

GUILLERMO TORAL

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| Research interests | Comparative politics and political economy of development, governance, corruption, education. Causal inference. Qualitative fieldwork. Regional focus on Latin America and Southern Europe. | |
| Employment | <p>IE University – Madrid (Spain) Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure track) 2022 - present ★ Ramón y Cajal Fellow (Spain's Ministry of Science) 2025 - 2029</p> <p>Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN (USA) Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure track) 2020 - 2022</p> <p>World Bank, Education Sector, Latin America Region – Washington, DC (USA) Consultant 2014 Junior Professional Associate 2011 - 2013</p> | |
| Education | <p>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</p> <p>University of Oxford, MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government), <i>Distinction</i> 2009 - 2011</p> <p>Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Masters in Immigration and Refuge, <i>Distinction</i> 2008 - 2009</p> <p>Sciences Po Paris, International Program Diploma 2006 - 2007</p> <p>Universidad Complutense, <i>Licenciatura</i> in Political Science & Public Administration 2004 - 2009</p> | |
| Book project | <i>The political logics of patronage: Uses and abuses of government jobs in Brazil</i> | |
| Articles | <p>“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: Nada es Gratis, Nexo, BBC News Brasil, Globo G1, Diário do Amapá, MIT News</p> <p>“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</p> <p>“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).</p> <p>“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).</p> <p>“Immigrant Organizations as Civil Society: A Three-Dimensional Analysis” (in Spanish). <i>Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas</i> 132: 105 - 130 (2010).</p> | |

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| 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>, forthcoming.</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”</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”. Published as GLD Working Paper 70.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ GLD policy brief <p>“Internal control as state capacity.” 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 | <p>MIT GOV/LAB, Faculty Affiliate</p> <p>Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies, Faculty Affiliate</p> <p>Vanderbilt Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Faculty Affiliate</p> <p>Harvard Ash Center, Democracy Visiting Fellow</p> <p>Universidade de São Paulo, Visiting Researcher</p> <p>Fundação Getúlio Vargas (São Paulo), Visiting Researcher</p> <p>Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Rio de Janeiro), Visiting Research Scholar</p> | <p>2020 - present</p> <p>2021 - 2022</p> <p>2021 - 2022</p> <p>2019 - 2020</p> <p>2018</p> <p>2018</p> <p>Summer 2017</p> |

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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 Department of Political Science PhD Fellowship: ~\$30,000 + tuition per year | 2015 - 2020 |
| | MIT Presidential Fellowship : ~\$30,000 + tuition | 2014 - 2015 |
| | 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 |
| | Lucian Pye Award for Outstanding Thesis, MIT Department of Political Science | 2020 |
| Teaching experience | IE University – Madrid (Spain) | |
| | Instructor, <i>Comparative Politics</i> (undergraduate) | Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 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> (undergraduate) | 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) | |

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| | 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 | |
| | 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, Perspectives on Politics, PLOS ONE, 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 | |
| | American Political Science Association Annual Meeting | 2024, 2023, 2020 |
| | LACSUG (Subnational Governance in Latin America) | 2024 |
| | CIVICA Political Behavior and Institutions | 2024 |
| | MAPE (Madrid Political Economy Workshop) | 2024 |
| | Latin American Political Methodology Meeting | 2023 |
| | IE-Rochester Workshop in Political Economy and International Relations | 2023 |
| | Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | 2022, 2021 |
| | MIT GOV/LAB Political Behavior of Development Conference | 2018, 2017 |
| | Brown-Harvard-MIT South Asian Politics seminar | 2017 |
| Invited talks (★ scheduled) | London School of Economics and Political Science | 2025* |
| | Queen Mary University of London | 2025* |
| | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | 2025 |
| | University of Bergen | 2024 |
| | BI Norwegian Business School | 2024 |
| | University of Gothenburg, Quality of Government Institute | 2024 |
| | ETH Zürich, KOF Swiss Economic Institute | 2024 |
| | CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean) | 2024 |
| | Aix-Marseille School of Economics | 2024 |

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| | Universidad Pontificia Comillas, ICADE | 2024 |
| | World Bank, Governance Global Practice | 2023 |
| | CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean) | 2023 |
| | University of Oxford, Nuffield College | 2023 |
| | Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Department of Public Policy | 2022 |
| | King's College London, Department of Political Economy | 2022 |
| | Fundação Getúlio Vargas, EBAPE | 2022 |
| | Princeton University, Conference on Statebuilding and Political Development | 2022 |
| | University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government | 2021 |
| | University of Oxford, Latin American Centre | 2021 |
| | Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy | 2021 |
| | Instituto Carlos III-Juan March (IC3JM) | 2021 |
| | Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), IPI seminar | 2021 |
| | IE University, School of Global and Public Affairs | 2021 |
| | University of Gothenburg, Quality of Government Institute | 2021 |
| | Northwestern University, Comparative Politics Workshop | 2021 |
| | Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Department of Political Science | 2020 |
| | Yale-NUS College, Division of Social Sciences | 2019 |
| | Rutgers University, School of Public Affairs and Administration | 2019 |
| | Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Public Administration Division | 2019 |
| | New York University Abu Dhabi, Social Science Division | 2019 |
| | Vanderbilt University, Department of Political Science | 2019 |
| | Tecnológico de Monterrey, Department of Political Science and International Relations | 2019 |
| | Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Department of Economics | 2019 |
| Selected conference presentations (★ scheduled) | APSA (American Political Science Association) | 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 |
| | LASA (Latin American Studies Association) | 2024, 2023, 2022, 2019, 2018 |
| | MPSA (Midwest Political Science Association) | 2022, 2021, 2019, 2016, 2015 |
| | REPAL (Network for the Study of Latin America's Political Economy) | 2024, 2021, 2019 |
| | PolMeth (Society for Political Methodology) | 2023 (LatAm), 2019 |
| | EPSA (European Political Science Association) | 2021 |
| | Local Political Economy Conference (LPEC) | 2024 |
| | CIVICA Political Behavior and Institutions | 2024 |
| | LACSUG (Subnational Governance in Latin America) | 2024 |
| | IE-Rochester Workshop in Political Economy | 2024 |
| | MWEPS (Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science) | 2021 |
| | NEWEPS (Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science) | 2019 |
| Mentoring | PhD committee member for Shashwat Dhar (Vanderbilt ABD) | 2021 - present |
| | PhD committee member for Nicholas Bednar (Vanderbilt PhD) | 2021 - 2023 |
| | Undergraduate thesis supervisor for 14 IE students | 2022 - present |
| | Master thesis coordinator for IE's Master in International Development | 2022 - 2024 |
| | Capstone project supervisor for 2 groups in IE's Master in International Relations | 2022 - 2024 |
| IT skills | R, Stata, \LaTeX , Markdown, HTML, CSS, Qualtrics, QSR NVivo, ArcGIS, JAGS | |
| Languages | Spanish | native (grew up in Spain) |
| | English | fluent (TOEFL iBT 120/120; lived 2 years in the UK and 10 years in the USA) |
| | French | fluent (DALF C2; lived 1 year in France) |
| | Portuguese | fluent (lived 1.5 years in Brazil) |

This version: January 2025