

Irene Rodríguez

PHD CANDIDATE

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Personal statement

I am a PhD candidate in Political Science at Universitat Pompeu Fabra specializing in political behavior, public opinion, and political parties. My research combines quantitative methods and experimental designs to explore how political contexts shape citizen attitudes and electoral strategies.

My research is driven by curiosity about how society and societal changes can influence all aspects of political life. I enjoy designing and conducting data-driven research that can be interesting not only to the academic world but also to policy makers and the general public.

Current position

PhD Student in Political Science

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

2022 - 2025

- Titled: Challenges of the 21st Century: How politics reacts to the present
- Supervisor: Dr. Toni Rodon.

Education

Postgraduate Degree in Data Analysis

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

2021 - 2022

- Expert in Data Analysis for Political Analysis and Public Administration

MSc in Political Analysis and Institutional Assessment

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

2020 - 2022

- Thesis Title: The entry of Vox in the Spanish political institutions and its effect on citizens' attitudes towards immigration
- Supervisor: Dr. Albert Falcó-Gimeno

BA in Political Science and Administration

Girona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT DE GIRONA

2016 - 2020

- Bachelor's Thesis: Analysis of a deliberative mini-public in Madrid

Research interests

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL PARTIES AND RADICAL RIGHT PARTIES, QUANTITATIVE METHODS, CAUSAL INFERENCE, QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL METHODS, FIELD EXPERIMENTS

Participation in projects

COVIDEU Project

VolkswagenStiftung

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

2022 - Present

- PI: Dr. Heike Klüver (Humboldt University of Berlin)
- Website: www.covideu.info

Research

Published

Rodríguez, I., Rodon, T., Unan, A., Herbig, L., Klüver, H., & Kuhn, T. (2025). Benchmarking pandemic response: How the UK's vaccine roll-out impacted popular support for the EU, *British Journal of Political Science*, 55(e35), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123424000802>

Herbig, L., Unan, A., Kuhn, T., Rodríguez, I., Rodon, T., & Klüver, H. (2025) . Closed borders, closed minds? COVID-related border closures, EU support and hostility towards immigrants, *European Journal of Political Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.70025>

Rodon, T., & Rodríguez, I. (2024). A bitter victory and a sweet defeat: the July 2023 Spanish general election, *South European Society and Politics*, 28(3), 335-357. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13608746.2024.2326300>

Under Review

Rodríguez, I. *Legitimising prejudice? The impact of radical right party presence on anti-immigration attitude expression.*

Working on

Rodríguez, I., Rodon, T., & Dickson, Z. *A coordinated solution for a coordinated problem? A Civic Education experiment on climate change and attitudes towards the European Union.*

Rodríguez, I. *Digital battlegrounds: How political parties tailor advertising to electoral contexts.*

Rodríguez, I. *One seat ahead: The impact of narrow electoral wins on political parties’ digital ad strategy*

Awards and Honors

Best Poster Award - 2nd place
UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA
• PhD Programme in Political and Social Sciences Doctoral Workshop

Barcelona, Spain
2022

Teaching

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Quantitative Methodology IV
BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION
• Teaching Assistant

Barcelona, Spain
2023-2025

Political Behavior and Public Opinion
BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION
• Teaching Assistant

Barcelona, Spain
2023-2025

Actors and Political Institutions
BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION
• Teaching Assistant

Barcelona, Spain
2023-2024

Qualitative Methodology II
BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION
• Teaching Assistant

Barcelona, Spain
2022-2023

Society and Politics in Contemporary Spain
BARCELONA PROGRAM FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
• Class on party advertising strategies and digital marketing
• Invited lecture

Barcelona, Spain
2025

Statistics and R course
BA IN JOURNALISM
• Crash course on R and Basic Statistics
• Instructor

Barcelona, Spain
2022

Universitat de Barcelona

Seminar on radical right parties

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT DE L'EXPERIÈNCIA

2021

- Title of the seminar: Vox in the institutions. Parliamentary behavior and effects on public opinion
- Instructor

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (forthcoming)

Research design

Barcelona, Spain

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2025-2026

- Adjunct Lecturer (*Professor colaborador*)

Data visualisation and analysis

Barcelona, Spain

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2025-2026

- Adjunct Lecturer (*Professor colaborador*)

Electoral analysis and public opinion

Barcelona, Spain

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2025-2026

- Adjunct Lecturer (*Professor colaborador*)

Workshops and conferences

Using AI for Text Analysis

Online

INSTATS

February 2025

- Instructor: Seraphine Maerz

European Political Science Association

Glasgow, UK; Köln, DE; Madrid, ES

EPSA

2023, 2024, 2025

- Presenting: Rodríguez, I. (n.d.) The dangers of legitimization: How the presence of RRP in Parliament can affect attitudes towards immigration
- Presenting: Rodríguez, I., Unan, A., Rodon, T., Klüver, H., & Kuhn, T. (n.d.). Benchmarking pandemic response: How the UK's Vaccine Rollout Impacted EU Attitudes in EU Countries
- Presenting: Rodríguez, I., Rodon, T., & Dickson, Z. (n.d.). A coordinated solution for a coordinated problem? A Civic Education experiment on climate change and attitudes towards the European Union.
- Presenting: Does (district) size matter? How political parties tailor targeting to different electoral contexts

VII Jornada de Comportament Polític i Opinió Pública de Catalunya

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA

November 2024

- Presenting: A coordinated solution for a coordinated problem? A Civic Education experiment on climate change and attitudes towards the European Union

PhD Workshop on Empirical Research

Barcelona, Spain

UPF, UB

2022, 2024

- Presenting: Rodríguez, I. (n.d.) A coordinated solution for a coordinated problem? A Civic Education experiment on climate change and attitudes towards the European Union

COVIDEU Project Workshops

Amsterdam, NL; London, UK;

Barcelona, ES; Berlin, DE

UvA, UPF, LSE, HU BERLIN

2022, 2023, 2024, 25

- Annual workshops of the COVIDEU Project

Midwest Political Science Association

Chicago, US

MPSA

April 2023

- Presenting: Benchmarking pandemic response: How the UK's Vaccine Rollout Impacted EU Attitudes in EU Countries
- Contributing authors: Rodríguez, I., Herbig, L., Rodon, T., Klüver, H., Unan, A., Krawczyk, M., and Kuhn, T.
- Paper part of the COVIDEU Project

RECSM Summer Methods School

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

July 2022

- Big Data: Computational Analysis of Text. Instructor: Carlos Arcila (Universidad de Salamanca)
- Multilevel I: Introduction to Multilevel Models. Instructors: Carla Rampichini and Leonardo Grilli (Università di Firenze)

UPF Doctoral Workshop

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

March 2022, 2023 and 2024, 2025

- PhD Programme in Political and Social Sciences

- PhD Programme in Political and Social Sciences
- Instructor: Frederic Schaffer (University of Massachusetts)

Skills

PROGRAMMING AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Programming | R (Expert in Data Science), RStudio |
| Markup | Markdown/Rmarkdown, LaTeX, Quarto |
| Natural | Spanish (native), Catalan (native), English (proficient), German (basic) |

RESEARCH SKILLS

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Quantitative | Regressions, quasi-experiments, field experiments, DiD, RDD, LLMs |
| Reproducible | GitHub, GitHub Desktop, GitHub Copilot, GPTStudio |