

TARA HEIN

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Education

Harvard University Ph.D. in Government 2025 –
Presidential Scholar, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Stanford University B.A. Political Science, with Distinction June 2023
Interdisciplinary Honors in Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law
Honors Thesis: “Seeing Like a Citizen: Fragmented Citizenship in Santiago de Chile”
Advisors: Beatriz Magaloni and Jeremy Weinstein
Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Gobierno — Study Abroad Jan–Mar 2022
University of Oxford, Latin American Centre — Study Abroad Sep–Dec 2021

Academic Affiliations

External Affiliate, Poverty, Violence, and Governance Lab, Stanford University 2025–
Graduate Student Affiliate, Democracy Action Lab, Stanford University 2025–

Working Papers

Hein, Tara. “Democracy in Costa Rica.” In *Central America’s Democratic Crisis: Drivers of Backsliding and Sources of Resilience*, edited by Steve Levitsky and Manuel Meléndez-Sánchez (book chapter in progress).

Hein, Tara. “Seeing Like a Citizen: Fragmented Citizenship in Santiago de Chile.”

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Poverty, Violence, and Governance Lab, Stanford University 2022–2023
Visiting Researcher, Facultad de Gobierno, Universidad de Chile 2022
Research Assistant, Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality 2020–2021

Teaching

Undergraduate TA, PUBLPOL 141: Monitoring the Crisis, Stanford University 2020–2021

Presentations

“Fragmented Citizenship.” Symposium of Undergraduate Research, Stanford University, 2023
“Fragmented Citizenship.” National Student Research Conference, Pi Sigma Alpha, 2023
“Una Ciudadanía Desigual.” Facultad de Gobierno, Universidad de Chile, 2022

Awards and Honors

Presidential Scholar, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,	2025
Lassen Fellowship in Latin American Studies, Princeton University - <i>Declined</i>	2024
Firestone Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, Stanford University	2023
Phi Beta Kappa, Stanford University	2023
Rebele Journalism Internship Program, Stanford University, (\$7,700)	2023
Undergraduate Major Grant, Stanford University, (\$9,000)	2022
Large Research Grant, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University (\$6,400) — <i>Declined</i> ,	2022
Monica Miller Walsh Grant, Center for Latin American Studies, Stanford University (\$5,000) — <i>Declined</i>	2021
Halper International Public Service Fellowship, Haas Center, Stanford University, (\$7,500)	2021
Lunsford Honoree, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University	2021

Professional Experience

Democracy Impact Coordinator , VélezReyes+	2024–2025
Policy Editorial Assistant , Americas Quarterly	2023
Columnist , The Tico Times	2023
International Democracy Project Assistant , Innovation for Politics Institute	2023
Program Assistant , Draper Hills Summer Fellows Program, Stanford CDDRL	2021
Summer Fellow , Observatorio de Desarrollo y Promoción Social (ODP), Mexico	2021

Community and Leadership

Project Advisor, Stanford Democracy Initiative,	2022–2023
Co-Founder and Co-President, Stanford Society for Latin American Politics,	2021–2023
Resident Assistant, Stanford Residential Education,	2022–2023
Founding Member and Panel Director, Latin American Voices in Politics,	2021–2022

Public Outreach

- “Meet the Candidates: Uruguay,” *Americas Quarterly*, 2024
- “From Hand to Hand: Reflections on the Antorcha de la Independencia,” *The Tico Times*, 2023
- “Democracy Amidst the Unearthly Tidings of Latin America,” *The Tico Times*, 2023
- “Costa Rican Democracy’s Silent Alarms,” *The Tico Times*, 2023

Skills

Languages: English (native), Spanish (native), German (native)

Software: R, NVivo, L^AT_EX

Certifications: Stanford Certificate in Poverty and Inequality (2021); IRB Nonmedical Research Certification, CITI Program (2020)

Last updated: November 6, 2025