

Guillermo Lezama

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CONTACT Department of Economics
INFORMATION University of Pittsburgh
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EDUCATION **Ph.D. in Economics**, *Expected: Spring 2025*, University of Pittsburgh.
Thesis Title: Essays in Political Economy.
Thesis Committee: Prof. Osea Giuntella (Co-Chair); Prof. Richard Van Weelden (Co-Chair); Prof. Andreas Ferrara; Prof. Michael Colaresi; Prof. Tianyi Wang.

M.A. in Economics, 2020, University of Pittsburgh.

Master's in International Economics, 2019, Universidad de la República, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Montevideo, Uruguay

Bachelor's in Economics, 2013 Universidad de la República, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y de Administración, Montevideo, Uruguay

RESEARCH Political Economy, Applied Microeconomics, Computational Social Science
FIELDS

RESEARCH Publications

Social Media vs. Surveys: A New Scalable Approach to Understanding Political Discourse. 2024. With Valentina González-Rostani and José Incio. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

Inequality in pre-income survey times: a methodological proposal. 2020. With Henry Willebald. *Review of Income and Wealth*, 66(4), 931-957.

Job Market Paper: Information About Corruption and Politicians' Proposals
(Draft) (Github for Text Classification)

Abstract: Corruption revelations can significantly disrupt electoral campaigns by compelling politicians to address newly exposed policy issues, navigate reputation shocks, and adjust their ideological positioning to respond effectively to voter concerns. This study investigates how exposing corruption affects politicians' policy agendas and rhetorical approaches. Utilizing natural language processing on 13,344 manifestos from Brazil's 2012 mayoral elections—and leveraging the random assignment of municipalities to public fund audits—I analyze changes in political discourse. I find that in municipalities with a high share of irregularities in specific policy areas, incumbents reduced their discussion of those areas, while opposition candidates increased their focus on them. Additionally, corruption revelations influenced the use of populist and extremist rhetoric, with opposition candidates in low-corruption municipalities moderating their language and incumbents in high-corruption municipalities adopting a more populist tone in their rhetoric, though this finding was not robust across all statistical tests. These findings highlight how transparency shapes political communication during elections, affecting politicians' strategic adaptations in response to corruption revelations.

Working Papers

Immigration Shocks and Politicians' Rhetoric: Evidence from The Venezuelan Migration Crisis (with Valentina González-Rostani and José Incio) (*Under Review*) (Draft)

The Effect of Experimenter Demand on Inference (K. Pun Winichakul, Priyoma Mustafi, Marissa Lepper, Alistair J. Wilson, David Danz, and Lise Vesterlund) (Draft)

Works in Progress

Extreme Weather Events and Environmentally Friendly Consumption (with Rania Gihleb and Osea Giuntella)

Can Sanctions Deter Illegal Financial Transactions? (with Dan Berkowitz and Laura Liu)

Importing Capital from China: A Perspective from the Developing World (with Marla Ripoll and Siqiang Yang)

Exploring Uruguayan Elections (Slides)

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

Múltiples miradas a los medicamentos de alto costo: hacia una comprensión integral del tema. (with G. Bardazano, V. Caredio, P. Cechi, J. Ceretta, V. Domínguez, L. Giúdice, S. Lema, M. López, C. Ramos, H. Rodríguez, N. Speranza, G. Tomasiunas, P. Triunfo and C. Zunino) (Book, Multiple views of high-cost drugs: towards a comprehensive understanding of the subject.) Colección Artículo 2. Universidad de la República.

Estrades, C., Flores, M., Lezama, G. (2017). The Role of Export Restrictions in Agriculture Trade IATRC Commissioned Paper 20

RESEARCH POSITIONS HELD	Research Assistant	
	David Huffman, University of Pittsburgh	2024-2025
	Marla Ripoll, University of Pittsburgh	2021-2022 and 2023-2024
	Richard Van Weelden and Andreas Ferrara, University of Pittsburgh	Summer 2021
	Carmen Estrades, Universidad de la Republica	2016-2017
	Patricia Triunfo, Universidad de la Republica	2015-2016
	Henry Willebald, Universidad de la Republica	2014-2015
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor, Universidad de la República, <i>Graduate level</i>	
	Exploratory Data Analysis (Github)	August 2024
	Instructor, University of Pittsburgh, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	
	Intro to International Economics (Syllabus)	Summer 2022, Summer 2023
	Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	
	Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory	Spring 2021
	Teaching Assistant, Universidad de la República, <i>Undergraduate level</i>	
	Econometrics I and Econometrics II	2018- 2019
	Mathematics for Social Sciences	2016- 2019
	Principles of Economics	2015- 2016
	Calculus and Linear Algebra	2014- 2015
PRESENTATIONS	LACEA. <i>Montevideo, Uruguay.</i>	2024
	APSA. <i>Philadelphia, PA.</i>	2024
	Economics Institute (IECON), FCEA - Udelar. <i>Uruguay.</i>	2024
	Economics Department (Decon), FCS - Udelar. <i>Uruguay.</i>	2023 and 2024
	Labor Brown Bag. University of Pittsburgh.	2022, 2023 and 2024
	LACEA. <i>Bogotá, Colombia.</i>	2023
	EGSC at Washington University in St. Louis. <i>St. Louis, MO.</i>	2023
	World Bank IFS ODI Tax Conference. <i>London, UK.</i>	2023
	Department of Economics and Business, UM. <i>Uruguay.</i>	2023
	Social Sciences Department, UCU. <i>Uruguay.</i>	2023
	Jornadas Anuales de Economia, Central Bank of Uruguay.	2023
	AMSE Summer School. <i>Marseille, France.</i>	2023
	Applied Micro Brown Bag. University of Pittsburgh.	2021, 2022 and 2023
	Micro Theory Brown Bag. University of Pittsburgh.	2021
TRAINING	Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences	2023
	University of Tokyo (virtual event)	
	Data Science Boot Camp	2023
	The Erdős Institute	
	AMSE Summer School on Political Economy: Institutions and Media	2023

Aix-Marseille University. Marseille, France.	
School of Government	2015-2016
Legislative authority. Montevideo, Uruguay.	
Training on Impact Evaluation of Public Policy	September 2014
CEDLAS - Universidad Nacional de la Plata. <i>La Plata, Argentina.</i>	

OTHER SELECTED PROJECTS	Relative Age Effect in Uruguayan Soccer Players Scraped and compared birthdate data of Uruguayan soccer players with the general population. Aguamineral Project: Water Crisis Data Analysis Analyzed government mineral water purchases during Uruguay's water crisis. Check the rest of my portfolio at my website
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HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS	Funding to organize Summer Institute in Computational Social Science in Uruguay. 2024 Funds from Templeton World Charity Foundation. APSA Conference Grant 2024 Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant 2023, 2024 LACEA Conference Grant 2023 Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. University of Pittsburgh. 2022-2023 Arts and Sciences Graduate Summer Research Fellowship. University of Pittsburgh. 2021 Slesinger fellow. University of Pittsburgh. 2019-2020 Annual award made to the most promising new graduate student School of Government 2016 Top 5 grade in the final work of the workshop on Trade Policy. Legislative authority and Fundación Giménez Abad. Montevideo, Uruguay.
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OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE	Freelance Data Analyst, Semanario Búsqueda (Uruguayan Newspaper) Nov 2024 – Dic 2024 Intern - Economics, Amazon May 2024 – Aug 2024 Academic Advisor to the Dean, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales Mar 2017 – Dec 2018 Economic Advisor to a Member of the Uruguayan Congress Mar 2015 – Feb 2017 Coordinator, College Program for First-Generation Students, Universidad de la República (Udelar) Dec 2013 – Mar 2015 Assistant, Office of Education Outreach and Community Programs (Extensión), Universidad de la República (Udelar) Dec 2012 – Dec 2013
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ACADEMIC SERVICE	Co-Organizer, SICSS-Uruguay 2024 The Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences Member of the Organizing Committee, XVI and XVII Research Conferences 2017 - 2018 Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Udelar
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SKILLS	Software and programming: Stata, L ^A T _E X, Python, R, Julia, Tableau, SQL Languages: Spanish (native), English.
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CITIZENSHIP	Uruguay and Switzerland.
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PLACEMENT DIRECTOR	Dr. Andreas Ferrara.	Tel: (412) 499-0819.	a.ferrara@pitt.edu
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PLACEMENT OFFICER	Mr. Dane Youkers.	Tel: (412) 624-6094.	dcy14@pitt.edu
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REFERENCES	Prof. Osea Giuntella (co-chair)	University of Pittsburgh	osea.giuntella@pitt.edu
	Prof. Richard Van Weelden (co-chair)	University of Pittsburgh	rmv22@pitt.edu
	Prof. Marla Ripoll	University of Pittsburgh	ripoll@pitt.edu
	Prof. Dan Berkowitz	University of Pittsburgh	dmbark@pitt.edu