

FERNANDA M. GONZALEZ

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Education

Wellesley College B.A. In Political Science
Political Science & Computer Science

2021 – 2025

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cross-registered Student

2021 – 2025

Research Experience

MIT Election Data + Science Lab (MEDSL) *Research Assistant*

May 2023 – Present

↔ Dr. Alejandro Flores, Dr. Samuel Baltz, and Dr. Charles Stewart III

MIT

- 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) *Research Fellow*

May 2024 – June 2024

↔ Dr. Paula D. McClain

Duke University

- 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

Working Papers

Donde diablos voto? Unexamined Variations in Linguistic Responsiveness *Under Review*

with Alejandro Flores, Samuel Baltz, Thessalia Merivaki, Mara Suttman-Lee, and Charles Stewart III

Audits of the 2020 American Election

with Samuel Baltz, Kevin Guo, Jacob Jaffe, and Charles Stewart III

Hidden Partisanship in American Elections *Institutional Publication*

with Mason Reece, Gabrielle Péloquin-Skulski, Kate Murray, Joseph Loffredo, Kevin E. Acevedo Jetter, Zachary Djanogly Garai, Alejandro Flores, Luka Bulić Bračulj, Samuel Baltz, and Charles Stewart III

Conference Presentations

Audits of the 2020 American Election Show an Accurate Vote Count

2024

ESRA: Information and Transparency in Election Administration: Building Trust with Voters

Donde diablos voto? Unexamined Variations in Linguistic Responsiveness

2024

The Brennan Center for Justice: The Racial Turnout Gap in the 21st Century

Hidden Partisanship in American Elections

2024

Southern Political Science Association Conference: Heterogeneity Across State and Local Elections

Cultivating an Informed Electorate Across a Linguistic Divide

2023

Southern Political Science Association Conference: LEOs

Audits of the 2020 American Election

2023

Southern Political Science Association Conference: Election Administration

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) *Community/Tech Consultant*

May 2022 – November 2022

- Programmed software to collect polling location data from state websites to IWillVote.com using Python
- Analyzed state-wide voter files for canvassing in 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^AT_EX