

# MICHELLE TORRES

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Employment **Rice University**, Department of Political Science  
Assistant Professor, 2019-Present

Education **Washington University in St. Louis**, St. Louis, MO  
Ph.D, Political Science, 2019.  
M.A., Statistics, 2019.  
M.A., Political Science, 2015.

**Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)**, Mexico City, Mexico  
B.A., Political Science & International Relations, 2010.  
*Degree with Honors.*

Articles Homola, Jonathan, Jon Rogowski, Betsy Sinclair, Michelle Torres, Patrick Tucker, and Steven Webster. Forthcoming. *"Through the Ideology of the Beholder: Partisan Perceptions and Polarization Among the Mass Public."* *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Torres, Michelle, and Francisco Cantú. 2022. *"Learning to See: Visual Analysis for Social Science Data."* *Political Analysis* 30(1): 113-131.

Torres, Michelle. 2020. *"Estimating controlled direct effects through marginal structural models."* *Political Science Research and Methods* 28(3): 391-408 (Leading article).

Tucker, Patrick, Betsy Sinclair, Steven S. Smith, and Michelle Torres. 2019. *"Pathways to Trump: Republican Voters in 2016."* *Electoral Studies* 61: 102035.

Montgomery, Jacob M., Brendan Nyhan, and Michelle Torres. 2018. *"How controlling for post-treatment variables can ruin your experiment and what to do about it."* *American Journal of Political Science* 62(3): 760-75.

- One of the twenty most downloaded articles published in the journal from 2017–2018
- Featured in the 2019 virtual issue of twenty highly-cited articles from the journal.

Boston, Joshua, Jonathan Homola, Betsy Sinclair, Michelle Torres, and Patrick Tucker. 2018. *"The Dynamic Relationship between Personality Stability and Political Attitudes."* *Public Opinion Quarterly* 82(1): 257-79.

Butler, Ryden, Jacob M. Montgomery, Brendan Nyhan, and Michelle Torres. 2018. *"Revisiting White Backlash: How Race Affects Death Penalty Opinion Today."* *Research & Politics* 5(1): 1-9.

Torres, Michelle, and Steven S. Smith. 2018. *"Revisiting Bedrock Values: The Stability and Predictive Power of the Society Works Best Index."* *American Politics Research* 46(2): 308-35.

Books and book chapters Torres, Michelle, and Jeff Gill. Forthcoming. *"Flagship entries: Generalized Linear Models."* In *Methods Foundations*. SAGE Publications.

Gill, Jeff, and Michelle Torres. 2019. *Generalized Linear Models. A unified approach*. 2nd edition. SAGE Publications.

Working papers

Torres, Michelle. "The Bag of Visual Words: Using computer vision to understand visual frames and political communication."

Torres, Michelle. "Framing a Protest: Determinants and Effects of Visual Frames."

Archer, Allison and Michelle Torres. "Local News, Billionaire Owners, and Political Accountability."

Ba, Bocar, Jacob Kaplan, Dean Knox, Mayya Komisarchik, Rachel Mariman, Jonathan Mummolo, Roman Rivera, and Michelle Torres. "Who are the Police? Descriptive Representation in the Coercive Arm of Government."

Butler, Daniel M., Adam Dynes, and Michelle Torres. "Minimizing Partisanship in Elections: The Impact of Nonpartisan Ballots on Who is Elected."

Manuscripts in preparation

Torres, Michelle, and Jonathan Homola. "The shades and shapes of the pink wave: Visual perspectives of the Women's March."

Torres, Michelle. "A picture is worth a thousand treatments: a dimension reduction method for the identification of visual treatments."

Torres, Michelle. "Beyond prediction: using Convolutional Neural Networks for inference."

Gasparyan, Olga, Elena Sirotkina, and Michelle Torres. "How non-textual information impacts polarization."

Honors & Awards

2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. Travel grant for the Political Methodology Summer Meeting, National Science Foundation.

2018. Association of Women Faculty Graduate Student Award, Washington University in St. Louis.

2017. Society for Political Methodology: Best Poster Award, 34th Annual Summer Meeting.

2017. Three Minute Thesis Competition winner, Washington University in St. Louis.

2013-2018. Academic Scholarship for International Graduate Students, National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), Mexico

2013. University Fellowship, Washington University in Saint Louis.

2011. Honorific mention for Senior Thesis, Adviser: Lorena Ruano.

2007. Academic Excellence Scholarship, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).

2006. Academic Excellence Scholarship, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).

Grants

**Creative Venture funds**, 2021, *Rice University*: \$9,670.00

**Race and Anti-Racism Research Fund**, 2020, *Rice University*: \$22,392.00

**Creative Venture funds**, 2019, *Rice University*: \$9,475.00

Invited talks

**Colloquium for Statistical Analyses at WZB Berlin** 2022.

**NYU Quantitative Methods Seminar** 2021.

**CIVICA Data Science Seminar Series** 2021.

**Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Festival** 2021

**TAMU Program in Research Methods Speaker Series** 2020.

**LSU Research Colloquium Series** 2020.

**UC-Berkeley Research Workshop in American Politics** 2019.

**UW-Madison American Politics Workshop** 2019.

	<p> <b>UCLA Methods Workshop</b> 2019.  <b>Stanford Political Methodology Workshop</b> 2019.  <b>ISU Methods Speaker Series</b> 2019.  <b>Gender, Politics, and Quantitative Methods</b> 2019.  <b>Black &amp; Blue Conference</b> 2019.  <b>New Faces in Political Methodology</b> 2018.  <b>Harvard Applied Statistics Workshop</b> 2018.  <b>Northeast Political Methodology Program</b> 2017.  <b>Modeling Politics in Time and Space Conference</b> 2017.  <b>St. Louis Area Methods Meeting</b> 2015. </p>
Conference Participations	<p> <b>Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science</b> 2021 (Chair), 2020 (Chair).  <b>TexMeth</b> 2019.  <b>Latin America Polmeth</b> 2018, 2021.  <b>American Political Science Association Annual Conference</b> 2021 (Discussant), 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015.  <b>Summer Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology</b> 2020 (Discussant); 2019 (Discussant), 2018 (Paper); 2017 (Poster), 2016 (Poster).  <b>St. Louis Area Methods Meeting</b> 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018.  <b>Harvard Experimental Political Science Graduate Student Conference</b> 2018, 2017.  <b>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference</b> 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015.  <b>Political Science Data Conference</b> 2016 (Discussant).  <b>Behavioral Models of Politics</b> 2014. </p>
Teaching	<p> <b>Rice University</b>  <i>Graduate level</i>  "Introduction to Statistics" (Fall 2021)  "Advanced Topics in Political Methodology: Causal Inference" (Fall 2019, Spring 2022)  "Advanced Topics in Political Methodology: Computational Social Sciences" (Fall 2020)  "Visual analysis" (STaRT Rice course, Fall 2021)  <i>Undergraduate level</i>  "Applied Research Methods" (Spring 2020) </p> <p> <b>Washington University in St. Louis</b>  "Introduction to Python" (2017 Summer course). </p> <p> <b>Others</b>  "Image as Data: Quantitative Image Analysis with R and Python", Data Science Summer School, CIVICA, Summer 2021.  "Causal Inference", Department of Economics, Universidad de la República in Uruguay, 2020. </p>
Departmental Service	<p> American Politics Search Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2021.  Speaker Series Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2021.  Undergraduate Studies Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2020.  Speaker in "Reflections on Juneteenth and America's Racial Legacy Lectures", <i>Rice University</i>, 2020.  Speaker Series Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2019.  American Politics Search Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2019.  Speaker in Minorities in Social Sciences panels, <i>Rice University</i>, 2019. </p>
Service to the discipline	<p> Section chair of the EPSA Annual Meeting, 2022.  Section chair of the MPSA Annual Meeting, 2022. </p>

Member of the editorial board of the Journal of Politics, 2021-Present.  
Member of the editorial board of the Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media, 2020-Present.  
Section chair of the MPSA Annual Meeting, 2021.  
Member of the Depolarization Challenge Advisory Board, 2020-Present.  
Member of the Diversity Committee of the Society for Political Methodology, 2020-2022.  
Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Political Analysis*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *Research & Politics*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Science Advances*, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research*.

Non-academic  
experience

**Buendía & Laredo, Mexico City, Mexico**

Project Coordinator, June 2011 - August 2013.  
Chief of Research Department, February 2011-May 2011.  
Internship, October 2010-January 2011.

**Office of International Affairs of the Presidency, Mexico City, Mexico**

Social service, January 2009-June 2009.

Software

**weightTAPSPACK** (with Dave Carlson and Taeyong Park).

The **weightTAPSPACK** is an R package that subsets The American Panel Survey (TAPS) data by outcome and covariates, models the attrition rates, imputes data for attrited individuals, and finds weights for analysis. <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/weightTAPSPACK/index.html>

**GLMpack** (with Jeff Gill and Simon Heuberger).

The **GLMpack** is an R package that contains all the data and functions used in *Generalized Linear Models*, 2nd edition, by Jeff Gill and Michelle Torres. Examples to create all models, tables, and plots are included for each data set. <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/weightTAPSPACK/index.html>

Computer Skills

Statistical Packages: R, STATA, MPlus, BUGS/JAGS, & SPSS.  
Languages: Python, HTML.

References

Betsy Sinclair  
Jacob Montgomery  
Jeff Gill  
Steve S. Smith