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Dear Rector of the University of Turku,

I am writing to apply for the title of Docent at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Turku. Currently, I am a [Senior Researcher](#) at the INVEST Flagship Centre at the University of Turku. I also serve as the Research Director of the [INVEST-Hub](#), an interdisciplinary center about experimental and quantitative social research. I obtained my B.A. in Political Science at Catholic University of Chile. After receiving my PhD in Political Science from Rutgers University-New Brunswick, NJ, U.S. in May 2017, I spent one year as a post-doctoral fellow at Tulane University-New Orleans, LA, U.S. Before coming to the University of Turku, I was an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) at O'Higgins University, in Chile for two years. My long-term plan is to settle in Turku, and to build an academic career at the University of Turku, hopefully securing a tenure-track position in my field. Thus, the title of Docent, to me, is a stepping stone in my long-term development plan. In this statement I will summarize my accomplishments and future research and teaching plans.

Research and scientific activities. Within Political Science, my primary subfield is the political economy of inequality, democratic development and clientelism. In simple, I am interested in how economic conditions—for example, inequality, economic growth, poverty, economic losses and gains, among others—affect democracy itself and people's attitudes toward democracy. Research methods are an important part of my research. Every piece I have published pays considerable attention to both the methodological and substantive aspects of the question at hand. Importantly, since I defended my dissertation in 2017, and in my humble opinion, I have been able to produce more than the equivalent amount of work corresponding to a dissertation. Next paragraph briefly describes (a selection of) my peer-reviewed publications.

In [Bahamonde \(2018\)](#), and in the context of clientelism in Brazil, I asked whether political parties target individuals or groups. Using causal inference tools (i.e., matching), the paper finds that parties target individuals when they are identifiable and groups when parties need to rely on the spillover effects of clientelism. Next, in [Bahamonde and Trasberg \(2021\)](#) we asked about the relationship between democracy, state capacity and economic inequality. Using time-series and cross-sectional methods, we find that higher levels of democracy and state capacity increase inequality overtime. We exploited a large dataset comprising all countries since the 1970s. After that, in [Bahamonde \(2022\)](#), I published the results of a list experiment fielded in the United States. Unlike other research questions that ask factual questions, in this piece I asked whether voters *would* vote for a candidate in exchange for money. Though clientelism is low in the U.S., that does not necessarily mean that voters *would not* sell their vote to a political party. I find that 25% of voters (it was a representative sample) would vote for a candidate in exchange for money. The same year we published in [Bahamonde and Canales \(2022\)](#) the results of a laboratory experiment. In particular, we asked when parties buy more votes, whether it is when they are winning or losing the election. We discovered that parties engage in clientelism more when they are winning the election because parties are more concerned with preventing a decline than increasing gains. Finally, in the context of a natural experiment in Finland, [Bahamonde and Sarpila \(2023\)](#),¹ we discovered that candidates that look working class have less chances of winning an election, particularly female candidates.

As it can be seen, I have been quite active publishing in some of the top journals in the discipline. I'd take

¹This paper is Revise and Resubmit. It is in its second round of revisions, and after seeing the reviews, we are quite confident that that paper will be published.

the liberty to argue as well that in the meantime, I had three children and also the COVID pandemic hit. My oldest son was just a few months old when he sat in my dissertation defense. Then, as it can be seen in my CV, several movings happened (within the U.S. and abroad as well). Then the pandemic hit, slowing me down even more, particularly with the collection of the the lab experiment paper. However, I'm a very determined person and managed to accomplish this list of publications.

More information is available on my website: www.HectorBahamonde.com. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

*References

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