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Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position available at your institution. Currently, I am an assistant professor (tenure-track) at O'Higgins University, in Chile. Founded just in 2015, **O'Higgins University is a public research-oriented institution**. As a result of a public tendering process, I was called to continue with my research agenda (70%), teach (30%), mentor, and to provide service and technical advice.

After receiving my **Ph.D.** in Political Science from **Rutgers University**-New Brunswick in May 2017—where I studied under the direction of Robert Kaufman—I spent one year as a post-doctoral fellow at **Tulane University**.

My **research** explores the economic and political origins of state capacities as well as the political economy of institutional development and the role of inequality on democratic development (clientelism). My methods include historical analyses, quantitative and experimental methods. While my research focuses predominantly on Latin America, my current and future research projects will be expanded to other developing and developed countries. A more detailed description of my scholarly work can be found in my [research statement](#).

Using a **novel dataset on historical earthquakes** to proxy state capacities, my **job market paper** (*submitted*) explains that sectoral conflicts between the landed and industrial elites fostered inter-elite compromises that lead to higher levels of state capacities over time.

The paper is embedded into a **larger research agenda and book manuscript** in which I analyze how economic structural transformations in Latin America helped states to make institutional investments that lead to the formation of states with higher capacities. I leverage fine-grained historical case study comparisons, sectoral economic outputs from 1900 to the present, time-series econometric techniques, hazard models, and a novel earthquake dataset that covers sub-national death tolls from 1900 to the present to measure state capacities. This project builds on the fiscal sociology literature and the dual-sector economy model. In a [first extension](#) (*in preparation*), I explain how the expansion of the industrial sector in post-colonial Latin America *accelerated* the implementation of the income tax law. Leveraging the fiscal sociology paradigm, I explain how the *early* expansion of the fiscal system set countries in a critical juncture that fostered state-building. In a [second extension](#) (*in preparation*), I explain why the emergence of the industrial sector not only altered the balance of political power, but also fostered long-term economic growth.

In addition to the book manuscript, I am currently expanding the findings of a **series of papers** related to *vote-buying* and *vote-selling*, using both **observational** and an original **experimental** designs.

Vote-Buying. In addition to that, I have a published a [piece](#) (*Bahamonde, H. (2018). *Aiming Right at You: Group versus Individual Clientelistic Targeting in Brazil*. Journal of Politics in Latin America, 10(2), pp. 41-76.*) on vote-buying in Brazil. The paper starts by recognizing that there is not consensus on whether parties target groups or individuals. In fact, most scholars assume that group-targeting and individual-targeting are interchangeable. What seems to be a major problem, however, is that scholars seem to base their decision on their own research designs; ethnographers typically study how parties target *individuals* while experimentalist scholars typically look at how parties target districts/municipalities/states

(i.e. *groups*). I developed and tested a theory where parties make use of simultaneous segmented targeting techniques. Groups are preferred by brokers when party machines need to secure higher levels of electoral support, relying on the economies of scale and spillover effects that these groups provide. However, individuals are better targets when they are more identifiable—that is when poor individuals are nested in non-poor contexts or vice-versa. Interestingly, I find that non-poor individuals are also targeted. The paper uses observational data, matching methods and a short case study (Brazil).

Vote-Selling. With the support of a generous grant, I designed two experiments in the U.S. out of a series of experiments to be fielded in Latin America for further comparison. In the [paper](#) (*under review*), I looked at the tipping points at which a sample of U.S. citizens ($N = 1,479$) prefer a monetary incentive rather than keeping their right to choose whom to vote for. My identification strategy takes advantage of a *list experiment* to capture non-biased answers on socially-condemnable/illegal behaviors (e.g. vote-buying). Approximately 25% would sell their votes for \$730. Democrats and liberals are systematically more likely to sell. In a separate experiment, I designed a *conjoint experiment* to identify which of Dahl's democratic dimensions should 'fail' to predict individual propensities of vote-selling. Conjoint experiments allow researchers to directly isolate complex multi-dimensional concepts (such as *support for democracy*) and observe which dimension(s) is/are associated to the outcome of interest (vote-selling). The paper shows that when the *liberal* component fails, individuals are more likely to sell.

Within the same project, I am currently designing an **economic experiment about vote-selling and vote-buying**. By implementing an “auction game” in the lab, the experiment recreates market conditions that exist between vote-buyers and vote-sellers. See more details in my [research statement](#).

As a comparativist and political economist, I believe that advanced methods should be used to answer big questions. In this sense, my research also has a disciplinary agenda. My scholarly work, for example tries to examine classic problems in comparative political development (e.g. state capacities, clientelism, etc.), while at the same time incorporating cutting-edge econometric and experimental techniques. Similarly, my working papers and experiments, are concerned with fundamental questions regarding democratic theory.

As an **instructor**, I am interested in courses that are carefully designed to answer big questions in comparative politics, not only from a Latin American perspective, but also across the broader spectrum. As a political economist, I mostly focus on economic development, economic history, institutional development and democratic development/underdevelopment. I am also interested in political participation, competitive authoritarianisms, welfare politics, party politics and other relevant topics. I would also feel very comfortable teaching both basic and advanced **methods** courses. At Rutgers and Tulane, I always received excellent teaching evaluations. Please, [send me an email](#) to receive the most recent one, or let me know if you need teaching references. **Service** to the department and its extended programs is a top priority. I firmly believe that being part of a teaching/research community requires active involvement. I am looking forward to do my part in this regard. **Collaborative research with my students** is another priority. For example, as an undergraduate student I worked very close with faculty members doing research. I learned so much outside of the classroom by doing research that it would *not* be natural for me to not replicate my experience with my own students.

More information, [syllabi](#), my [research](#), [teaching](#) and [diversity](#) statements, as well as other [papers](#) are available on my website: www.HectorBahamonde.com. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HBAHAMONDE', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Hector Bahamonde, PhD