: Women & Conflict		
American Politics		
World Politics		
Comparative Politics		

Extracurriculars

Wellesley College Book Club	President
The Agora Society	Member
Sexual Health Educators (SHEs)	Member
Wellesley in Product (UI/UX Design Club)	Member
Google Developers Student Clubs (Wellesley Chapter)	Member