

Irene Rodríguez

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

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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, and viceversa. 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: Crises, Competition, and Campaigning: Citizens and Parties in 21st Century Politics
- Supervisor: Dr. Toni Rodon.

Research stays

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Berlin, Germany

RESEARCH STAY

October-December 2025

- HU Berlin DYNAMICS Group. Host: Dr. Heike Klüver

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 - 2021

- 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, TEXT-AS-DATA, LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

Participation in projects

COVIDEU Project

VolkswagenStiftung

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

2022 - Present

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

- PI: Dr. Jordi Mas (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

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*, 64(4), 1923-1944. <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

Beca Santander | Ayuda Económica Para Personal Investigador Predoctoral 2025 (Santander Grant | Financial Aid for Pre-Doctoral Researchers 2025)

Barcelona, Spain

BANC SANTANDER

2025

- €2,000
- Awarded to support PhD research activities

Best Poster Award - 2nd place

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

2022

- PhD Programme in Political and Social Sciences Doctoral Workshop

Teaching

Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Quantitative Methodology IV

Barcelona, Spain

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2023-2025

- Teaching Assistant

Political Behavior and Public Opinion

Barcelona, Spain

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2023-2025

- Teaching Assistant

Actors and Political Institutions

Barcelona, Spain

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2023-2024

- Teaching Assistant

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

- 2025-2026: instructor
- 2025: invited lecture on party digital targeting strategies

Barcelona, Spain

2025-2026

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

UNIVERSITAT DE L'EXPERIÈNCIA

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

Barcelona, Spain

2021

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Bachelor's Thesis Supervision

BA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Supervisor

Online

2025-2026

Politics and Society

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Adjunct Lecturer (*Professor colaborador*)

Online

2025-2026

Data visualisation and analysis

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Adjunct Lecturer (*Professor colaborador*)

Online

2025-2026

Electoral analysis and public opinion

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Adjunct Lecturer (*Professor colaborador*)

Online

2025-2026

Workshops, conferences and courses

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Dynamics RTG PhD Seminar

HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

- Presenting: 'One seat ahead: The impact of narrow electoral wins on political parties' digital ad strategy'

Berlin, Germany

November 2025

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

European Political Science Association

EPSA

- Presenting: Rodríguez, I. Legitimising prejudice? The impact of radical right party presence on anti-immigration attitude expression
- Presenting: Rodríguez, I., Unan, A., Rodon, T., Klüver, H., & Kuhn, T. Benchmarking pandemic response: How the UK's Vaccine Rollout Impacted EU Attitudes in EU Countries
- Presenting: 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.
- Presenting: Digital battlegrounds: How political parties tailor advertising to electoral contexts

Glasgow, UK; Köln, DE; Madrid, ES

2023, 2024, 2025

VII Jornada de Comportament Polític i Opinió Pública de Catalunya

UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA

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

Barcelona, Spain

November 2024

PhD Workshop on Empirical Research

Barcelona, Spain

UPF, UB

2022, 2024

- Presenting: 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

COVIDEU Project Workshops

Amsterdam, NL; London, UK;

Barcelona, ES; Berlin, DE

2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

UvA, UPF, LSE, HU BERLIN

- Annual workshops of the COVIDEU Project

Midwest Political Science Association

Chicago, US

MPSA

April 2023

- Presenting: Rodríguez, I., Rodon, T., Unan, A., Herbig, L., Klüver, H., Kuhn, T. Benchmarking pandemic response: How the UK's Vaccine Rollout Impacted EU Attitudes in EU Countries

UPF Doctoral Workshop

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

March 2022, 2023 and 2024, 2025

- PhD Programme in Political and Social Sciences

COURSES

Using AI for Text Analysis

Online

INSTATS

February 2025

- Instructor: Seraphine Maerz

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)

Working with Concepts in the Social Sciences

Barcelona, Spain

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

February 2022

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

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