

GUILLERMO TORAL

IE University ◦ School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs ◦ Castellana 259E ◦ 28046 Madrid ◦ Spain
www.guillermotoral.com ◦ guillermo.toral@ie.edu

Research interests	Comparative politics and political economy of development, governance, and state capacity. Causal inference. Qualitative fieldwork. Regional focus on Latin America and Southern Europe.	
Employment	IE University – Madrid (Spain) Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure track) 2022 - present ★ Ramón y Cajal Fellow (Spain's Ministry of Science) 2025 - 2029 Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN (USA) Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure track) 2020 - 2022 World Bank , Education Sector, Latin America Region – Washington, DC (USA) Consultant 2014 Junior Professional Associate 2011 - 2013	
Education	Massachusetts Institute of Technology , PhD in Political Science 2014 - 2020 ★ Harold D. Lasswell Award for “the best doctoral dissertation in the field of public policy,” American Political Science Association ★ Honorable Mention, Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Prize for Best Dissertation in Social Sciences, Latin American Studies Association - Brazil section ★ Lucian Pye Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis, MIT Department of Political Science University of Oxford , MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government), <i>Distinction</i> 2009 - 2011 Universidad Autónoma de Madrid , Master in Immigration & Refuge, <i>Distinction</i> 2008 - 2009 Sciences Po Paris , International Program Diploma 2006 - 2007 Universidad Complutense , <i>Lic.</i> in Political Science & Public Administration 2004 - 2009	
Book project	<i>The political logics of patronage: Uses and abuses of government jobs in Brazil</i>	
Articles	“Turnover: How Lame-Duck Governments Disrupt the Bureaucracy and Service Delivery Before Leaving Office.” <i>Journal of Politics</i> , 86(4): 1348 - 1367 (2024). ★ Leonard S. Robbins Best Paper Award , APSA Health Politics and Policy Section ★ Media coverage: BBC News Brasil , Globo G1 , Diário do Amapá , MIT News , Nexo ★ Invited media contributions: IE Insights , Nada es Gratis “How Patronage Delivers: Political Appointments, Bureaucratic Accountability, and Service Delivery in Brazil.” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 68(2): 797-815 (2024). ★ AJPS Best Article Award , Midwest Political Science Association ★ Best Paper Award , REPAL (Network for the Study of Latin America's Political Economy) ★ Media coverage: Folha de São Paulo , Frankfurter Allgemeine , Nexo , The World “Bureaucratic Politics: Blind Spots and Opportunities in Political Science” (with Sarah Brierley, Kenneth Lowande and Rachel Potter). <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 26: 271-290 (2023). “Competence versus Priorities: Negative Electoral Responses to Education Quality in Brazil” (with Taylor Boas and F. Daniel Hidalgo). <i>Journal of Politics</i> 83(4): 1417-1431 (2021). “Immigrant Organizations as Civil Society: A Three-Dimensional Analysis” (in Spanish). <i>Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas</i> 132: 105 - 130 (2010).	

Editor-invited book reviews	<p><i>Mission Driven Bureaucrats: Empowering People To Help Government Do Better</i> by Dan Honig (Oxford University Press, 2024). <i>Governance</i> 38:e70006 (2025).</p> <p><i>Decadent Developmentalism: The Political Economy of Democratic Brazil</i> by Matthew Taylor (Cambridge University Press, 2020). <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 137.2: 435-437 (2022).</p>																
Chapters in books	<p>In <i>Great Teachers: How to Raise Student Learning in Latin America and the Caribbean</i>, edited by Barbara Bruns and Javier Luque, World Bank (2015). Translated into Spanish and Portuguese.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Recruiting Better Teachers” (with Barbara Bruns, Javier Luque, David Evans, and Soledad de Gregorio), pages 139 – 178. ▪ “Grooming Great Teachers” (with Barbara Bruns, Javier Luque, David Evans, Noah Yarrow, and Soledad de Gregorio), pages 179 – 222. 																
Policy reports	<p>“Information and Accountability: Evidence Syntheses of Within-Government and Citizen-Government Accountability Pathways” (with Lily Tsai, Benjamin Morse, and Varja Lipovsek). Transparency and Accountability Initiative (2019).</p> <p>“Taxation and Accountability in Developing Countries” (with Lily Tsai, Blair Read, and Varja Lipovsek). Transparency and Accountability Initiative (2018).</p> <p>“Effects of International Standards on Accountability Behaviors” (with Lily Tsai, Benjamin Morse, and Varja Lipovsek). Transparency and Accountability Initiative (2018).</p>																
Working papers	<p>“Can anti-corruption policies curb political budget cycles? Evidence from public employment in Brazil.” Under review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Best Comparative Policy Paper Award, APSA Public Policy Section ★ Honorable Mention, Best Political Institutions Paper, LASA Political Institutions Section <p>“Street-level rule of law: Prosecutor presence and the fight against corruption”. Earlier version published as GLD Working Paper 70.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ GLD policy brief <p>“Internal control as state capacity.” Earlier version published as CAF working paper 2024/08.</p> <p>“Information, oversight, and compliance: A field experiment on horizontal accountability in Brazil”</p> <p>“Undoing insulation: Meritocracy and politicization in a Weberian bureaucracy” (with Pablo Fernández-Vázquez)</p> <p>“Franchise reforms in the age of migration: Why do governments give voting rights to noncitizens?” MIT Working Paper 2015-12 (dormant)</p>																
Affiliations	<table> <tr> <td>MIT GOV/LAB, Faculty Affiliate</td> <td>2020 - present</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Global Policy Center, Faculty Affiliate</td> <td>2025 - present</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies, Faculty Affiliate</td> <td>2021 - 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vanderbilt Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Faculty Affiliate</td> <td>2021 - 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harvard Ash Center, Democracy Visiting Fellow</td> <td>2019 - 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Universidade de São Paulo, Visiting Researcher</td> <td>2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fundação Getúlio Vargas (São Paulo), Visiting Researcher</td> <td>2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Rio de Janeiro), Visiting Research Scholar</td> <td>Summer 2017</td> </tr> </table>	MIT GOV/LAB, Faculty Affiliate	2020 - present	Global Policy Center, Faculty Affiliate	2025 - present	Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies, Faculty Affiliate	2021 - 2022	Vanderbilt Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Faculty Affiliate	2021 - 2022	Harvard Ash Center, Democracy Visiting Fellow	2019 - 2020	Universidade de São Paulo, Visiting Researcher	2018	Fundação Getúlio Vargas (São Paulo), Visiting Researcher	2018	Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Rio de Janeiro), Visiting Research Scholar	Summer 2017
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Grants & fellowships	Spain's Ministry of Science Ramón y Cajal Fellowship: €251,000	2025 - 2029
	Spain's Ministry of Science Research Grant (with Pablo Fernández): €73,000	2021 - 2025
	Vanderbilt Seeding Success Grant: \$30,000	2021 - 2022
	European University Institute Max Weber Fellowship (declined)	2020 - 2022
	New York University Abu Dhabi Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)	2020 - 2022
	Kellogg Institute (University of Notre Dame) Visting Fellowship (declined)	2020 - 2021
	Governance and Local Development Institute Short-Term Research SEK 27,000	2019
	Center for International Studies Summer Study Fellowship: \$3,500	2019
	MIT GOV/LAB Dissertation Grant: \$35,000	2018
	Lemann Foundation Fellowship: \$80,000	2016 - 2018
	MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives research grant: \$5,500	2016
	MIT PhD Fellowships: ~\$30,000 + tuition per year	2014 - 2020
	La Caixa Foundation Fellowship for masters in the UK: ~£24,000 + tuition	2009 - 2011
	Spanish National Research Council Introduction to Research Fellowship: €1,500	Summer 2008
	European Union & Spanish Government Erasmus-Socrates Fellowship: €2,500	2006 - 2007
	Madrid Regional Government Fellowship for Outstanding Students: €9,000	2004 - 2006
Awards	American Journal of Political Science Best Article Award, MPSA	2025
	Honorable Mention, Best Political Institutions Paper, LASA Political Institutions Section	2024
	Best Comparative Policy Paper Award, APSA Public Policy Section	2023
	Leonard S. Robbins Best Paper Award, APSA Health Politics and Policy Section	2022
	Best Paper Award, REPAL (Network for the Study of Latin America's Political Economy)	2021
	Harold D. Lasswell Award for best dissertation in the field of public policy, APSA	2021
	Honorable Mention, Prize for Best Dissertation in Social Sciences, LASA Brazil Section	2021
Teaching experience	Lucian Pye Award for Outstanding Thesis, MIT Department of Political Science	2020
	IE University – Madrid (Spain)	
	▪ Instructor, <i>Comparative Politics</i> (undergraduate)	Fall 2025 & 2024, Spring 2024 & 2023
	▪ Instructor, <i>Research Methods</i> (undergraduate)	Spring 2024
	▪ Instructor, <i>Public Policy Analysis</i> (undergraduate)	Fall 2022
	Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN (USA)	
	▪ Instructor, <i>Research Design</i> (graduate)	Spring 2022
	▪ Instructor, <i>Political Economy of Corruption</i> (undergraduate)	Fall 2021, Fall 2020
	▪ Instructor, <i>Political Economy of Development</i> (undergraduate)	Spring 2021
	▪ Instructor, <i>Politics of Bureaucracies</i> (graduate)	Spring 2021
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Cambridge, MA (USA)	
	▪ Co-Instructor, <i>Political Science Laboratory</i> (undergraduate)	Spring 2019
	▪ Teaching Assistant, <i>Machine Learning & Data Science in Politics</i> (undergr.)	Spring 2020
	▪ Teaching Assistant, <i>Making Public Policy</i> (undergraduate)	Fall 2019
	▪ Teaching Assistant, <i>Quantitative Methods I</i> (graduate)	Fall 2017
	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte – Natal, RN (Brazil)	
	▪ Instructor, <i>Experimental & Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of Public Policy</i>	June 2019
	IPSA-USP Summer School in Methods in Political Science, Public Policy and IR – São Paulo	
	▪ Teaching Fellow, <i>Advanced Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Analysis</i>	January 2019
	Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) – Cambridge, MA (USA)	
	▪ Teaching Assistant, <i>Randomized Evaluation of Social Programs</i>	June 2017

Other training	Vanderbilt Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship – Nashville, TN (USA)	2021 - 2022
	MIT Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program – Cambridge, MA (USA)	Spring 2019
	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research – Syracuse, NY (USA)	June 2017
	J-PAL Certificate in Public Policy Impact Evaluation & Surveys – Santiago (Chile)	April 2013
Academic service	Co-organizer	EPSA Pre-conference on Political Connections 2025
		Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science 2021
		MIT GOV/LAB Political Behavior of Development Conference 2018, 2017
		MIT Latin American Working Group 2016 - 2018
	Award committees	Kenneth J. Meier Award Committee, MPSA 2026
		Best Paper Award Committee, LASA Political Institutions Section 2025
		Best Paper Award Committee, REPAL 2024
		Best Comparative Policy Paper Award Committee, APSA Policy Section 2024
		Best Poster Award Committee, Latin American Political Methodology 2023
		Best Paper Award Committee, APSA Qualitative & Multi-Methods Section 2023
		Best Social Sciences Dissertation Prize Committee, LASA Brazil Section 2022
		Admissions and Awards Committee, Center for Latin American Studies 2021
	Article reviewer	<i>American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Brazilian Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Economics & Politics, Governance, Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada, Journal of Politics, Latin American Research Review, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Party Politics, Perspectives on Politics, PLOS ONE, Political Behavior, Political Studies, Research & Politics, Review of International Political Economy, Revista Internacional de Sociología, Studies in Comparative International Development, Urban Affairs Review, World Development, World Politics</i>
	Grant reviewer	Swiss National Science Foundation
	Discussant	APSA (American Political Science Association) 2025, 2024, 2023, 2020
		MESS (Madrid Empirical Social Sciences) workshop 2025
		LACSUG (Subnational Governance in Latin America) 2024
		CIVICA Political Behavior and Institutions 2024
		MAPE (Madrid Political Economy Workshop) 2024
		LAPolMeth (Latin American Political Methodology) 2023
		IE-Rochester Workshop in Political Economy and International Relations 2023
		MPSA (Midwest Political Science Association) 2022, 2021
		MIT GOV/LAB Political Behavior of Development Conference 2018, 2017
		Brown-Harvard-MIT South Asian Politics seminar 2017
Invited talks	Scheduled	University of Oxford (Department of Politics and International Relations), Universitat de Barcelona (Department of Political Science)
	2025	University of Vienna (Department of Government), Fundação Getúlio Vargas (CEAPG), London School of Economics and Political Science (Political Science and Political Economy seminar), Queen Mary University of London (Centre for Research on Latin America), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (School of Government and Department of Sociology)

2024	University of Bergen, BI Norwegian Business School, University of Gothenburg (Quality of Government Institute), ETH Zürich (KOF Swiss Economic Institute), CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean), Aix-Marseille School of Economics , Universidad Pontificia Comillas (ICADE)
2023	World Bank (Governance Global Practice), CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean), University of Oxford (Nuffield College)
2022	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte , (Department of Public Policy), King's College London (Department of Political Economy), Fundação Getúlio Vargas (EBAPE), Princeton University (Conference on Statebuilding and Political Development)
2021	University of Oxford (Blavatnik School of Government and Latin American Centre), Georgetown University (McCourt School of Public Policy), Instituto Carlos III-Juan March , Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), IE University , University of Gothenburg , Northwestern University
2020	Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (Department of Political Science)
2019	Yale-NUS College , Rutgers University (School of Public Affairs and Administration), Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE, Public Administration Division), New York University Abu Dhabi (Social Science Division), Vanderbilt University (Department of Political Science), Tecnológico de Monterrey , Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (Department of Economics)
Selected conference presentations (★ scheduled)	<div> <div> APSA (American Political Science Assoc.) LASA (Latin American Studies Association) MPSA (Midwest Political Science Association) REPAL (Network for the Study of Latin America's Political Economy) WEPS (Euro/Midwest/Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science) PolMeth (Society for Political Methodology) EPSA (European Political Science Association) EPSA Pre-Conference on Political Connections Local Political Economy Conference (LPEC) CIVICA Political Behavior and Institutions LACSUG (Subnational Governance in Latin America) IE-Rochester Workshop in Political Economy </div> <div> 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 2024, 2023, 2022, 2019, 2018 2022, 2021, 2019, 2016, 2015 2024, 2021, 2019 2025, 2021, 2019 2023 (LatAm), 2019 2025, 2021 2025 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 </div> </div>
Mentoring	<div> <div> PhD committee member for Shashwat Dhar (Vanderbilt PhD) PhD committee member for Nicholas Bednar (Vanderbilt PhD) Undergraduate thesis supervisor for 20 IE students Master thesis coordinator for IE's Master in International Development Capstone project supervisor for 2 groups in IE's Master in International Relations </div> <div> 2021 - 2025 2021 - 2023 2022 - present 2025 - 26, 2022 - 24 2022 - 2024 </div> </div>
IT skills	R, Stata, \LaTeX , Markdown, HTML, CSS, Qualtrics, QSR NVivo, ArcGIS, JAGS
Languages	Spanish (native), English (fluent, TOEFL 120), French (fluent, DALF C2), Portuguese (fluent)

This version: December 2025