

Jose Maycas-Sardi

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Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M)–Social Sciences Department

EDUCATION

2022-2026 (expected) PhD in Social Sciences at UC3M
Supervisor: Pedro Riera
Visiting researcher in the SPS department at the EUI
Spring 2024 and Winter 2026 (expected)

2020-2022 MSc Economics at Universitat de Barcelona (UB)
2015-2019 BSc Economics at UC3M

WORKING PAPERS

***Is That the Way?* Tourism-Driven Social Change and the Decline of Local Participation** [Available upon request](#)

Honorary mention ECPR 2023 POVB Best Paper Prize

Tourism is generally praised for revitalizing local economies, yet it can also carry subtle political costs. This article examines the case of the Way of Saint James (Camino de Santiago) in Spain where a tourist boom transformed social life in small urban and rural communities. Using a difference-in-differences strategy, I show that tourist exposure reduced association density by 16-24 percent of the sample mean and local turnout by nearly two percentage points. Two mechanisms drive this erosion. Communities that host pilgrims face a contextual shock, as hostels tend to locate near town halls, disrupting existing social routines. These places also experience a compositional change as younger, mobile residents with less engagement in local affairs join the community. Rather than producing immediate political mobilization, sustained tourist flows change the norms that enforce local participation. Communities shift from environments of repeated, stable interactions to dynamic spaces where involvement in local affairs is less expected.

Bordering on Discontent: The Political Consequences of Border Liberalization with [Josep Serrano-Serrat](#)

[Working paper](#)

In the aftermath of globalization, Western democracies have witnessed a surge in political disaffection and radical-right support. While economic and migration shocks have been widely studied, the political effects of border liberalization remain underexplored. This paper theorizes and tests how increased border permeability can generate political discontent, even without necessarily affecting immigration or direct economic competition. We argue that open borders enable brief, routine interactions between groups across historically closed frontiers. When this occurs between regions of unequal perceived status, it can erode symbolic boundaries and foster resentment. We examine this in the context of the German–Czech border, which transformed from a militarized Cold War frontier to an internal EU border. Leveraging two moments of liberalization—the fall of the Iron Curtain (1989) and Czech EU accession (2004)—we apply difference-in-differences and event study designs using municipality-level data from Bavaria. Border liberalization led to a drop in turnout ($\simeq 2$ pp) and a rise in radical-right support ($\simeq 1$ pp). These findings have implications on the determinants of backlash against globalization.

Branch Closures and Evictions in the US with [Joan Calzada](#) and Xavier Fageda [Access working paper](#)

More than two million evictions occur in the US each year, a phenomenon with profound and lasting consequences for the families and communities affected. This paper examines how the closure of brick-and-mortar bank branches in the US has affected the number of households threatened with evictions in the period 2000-2018. To overcome the potential endogeneity associated to branch closures we adopt an instrumental variable (IV) identification strategy that uses bank mergers as an instrument of the distance between the population and bank branches at the census tract level. Our results show that both interstate and intercounty mergers had a positive and significant effect in the distance to the closest bank branches. Moreover, we find that a 1% increase in the distance to the closest branch generated a 2.3% increase in the number of households threatened with an eviction. This result is primarily driven by the effects in urban tracts. We complement our analysis with several robustness checks, including a matching procedure to control for pre-existing observable differences between tracts exposed and unexposed to mergers. Moreover, we re-estimate our model focusing on mergers where the acquiring and the acquired banks had overlapping branches within the same tract, and we consider different measures of financial exclusion and of exposition to evictions.

WORK IN PROGRESS

What's the Matter with Madrid? with [Pedro Riera](#) and Fernando de la Cuesta

From Fields to Fringe with Rebeca G-Antuña and [Sílvia Claveria](#)

Cultural Transmission under Political Polarization with [Andreu Arenas](#)

Revealed Preferences: The Role of Electoral Outcomes in Family Socialization

Socialized in Turmoil: The Lasting Imprint of Bad Government Performance

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

2025 PolMeth Europe at LSE, EuroWEPS 11 at UiB, EPSA (Madrid), APSA (Vancouver), SAEe (Barcelona)

2024 Political Behavior Colloquium at EUI, Rural-Urban Workshop at UPF, EPSA (Cologne), APSA (Philadelphia)

2023 EPSA (Glasgow), ECPR (Prague), RUDE Conference at Goethe University, SAEe (Salamanca)

TEACHING

Comparative Politics (TA) Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025

UC3M

Excellence in Teaching Award

Main Prof.: Pedro Riera

REFERENCES

Pedro Riera Associate Professor (UC3M)

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Andreu Arenas Associate Professor (UB)

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Amuitz Garmendia Madariaga Associate Professor (UC3M)

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GRANTS AND OTHER

2025	Co-organizer, Conference on the Rural–Urban Divide in Spain and Beyond , Cortes de Aragón (Zaragoza), October 1, 2025—with Pedro Riera
2025	Co-organizer of the MACIES-PAPERSS Workshop "Early Career Workshop: Deepening Interdisciplinarity in European Studies", UC3M, June 5, 2025
2024-2025	Co-organizer of PAPERSS with Álvaro San Román
2023	Honorary mention at the ECPR 2023 POVB Best Paper Prize
2022-2025	Member of the POLGEO research group Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación del Gobierno de España — PID2020-119465GB-C21
2022-2026	Pre-Doctoral Research Training Scholarship: Formación de Personal Investigador (FPI) Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación del Gobierno de España — PID2020-119465GB-C21
2021-2022	Research Assistant for Prof. Joan Calzada Universitat de Barcelona
2020-2022	Tuition Waiver (50%) Universitat de Barcelona

SKILLS

Languages	Spanish (native), English (fluent)
Software	Stata, \LaTeX , R Studio and qGis