

MICHELLE TORRES

Contact Information Department of Political Science, MS-24
109 Herzstein Hall
6100 Main Street
Houston, TX 77005

☎ 314-660-5059
✉ smtorres@rice.edu
🌐 <http://smtorres.org>
📱 [smtorres](#)

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	<p>Torres, Michelle. <i>"A framework for the unsupervised and semi-supervised analysis of visual frames."</i> <i>Revise and Resubmit</i>.</p> <p>Ba, Bocar, Jacob Kaplan, Dean Knox, Mayya Komisarchik, Rachel Mariman, Jonathan Mummolo, Roman Rivera, and Michelle Torres. <i>"Who are the Police? Descriptive Representation in the Coercive Arm of Government."</i> <i>Revise and Resubmit</i></p> <p>Torres, Michelle. <i>"Framing a Protest: Determinants and Effects of Visual Frames."</i></p> <p>Archer, Allison and Michelle Torres. <i>"Local News, Billionaire Owners, and Political Accountability."</i></p> <p>Butler, Daniel M., Adam Dynes, and Michelle Torres. <i>"Minimizing Partisanship in Elections: The Impact of Nonpartisan Ballots on Who is Elected."</i></p> <p>Pugh, Alex, and Michelle Torres. <i>"Beyond prediction: Inferential Tools for Image Analysis."</i></p>
Manuscripts in preparation	<p>Torres, Michelle, and Jonathan Homola. <i>"The shades and shapes of the pink wave: Visual perspectives of the Women's March."</i></p> <p>Gasparyan, Olga, Elena Sirotkina, and Michelle Torres. <i>"How non-textual information impacts polarization."</i></p>
Honors & Awards	<p>2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. Travel grant for the Political Methodology Summer Meeting, National Science Foundation.</p> <p>2018. Association of Women Faculty Graduate Student Award, Washington University in St. Louis.</p> <p>2017. Society for Political Methodology: Best Poster Award, 34th Annual Summer Meeting.</p> <p>2017. Three Minute Thesis Competition winner, Washington University in St. Louis.</p> <p>2013-2018. Academic Scholarship for International Graduate Students, National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), Mexico</p> <p>2013. University Fellowship, Washington University in Saint Louis.</p> <p>2011. Honorific mention for Senior Thesis, Adviser: Lorena Ruano.</p> <p>2007. Academic Excellence Scholarship, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).</p> <p>2006. Academic Excellence Scholarship, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).</p>
Grants	<p>Creative Venture funds, 2021, <i>Rice University</i>: \$9,670.00</p> <p>Race and Anti-Racism Research Fund, 2020, <i>Rice University</i>: \$22,392.00</p> <p>Creative Venture funds, 2019, <i>Rice University</i>: \$9,475.00</p>
Invited talks	<p>Conference in Applied Methods for Political Science, University of Rochester, 2022. Colloquium for Statistical Analyses at WZB Berlin 2022.</p> <p>NYU Quantitative Methods Seminar 2021.</p> <p>CIVICA Data Science Seminar Series 2021.</p> <p>Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Festival 2021</p> <p>TAMU Program in Research Methods Speaker Series 2020.</p> <p>LSU Research Colloquium Series 2020.</p> <p>UC-Berkeley Research Workshop in American Politics 2019.</p> <p>UW-Madison American Politics Workshop 2019.</p> <p>UCLA Methods Workshop 2019.</p> <p>Stanford Political Methodology Workshop 2019.</p>

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

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