MICHELLE TORRES

Contact Information
Department of Political Science
4289 Bunche Hall, Office 3377
11282 Portola Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095

✉ smtorres@ucla.edu
🖰 http://smtorres.org
⭘ smtorres

Employment

University of California, Los Angeles, *Department of Political Science*
Assistant Professor, 2023-Present

Rice University, *Department of Political Science*
Assistant Professor, 2019-2023

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, *DYNAMICS Research Training Group*
Visiting Researcher, Spring 2023

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

Butler, Daniel M., Adam Dynes, and Michelle Torres. *"Nonpartisan Ballots and the Partisanship of Who Serves in Office."* Conditionally accepted pending replication at the Journal of Politics.

Ba, Bocar, Jacob Kaplan, Dean Knox, Mayya Komisarchik, Rachel Mariman, Jonathan Mummolo, Roman Rivera, and Michelle Torres. 2025. "Political diversity in U.S. police agencies." *American Journal of Political Science.* Online First View.

Torres, Michelle. 2024. "A framework for the unsupervised and semi-supervised analysis of visual frames." *Political Analysis* 32(2): 199-220.

Homola, Jonathan, Jon Rogowski, Betsy Sinclair, Michelle Torres, Patrick Tucker, and Steven Webster. 2023. "Through the Ideology of the Beholder: how ideology shapes perceptions of partisan groups." *Political Science Research and Methods* 11(2): 275–92.

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. 2021. "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.

Work in progress

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

Pugh, Alex, and Michelle Torres. *"Beyond prediction: Identifying and Accounting for Latent Treatments in Images." Draft available upon request.*

Torres, Michelle and William Zelin. *"Framing a Protest: Determinants and Effects of Visual Frames." Draft available upon request.*

Kittel Rebecca, Michelle Torres, and Ana Fruhstorfer (Guest Editors). *"Digital Communication and Computational Approaches to Understanding Social Movements in the Social Media Era"*. *Computational Communication Research.*

Honors & Awards

2024. Early Career Award, Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science.
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	**EuroPolmeth, London School of Economics** (Keynote speaker) 2025. **EITM, University of Houston** 2025 **Methods Speaker Series, University of Georgia** 2025. **Computational Social Science Workshop, Yale University** 2025. **Speaker Series, Claremont College** 2025 **Latin America Polmeth, Universidad de la República** (Keynote speaker) 2024. **Images and Protests Workshop, Freie Universität Berlin** (Keynote speaker) 2024. **Methods Seminar, Princeton University** 2024. **AI in Social Sciences Workshop, Ohio State University** 2024. **Methods Seminar, University of California at Berkeley** 2023. **Master Class, University of Oxford** 2023. **LSE Political Behaviour Seminar Series, London School of Economics** 2023. **MZES Colloquium, Universität Mannheim** 2023. **DYNAMICS Lecture Series , Humboldt-Universität** 2023. **Speaker series, Universidad de Barcelona** 2023. **Stanford Political Methodology Workshop** 2022. **Global and Transnational Challenges Speaker Series, University of Pittsburgh** 2022. **Conference in Applied Methods for Political Science, University of Rochester** 2022. **Colloquium for Statistical Analyses at WZB Berlin** 2022. **NYU Quantitative Methods Seminar** 2021. **CIVICA Data Science Seminar Series, Hertie School** 2021. **Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Festival, Princeton University (On-line)** 2021 **Program in Research Methods Speaker Series, Texas A&M University** 2020. **Research Colloquium Series, Louisiana State University** 2020. **Research Workshop in American Politics, University of California at Berkeley** 2019. **American Politics Workshop, UW-Madison** 2019. **Methods Workshop, University of California, Los Angeles** 2019. **Political Methodology Workshop, Stanford University** 2019. **Methods Speaker Series, Iowa State University** 2019. **Gender, Politics, and Quantitative Methods, Texas A&M University** 2019. **Black & Blue Conference, Washington University in St. Louis** 2019. **New Faces in Political Methodology, Pennsylvania State University** 2018. **Applied Statistics Workshop, Harvard University** 2018. **Northeast Political Methodology Program, New York University** 2017. **Modeling Politics in Time and Space Conference, Texas A&M University** 2017. **St. Louis Area Methods Meeting, Washington University in St. Louis** 2015.
Conference Participations	**American Political Science Association Annual Conference** 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 (Discussant), 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015. **Summer Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology** 2024 (Discussant), 2022 (Paper), 2021 (Discussant), 2020 (Discussant), 2019 (Discussant), 2018 (Paper), 2017 (Poster), 2016 (Poster). **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference** 2022, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015. **European Political Science Association Annual Conference** 2024, 2022. **Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science** 2022 (Organizer), 2021 (Chair), 2020 (Chair). **Latin America Polmeth** 2024, 2021, 2018. **TexMeth** 2019. **St. Louis Area Methods Meeting** 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014. **Harvard Experimental Political Science Graduate Student Conference** 2018, 2017. **Political Science Data Conference** 2016 (Discussant). **Behavioral Models of Politics** 2014.

Teaching	**University of California, Los Angeles**
	Graduate level
	"Probability and Statistical Inference in Social Science" (Fall 2024)
	"Special Topics in Formal Theory and Quantitative Methods: Computational Social Science" (Fall 2023, Spring 2025)
	Undergraduate level
	"Studies in Statistical Analysis of Political Data: Applied Research Methods" (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
	Rice University
	Graduate level
	"Introduction to Statistics" (Fall 2021, 2022)
	"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)
	Undegraduate level
	"Applied Research Methods" (Spring 2020)
	Others
	"Image Analysis 101", ICPST-MIDAS Summer School, University of Michigan, Summer 2024.
	"Image Analysis 101", Invited workshop, American University, March 2024.
	"Methods for Image Analysis", Methods and Professionalization Workshop Series, DYNAMICS, Humboldt Universität, Spring 2023.
	"Image as Data: Quantitative Image Analysis with R and Python", Data Science Summer School, CIVICA, Hertie School, Summer 2021.
	"Causal Inference", Department of Economics, Universidad de la República in Uruguay, 2020.
	"Introduction to Python", Washington University in St. Louis, Summer 2017.
Departmental/University Service	Graduate Admissions Committee, *UCLA*, 2023-Present.
	Methods Field Chair Representative of the Graduate Studies Committee, *UCLA*, 2023-Present.
	Co-director of STaRT@Rice (Statistical Training and Research Techniques), *Rice University*, 2022-2023.
	Sponsor of Minorities in Social Sciences club, *Rice University*, 2022-2023.
	American Politics Search Committee, *Rice University*, 2021, 2019.
	Speaker Series Committee, *Rice University*, 2021, 2019.
	Undergraduate Studies Committee, *Rice University*, 2020.
	Speaker in "Reflections on Juneteenth and America's Racial Legacy Lectures", *Rice University*, 2020.
	Speaker in Minorities in Social Sciences panels, *Rice University*, 2019.
Service to the discipline	Member of the Program Committee of PolMeth XLII, 2025.
	Chair of the Early Career Award committee, Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science, 2025.
	Member of the Becky Morton & Tom Carsey Political Methodology Mentoring Award committee, Society for Political Methodology, 2021-Present.
	Member of the editorial board of *Political Analysis*, 2025-Present.
	Member of the editorial board of the *American Journal of Political Science*, 2023-Present.
	Member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Politics*, 2021-2024.
	Member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 2020-Present.
	Associate Editor of *Research & Politics*, 2022-Present.
	Section chair of the EPSA Annual Meeting, 2022.
	Section chair of the MPSA Annual Meeting, 2022.

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.
Member of the SPM Poster Award committee, Society for Political Methodology, 2022, 2019.
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*, *Journal of Quantitative Description*, *Perspectives in Politics*, *Political Communication*, *Sociological Methods*, *Political Science Research & Methods*, *International Organization*, 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/GLMpack/index.html
Computer Skills	Statistical Packages: R, STATA, MPlus, BUGS/JAGS, & SPSS. Languages: Python, HTML.