

ISABELLA CARO MONTINI

imontini@berkeley.edu | imontini.github.io

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in Political Science — Fields: Comparative Politics and Political Methodology

Berkeley, CA

Aug 2022 – present

- M.A. in Political Science (with distinction), May 2024

Stanford University

M.A. in Latin American Studies (with distinction)

Stanford, CA

Sep 2021 – Jun 2022

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

B.A. in Political Science and Sociology

Berlin, Germany

Oct 2018 – Sep 2021

DISSERTATION PROJECT

Contested Governance, Contested Claims: *The Politics of Claim-Making in Urban Peripheries*

Committee: Alison Post (co-chair), Scott Straus (co-chair), Thad Dunning and Hillel Soifer

PUBLICATIONS

1. Pantaleão, B., Montini, I. C. (2025). When Elections Empower Crime: Political Protection and Milícia Expansion in Rio de Janeiro. *Latin American Politics and Society*.
2. Farag, M., Montini, I. C., Schemm, P. (2026). Overcoming Impeachment Hurdles: Elite Polarization, Mass Mobilization and Corruption Scandals. *Forthcoming at the European Political Science Review*.
3. Farag, M., Montini, I. C., Fontenay, J., Jung, H. R., Ladhar, S. (2023). Modalities of Power Sharing: Consociationalism after 50 Years - A Scoping Review (1969-2018). *Government and Opposition*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. Size Matters: Pork Politics and State Presence in Brazilian Municipalities. *Under Review* (with Alison E. Post)
 - In the News: **O Estado de S. Paulo** (August 2025)
 - Featured in: **Folha de S. Paulo** (June 2025)
2. Under the Radar: Estimating Underreporting of Gender-Based Violence to the Police. *Working Paper* (with Jessie Trudeau)
3. Gender-based Violence and Organized Crime: Evidence and Policy Recommendations for Latin America *Policy document commissioned by the World Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean* (with Jessie Trudeau)
4. Criminal Governance and Public Goods Provision: A Framework for Analysis. *Working Paper* (with Eduardo Moncada)
5. Electoral Rules and the Provision of Public versus Targeted Goods: Evidence from Mayoral Elections in Brazil. *Working Paper*
6. The Paradox of Protection: Patterns of Gender-Based Violence Under Criminal Rule. *In Progress*. (with Johanna Reyes Ortega)
7. Claim-Making and Public Goods Provision in Emerging Cities of the Global South. *In Progress* (with Intissar Kherigi, Ellen Lust, Lucas Novaes, Jeffrey Paller, and Alison E. Post)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

IPA's Peace and Recovery Initiative Exploratory Grant (with Jessie Trudeau)

Innovations for Poverty Action ~ \$10,000

2025

APSA/NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

American Political Science Association ~ \$15,000

2025

APSA Centennial Center Research Grant	2025
<i>American Political Science Association ~ \$2,000</i>	
Peter H. Odegard Award for Outstanding Performance in Political Science	2025
<i>Department of Political Science, UC Berkeley ~ \$3,000</i>	
Simpson Research Grant in International Studies for ABDs	2025
<i>Institute for International Studies at UC Berkeley ~ \$15,000</i>	
Global Metropolitan Studies Summer Funding Competition	2025
<i>Center for Global Metropolitan Studies at UC Berkeley ~ \$5,000</i>	
CAF Policy Grant (with Jessie Trudeau)	2025
<i>Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina Y El Caribe ~ \$12,000</i>	
CEGA Development Economics Challenge (with Johanna Reyes Ortega)	2025
<i>Center for Effective Global Action ~ \$5000</i>	
John L. Simpson Pre-Dissertation Fellowship	2024
<i>Graduate Institute for Area Studies at UC Berkeley ~ \$5000</i>	
Political Economy Research Grant	2024
<i>BESI Network UC Berkeley ~ \$5000</i>	
Jim Fahey Safe Homes for Women Fellowship	2024
<i>Graduate Division at UC Berkeley ~ \$1000</i>	
Outstanding Teaching Award	2024
<i>UC Berkeley</i>	
UC Berkeley Diversity and Community Fellowship	2023
<i>Graduate Diversity (UC Berkeley ~ \$7500)</i>	
Path To Professoriate Fellow	2022
<i>Graduate Diversity (UC Berkeley)</i>	
Excellence Award for Academic Performance	2022
<i>Center for Latin American Studies (Stanford University)</i>	
Ayacucho Fellowship	2021-22
<i>Center for Latin American Studies (Stanford University ~ \$80,000)</i>	
Full 3-year DAAD scholarship for Undergraduate Students	2018-21
<i>Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service ~ \$42,000)</i>	

TEACHING

Graduate Student Instructor

University of California, Berkeley

- Math Camp for incoming Political Science Graduate Students, Summer 2025
- PS 231b: Causal Inference (Graduate), Spring 2025
- PS 148A: Latin American Politics, Fall 2024
- PS 147G: The Welfare State in Comparative Perspective, Fall 2023

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Policy Consultant for the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)

2025

Statistical Consulting for Honors Thesis Seminar

UC Berkeley

Fall 2025

Berkeley, CA

Visiting Scholar

FGV - CEPESP

May - July 2025

São Paulo, Brazil

Research Associate at the Center on the Politics of Development	June 2022 - present
UC Berkeley	Berkeley, CA
Research Fellow PovGov Lab	Oct 2021 - present
Stanford University, Department of Political Science	Stanford, CA
Quantitative Methods Tutor (Mathcamp)	May 2023 - May 2024
UC Berkeley	Berkeley, CA
Getting into Grad School (GiGS) Mentor	June 2022 - June 2023
UC Berkeley	Berkeley, CA
Research Assistant	Sep 2019 - July 2021
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Social Sciences	Berlin, Germany

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Women in Political Science Representative	May 2024 - August 2025
UC Berkeley	
President of the Political Science Graduate Students' Association	Jan 2024 - Jan 2025
UC Berkeley	
Center on the Politics of Development Workshop Coordinator	August 2023 - May 2024
UC Berkeley	

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Guest Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and Metropolitan Studies at the University of São Paulo (2025)
 Authors' Seminar for Policy Documents: Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the World Bank (2025)
 REPAL (2025, 2026)
 Center for the Politics and Economics of the Public Sector, CEPESP - FGV (2025)
 Midwestern Political Science Association (2025, 2026)
 Guest Lecturer, *Latin American Politics: Understanding Criminal Governance*, UC Berkeley (2024)
 Urban Politics in the Global South (2024, 2025)
 American Political Science Association (2024, 2025)
 Latin American Studies Association Conference (2022, 2025)
 European Consortium for Political Research (2021)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Portuguese (Native), English (Fluent), German (Fluent), Spanish (Fluent), Italian (Beginner)
Programming: R, Stata, L^AT_EX, Markdown, QGIS, Git
Fieldwork: São Paulo, Brasília, Rio de Janeiro, Maranhão

FACULTY REFERENCES

Alison E. Post, Associate Professor of Political Science and Global Metropolitan Studies, UC Berkeley
Scott Straus, Professor of Political Science and Department Chair, UC Berkeley
Thad Dunning, Robson Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center on the Politics of Development, UC Berkeley
Beatriz Magaloni, Graham Stuart Professor of International Relations at the Department of Political Science, Stanford University