

Laura García Montoya

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
The Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

July 2022 -
Present

Assistant Professor, Universidad del Rosario
Facultad de Estudios Políticos, Internacionales y Urbanos

January 2022 -
July 2022

Visiting Fellow, University of Notre Dame
Kellogg Institute for International Studies

August 2021 -
December 2021

Postdoctoral Researcher, Princeton University
Department of Politics, Bobst Center for Peace and Justice

September 2020 -
August 2021

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, USA

PhD, Political Science

September 2020

Fields: Comparative Politics, Methodology

Dissertation: *Trapped by Inequality: The Politics of Redistribution in Latin America*

M.S in Statistics

September 2020

Thesis: *Measuring Essentially Contested Concepts*

M.A in Political Science

December 2018

Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

M.A in Economics

March 2013

Thesis: *Evaluating the Symptoms of Rent-seeking in Colombian Municipalities.*

B.A in Economics

March 2012

RESEARCH

Book Project

“Escaping Inequality Traps: State Formation, Elites, and the Myth of Progress”

Journal Articles

García-Montoya, Laura, Güiza-Gómez, Diana Isabel, and Maria Paula Saffon. “Entering the Political Arena in Exclusionary Settings: A Grassroots-Led Turn to the Left in Colombia” [*Journal of Comparative Politics*, forthcoming]

– Honorable Mention, Repal Best-paper prize committee.

Botero, Sandra, **García-Montoya, Laura** & Otero-Bahamon, Silvia & Londoño-Mendez, Sebastián. (2023) Colombia 2022: Del fin de la guerra al gobierno del cambio. *Revista Ciencia Política*, 43(2), 223-254. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4067/s0718-090x2023005000114>

García-Montoya, Laura, & Manzi, P. (2023). From Economic to Political Power: Economic Elites and Policymaking During Times of Crisis. *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, 15(2), 138-167. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1866802X231180897>

García-Montoya, Laura & Mahoney, James. (2023). Critical Event Analysis in Case Study Research. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 52(1), 480-524. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0049124120926201>

García-Montoya, Laura* & Arjona, Ana, & Lacombe, Matthew. (2022). Violence and Voting in the United States: How School Shootings Affect Elections. *American Political Science Review*, 116(3), 807–826. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421001179> (*First Author)

Book Chapters

Mahoney, James & **García-Montoya, Laura** (2021). “Critical Event Analysis” in J. Mahoney. *The Logic of Social Science*. Princeton University Press. P 269-294

Other Publications

Otero-Bahamón, Silvia, **García-Montoya, Laura** & Juan José Fernández-Dusso. (2022). “Nuevas Perspectivas Sobre Desigualdad y Política Social En América Latina”. *Revista CS*, Special Issue. July. Pages 11 - 18. <https://doi.org/10.18046/recs.iEspecial.5644>

Working papers

García-Montoya, Laura, Güiza-Gómez, Diana Isabel & Arturo Chang. “Factionalized Mobilization: Development Paradigm Shifts and Marginalization in Colombia” (*First Author) [*Revised and Resubmitted*]

Arjona, A., Mario Chacón, and **García-Montoya, Laura** “The Impact of Political Assassinations on Turnout: Evidence from Colombia”. [*Invited to Revise and Resubmit*]

García-Montoya, Laura Measuring Critical Concepts in the Social Sciences: An Integrative Framework [*Working Paper*]

García-Montoya, Laura, Güiza-Gómez, Diana Isabel and Ana Montoya. Policy Conflict and the Political Economy of Land Restitution in Colombia. [*Working Paper*]

Güiza-Gómez and **García-Montoya, Laura**. “Land Dispossession on Trial: Claim-Making and Judicial Behavior in the Colombian Land Restitution Program”. [*Working Paper*]

- Winner of Repal Best-paper prize (2024).

Selected Work in Progress

Wealth Defense and Taxation: Exploring the Effects of Off-Shore Accounts Usage on Inequality (with Pilar Manzi)

The Pacifying Role of Education: the case of Radio Sutatenza in Colombia (with Natalia Garbiras, Leopoldo Fergusson, María Medellín, and Bruno Cardinale)

Long-Term and Dynamic Consequences of Land Reform in Perú (with Ethan Kaplan and Mateo Uribe)

Protecting land in courtrooms: Economic elites’ capacity and Judicial Behavior in Colombia (with Isabel Güiza-Gómez and Ana Montoya)

Emergence and Dynamics of the “Environmental State” in Colombia

The Impact of Selective Killings on the Quality of Local Governance: Evidence from Colombia. (with Ana Arjona, Sarah Moore, and Mario Chacón)

Public Writing

García-Montoya, Laura & Isabel Güiza-Gómez. “Colombians are occupying land to protest inequality. Here’s the history.” *The Monkey Cage*, *Washington Post*, October 2022. [Link to Column](#)

García-Montoya, Laura & Isabel Güiza-Gómez. “Reformismo agrario, paz y democracia en Colombia” *Periodico Universidad Nacional*, October 2022. [Link to Column](#)

García-Montoya, Laura & Isabel Güiza-Gómez. “El fantasma de las invasiones de tierras: implicaciones para la Reforma Agraria” *La Silla Vacía*, October 2022. [Link to Column](#)

García-Montoya, Laura “Techos rotos de la segunda vuelta” *Razón Pública*, June 2022. [Link to Column](#)

García-Montoya, Laura & Arturo Chang. “La historia del “progreso” que deja atrás a millones en Colombia: Algunas lecciones de la movilización nacional”. *La Silla Llena*, July 2021. [Link to Column](#)

Chang, Arturo & **Laura García-Montoya**. “Colombia’s “Progress” Leaves Millions Behind”. *Foreign Policy*, June 2021. [Link to Column](#)

García-Montoya, Laura and James Mahoney “The Logic of Critical Event Analysis”. *Trajectories*, *Newsletter of the ASA Comparative and Historical Sociology Section*, Vol 30 No 2-3. Winter/Spring 2019. [Link to Essay](#)

Castillo, Isabel and **Laura García-Montoya** “Orden y Progreso: Historia de las profundas desigualdades en Chile”. *Foco Económico. Un Blog Latinoamericano de Economía y Política*. November, 2019. [Link to Column](#)

GRANTS, HONORS, & AWARDS

- 2024 2024 APSA Summer Centennial Center Research Grant. USD 10,000
Scholarship as an invited guest researcher of the project “Extractivism in Latin America and the Maghreb”, University of Kassel
- 2023 SSHRC Insight Development Grant 2023-2025, “The Long-Term Economic and Political Consequences of Land Reform: Evidence from Perú”. CAD 74,000
Munk School Seed Grant Program. CAD 5000
- 2021 Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Visiting Fellow, University of Notre Dame
- 2020 Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Postdoctoral Fellow, Princeton University
Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Research Grant, Northwestern University
Political Science Department Nominee for Weinberg College Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award, Northwestern University (Award postponed due to Covid)
- 2019 Dispute Resolution Research Center, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University
Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Dissertation Summer Research Grant, Northwestern University
Presidential Fellowship Nominee, Northwestern University
Travel Conference Award, Political Science Department, Northwestern University
- 2018 Dissertation Research Travel Award, Buffett Institute, Northwestern University
Travel Conference Award, Political Science Department, Northwestern University
CHSS Global Partnership grant to attend Conference in Florence
Travel Conference Award, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
Travel Conference Award, Buffet Institute, Northwestern University
- 2017 Travel Conference Award, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
Political Science Department Grant to attend IQMR, Northwestern University
Comparative Historical Social Sciences Workshop Travel Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2016 Dissertation Research Travel Award, Buffett Institute, Northwestern University

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 “Policy Conflict and the Political Economy of Land Restitution in Colombia”. Extractivism Annual Conference. Kassel University, July 2nd.
- “‘How Political Assassinations Impact Participation: Evidence from Colombia’”. Microeconomics Seminar, Department of Economics at York University, March 21st.
- “Policy Conflict and the Political Economy of Land Restitution in Colombia”. Comparative Politics Workshop, Northwestern University, March 1st.
- 2023 “Trapped by Inequality: Narratives of Progress and The Politics of Redistribution in Latin America”. LCR Economics Seminar Series: Origins of Inequality in Latin America. World Bank. April 20th
- 2022 “Trapped by Inequality: Politics of Redistribution and Development Paradigms in Latin America”. Universidad Católica de Uruguay, July 13th.
- “Entering the Political Arena: Institutional Claim-making for Redistribution and the Left Turn in Post-Accord Colombia”. Universidad del Rosario, Departamento de Economía. Political Economy Workshop. June 13
- “‘What is happening in Colombia? A conversation with experts’”. Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Utah. May 24. [Link to Video](#)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Land Dispossession on Trial: Claim-Making and Judicial Behavior in the Colombian Land Restitution Program”, LASA, June 12th-June 15th.
- “Emergence and Dynamics of the “Environmental State” in Colombia”, LASA, June 12th-June 15th.
- “Policy Conflict and the Political Economy of Land Restitution in Colombia”. PCJ Conference, University of Toronto, January 26th.
- 2023 “How Political Assassinations Impact Participation: Evidence from Colombia”. International Economics Association, December 14th.
- Workshop: “El Estado del ‘Estado Verde’ en los países andinos: Estructuras, actores y desafíos”, trAndes and PUCP, Lima, Nov 7 - 8.
- “Policy Conflict: Ethnic Land Restitution and Natural Resource Extraction in Colombia”. APSA. September 2

- 2023 “Redistributive Politics: Wealth Defense and Taxation”’. MPSA. April 14th cont.
- “Entering the Political Arena: Institutional Claim-making for Redistribution and the Left Turn in Post-Accord Colombia”. Munk Research Seminar. April 12th
- “Entering the Political Arena: Institutional Claim-making for Redistribution and the Left Turn in Post-Accord Colombia”. GTAL. February 24
- 2022 “Entering the Political Arena: Institutional Claim-making for Redistribution and the Left Turn in Post-Accord Colombia”. SWMMR. University of Notre Dame. October 27 - 28.
- “Entering the Political Arena: Institutional Claim-making for Redistribution and the Left Turn in Post-Accord Colombia”. Repal, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella. June 30 – July 1
- “Land Restitution and Racial Inequality in Colombia’s Post-conflict Transition: Examining Tensions Between Collective Land Titles and ”Development” Latin American Studies Association. San Francisco. May 5–8, 2022
- Colombian Studies Initiative Faculty Working Group NYU and Universidad del Rosario. April 28.
- 2021 “Land Restitution and Racial Inequality in Colombia’s Post-conflict Transition”. Kroc-Kellogg peace, conflict, crime and violence workshop. University of Notre Dame. December 2
- ““Which Oppression?” Narratives of National Progress and Popular Organizing in 1970s Colombia”. South West Mixed Methods. Evanston. Nov 4 - 5
- “The Politics of Redistribution in Latin America: Tax legislation in Colombia and Perú in comparative perspective”. Repal, Cornell University Einaudi Center’s Latin American Studies Program, July 15- 17th
- 2020 “The pacifying role of education: The case of Radio Sutatenza.” American Political Science Association. Annual meeting, San Francisco. September 10 - 13
- “The Politics of Redistribution in Latin America: Tax legislation in Colombia and Perú in comparative perspective”. Repal, Universidad di Tella, Buenos Aires. June 15-16.
- “The Politics of Redistribution in Latin America: Tax Reforms in Colombia and Perú in the 1930s”. LACS Graduate Workshop. Northwestern University. January 30.

- 2019 “The pacifying role of education: the case of Radio Sutatenza”. Annual Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research, ITAM, Mexico City. October 24-25
- “Measuring Essentially Contested Concepts”. Comparative Historical Social Sciences Workshop - Northwestern University. Fall
- “The pacifying role of education: the case of Radio Sutatenza”. Latin American Studies Association. Annual Meeting, Boston. May 24-27
- “Paths of Economic Inequality in Latin America: The State and The Politics of Distribution” V Seminario Desigualdad y Movilidad Social en América Latina. Annual meeting, Santiago de Chile. May 6-8
- “The Impact of Selective Violence during War on the Quality of Local Government.” Midwest Political Science Association. Annual Meeting, Chicago. April 4-7
- 2018 “Relative Power of the State: A Theory of Economic Inequality”, Presented at the EDGS series at Buffet Institute. Fall.
- “The Logic of Critical Event Analysis.” American Political Science Association. Annual meeting, Boston. August 30 - Sep 2
- “The Logic of Critical Event Analysis.” American Sociological Association. Annual meeting, Philadelphia. August 11-14
- “Paths of Economic Inequality: The Relative Power of the State” Summer Conference on Economy and Society. Annual meeting, European University Institute, Florence, Italy. July 1 - 4.
- “Paths of Economic Inequality: The Relative Power of the State”. Comparative Politics Workshop, Political Science Department, Northwestern University
- “Paths of Economic Inequality: Parasitism in Colombia.” Chicago area Comparative Historical Social Sciences Conference. Chicago. May 10 - 11.
- “Paths of Economic Inequality: Parasitism in Colombia.” Midwest Political Science Association. Annual Meeting, Chicago. April 5 - 8
- 2017 “State Formation and Power: Production and Reproduction of Inequality in Latin America”. Latin American Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Lima. April 29 - May 1.
- “State Building and Inequality in Latin America: A Critical Juncture Approach”. Comparative Historical Social Sciences Workshop - Northwestern University. Spring
- “State Building and Inequality in Latin America: A Critical Juncture Approach” Midwest Political Science Association. Annual Meeting, Chicago. April 6 - 9.
- “A Dynamic Approach to the Relationship between Inequality and Civil War” Midwest Political Science Association. Annual Meeting, Chicago. April 6 - 9.
- 2013 “Evaluating the symptoms of rent-seeking in Colombian municipalities.” Latin American Association of Political Science. Annual meeting, Bogota. September 26-28.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

- Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis (MPP) (Fall 2022, Fall 2024)
- Introduction to Peace, Conflict and Justice II: Exploring Violent Conflicts through the Lenses of Inequality (PCJ) (Spring 2023, 2024)
- Topics in Development II: Conflict and Post-Conflict Transitions (MGA) (Winter 2024)

Invited Lectures / Courses

- Munk PPG Contentious Politics Course (Winter 2024)
- Munk 200 - Post-conflict Transitions and Inequality (Winter 2023, Winter 2024)

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), University of Syracuse

- Module on Qualitative Methods (Summer 2024) (with James Mahoney and Gary Goertz)

Universidad del Rosario, Facultad de Estudios Políticos, Internacionales y Urbanos

- Política Económica Colombiana (Spring 2022)
- Métodos de Análisis Cuantitativo para Ciencias Sociales (Spring 2022)

Northwestern University, Department of Political Science

- Lecturer of Politics of Latin America (Spring 2020)

Teaching Assistant to Graduate level courses:

- Introduction to Probability and Statistics (Fall 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)
- Linear Models (Winter 2016)
- Quantitative Methods for Causal Inference (Spring 2016, Spring 2018)

Teaching Assistant to Undergraduate level courses:

- Honors Thesis (Fall 2019, Winter 2020)
- Topics in Managerial Analytics: Analytics for Strategy (Applied econometrics for Kellogg Certificate) (Winter 2019)
- Drugs and Politics (Spring 2017)
- Global Development (Winter 2017)

Invited Lectures/Workshops

- Introduction to R for Stata Users (Summer 2019)
- Lecture on Data Visualization, Linear Models (Winter 2019)
- Data Science Research Consultant, Research Computing Services Team (2019)
- R Workshop: Selected among graduate students to develop and teach a series of 10 R workshops (Summer, Fall 2018)

- Math Camp - R instructor (September 2017, 2018)

Universidad de Los Andes

Teaching Assistant in the Department of Economics

- Competition and Regulation (Master's course)
- Introduction to the Colombian Economy
- Introduction to Microeconomics

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Revista Cuadernos de Economía*, *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*, *Revista de Ciencia Política (x3)*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*

Organization Committee of Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research: 2022-present

Professional Associations: *American Political Science Association*, *Latin American Studies Association*, *Midwest Political Science Association*, *REPAL*

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

University of Toronto

Anti-racism Action Table (Fall 2022 to present)

Social Movements Workshop co-organizer (Fall 2023-present)

Dissertation Committee Member Maria Francisca Granda

Universidad del Rosario

Comité de Investigación FEIPU

Jurado Tesis Catalina Chacón

Northwestern University

Graduate Student Coordinator, Comparative Historical Social Science Workshop (2016-2017)

Graduate Students Association (Commune) Co-Chair, Department of Political Science (2017-2018)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- European Consortium for Political Research, Summer School in Methods and Techniques - Central European University, July 2017
 - Process Tracing Methodology: Foundations and Guidelines
 - Introduction to Machine Learning

- The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research - Syracuse University, June 2017
 - Qualitative Methods for Causal Analysis
 - Designing and Conducting Field Research
 - Within-Case and Small-N Analysis
 - Introduction to Interpretative/Ethnographic Methods
- Teaching Certificate Program, Political Science Department, Northwestern University. Academic year 2016-2017.

SKILLS

Languages: Native Spanish, Fluent English

Software: R (advanced), Stata (advanced), Python (Beginner)