

Jose Maycas-Sardi

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

EDUCATION

2022-2026 (expected)	PhD in Social Sciences at UC3M Supervisor: Pedro Riera
Spring 2024	Visiting researcher in the SPS department at the EUI
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 Civic Participation** [Link not yet available](#)

Honorary mention ECPR 2023 POVB Best Paper Prize

This paper addresses an overlooked paradox: how processes of social revitalization can undermine local civic life. While connectivity and globalization generate dynamic spaces through economic activity, they may also displace rooted social interactions that sustain participation. I draw on a quasi-natural experiment—the transformation of the Way of Saint James (Camino de Santiago) into a major tourist route—to examine how the influx of visitors and newcomers affects community engagement. I find a decline in civic participation: association density drops by 16% of the sample mean, and local turnout decreases by 1.77 percentage points. Two mechanisms appear to drive this decline: (a) congestion, as hostels concentrate in town centers, displacing traditional social hubs; and (b) compositional change, with a younger, mobile population less inclined to engage. Additional housing and demographic data support this interpretation. As social spaces become crowded, the conditions that once supported cooperation—stable, repeated interactions—begin to erode.

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

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.

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 [Silvia Clavería](#)

Revealed Preferences: The Role of Elections in Shaping Social Norms and Identity Polarization

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)

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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Pilar Sorribas-Navarro Associate Professor (UB)

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GRANTS AND OTHER

2024-2025	co-Organizer of PAPERSS with Álvaro San Román
2022-2026	Pre-Doctoral Research Training Scholarship: Formación de Personal Investigador (FPI) Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación del Gobierno de España
2020-2022	Tuition Waiver (50%) Universitat de Barcelona

SKILLS

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