

Thiago do Nascimento Fonseca

Postdoctoral Fellow, CEPESP/FGV (Brazil)

Incoming Visiting Scholar, IE University (Spain)

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[Website](#) | [GitHub](#)

Executive Summary

Thiago Fonseca is a Pos-doctoral fellow from the CEPESP at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV - São Paulo), incoming Visiting Scholar at IE University (Madrid) for the Spring 2026 term, and a research associate from the Interdisciplinary Research Network on Corruption, Brazil. PhD (2021) and MA (2015) in Political Science and BA in Social Science (2011), University of São Paulo. Political Scientist specializing in anti-corruption, elections, and the judiciary. Research focuses on the impact of anti-corruption policies and patronage on political competition and public policy. Expert in quasi-experimental methods, text analysis, and deep learning.

Education

- **PhD in Political Science**, University of São Paulo (USP), 2021.
 - *Dissertation*: Costs and interests: the political bias of independent anti-corruption institutions.
- **MA in Political Science**, University of São Paulo (USP), 2015.
 - *Dissertation*: Brazilian Federal Audit Court: institutional rules and political variables in explaining its performance.
- **BA in Social Science**, University of São Paulo (USP), 2011.

Professional Experience

- **IE University**, Madrid, Spain
 - Visiting Scholar* | Expected Feb 2026 – Aug 2026
- **Center for Politics and Economics in the Public Sector (CEPESP/FGV)**, Brazil
 - Postdoctoral Fellow* | 2022 – Present
 - Researching the impact of anti-corruption policies on electoral competition and the use of patronage.
 - **Brazilian Political Science Review (BPSR)** *Data Editor* | 2023 – 2025

- Ensuring replicability of empirical results and improving data transparency for all accepted manuscripts.
- **Legisla Brasil Association Researcher & Data Scientist** | 2021 – 2022; 2024 – 2025
 - Developed performance metrics for legislators using web scraping and statistical modeling.
- **Folha de São Paulo Newspaper Data Scientist** | 2022
 - Data-driven journalism and political coverage.

Research Fellowships & Grants

- **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**
 - *Grant: Understanding the Many Faces of Noncompliance in Latin America and the Caribbean, A Research Network Project* | 2026 – Present.
 - *Project: Compliance Trade-offs: Bans on Corporate Money and Public-Job Patronage.*
- **São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), Brazil**
 - *Grant: Postdoctoral Fellow* | 2022 – Present.
 - *Project: Anti-corruption policies on the municipal politics.*
- **Social Science Research Council (SSRC) | 2021**
 - *Grant: "Democratic Anxieties in the Americas".*
 - *Project: Impact of electoral bans on public health policy coverage using causal inference.*

Methodological Skills

- **Programming:** Advanced R, Python (Web Scraping, Data Wrangling).
- **Causal Inference:** Diff-in-Diff, Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), Instrumental Variables, Matching.
- **AI & NLP:** Deep Learning, Machine Learning, Statistical Text Analysis.

Selected Publications

- **Fonseca, T. D. N., & Izumi, M. Y. (2024).** Audit Risk and Wealth Accumulation: When Politicians Give up on Corruption. *Journal of Politics in Latin America*.
- **Fonseca, T. N. (2020).** Between risks and threats: independence and control of the Federal Audit Court in the 1988 Constituent Assembly. *Opinião Pública*.
- **Fonseca, T. N. (2019).** The importance of Federal Audit Court's autonomy for the control of federal public resources transferred to municipalities. *Dados*.

- **Fonseca, T. N.** (2017). Do campaign donations involve future contractual returns? *Revista de Sociologia e Política*.

Current Research (Preprints & Working Papers)

- **Fonseca, T. D. N.** (2025). Who Leaves and Who Enters? Electoral Bans and Political Corruption. *SSRN 5558198*.
- **Fonseca, T. D. N.**, & de Sousa, L. (2025). Distancing from Corruption-Tainted Parties. *SSRN 5480407*.
- **Fonseca, T. N.** & Avelino Filho, G. (2025). Strategic Staffing in Politics: The Role of Local Brokers and Patronage.
- **Fonseca, T. D. N.**, Thomé, D., & Alho Neto, J. (2025). Money Talks? Party Financial Incentives to Promote Underrepresented Groups. Party Financial Incentives to Promote Underrepresented Groups. *SSRN 5499680*

Teaching & Advising

- **Lecturer (2022–2023):** Brazilian Political Science, FGV/EESP.
- **Undergraduate Advisor (2024–Present):** Supervising three research projects on brokerage, patronage, and deep learning in electoral justice.

Data Science Projects

- **ElectoralJustice (2022–2025):** Large-scale database of Brazilian electoral court cases. Used deep learning to structure unstructured legal texts.
- **STFmirror (2020–2021):** Systematic web scraping and database organization of all Supreme Federal Court (STF) cases.

Affiliations

- Interdisciplinary Research Network on Corruption, Brazil.
- Center for Politics and Economics in the Public Sector (CEPESP/FGV).