Thomas R. Vargas

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Current   Postdoctoral Fellow, **McMaster University**
Department of Political Science

DEGREES

2020   Ph.D. in Political Science, **University of Minnesota**
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology
Committee: David Samuels, Teri Caraway, John Freeman, and Paul Glewwe.

2012   Master of Public Policy, **The College of William & Mary**
Fields: Public Policy, International Development Politics

2010   B.S. in Foreign Service, **Georgetown University**
Fields: International Politics, Latin American Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019 - 2020   Editorial Assistant
American Political Science Review

2019 - 2020   Visiting Scholar
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University

2016 - 2018   Managing Editor
Comparative Political Studies

2012 - 2014   Policy and Training Analyst
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

PUBLICATIONS

"Flying Blind: Education Reform in Latin America in the 1990s." *International Journal of Education Reform.* International Journal of Educational Reform: 1056787920931487. 2020.

Manuscripts under Review

"Subnational State Capacity, Trust in Government, and Responses to COVID-19: Experimental Survey Evidence from Mexico" with David Lopez.

"Democracy, Land Inequality, and Human Capital Formation" with David Samuels.

"The Political Origins of Education Reform."

Manuscripts in Preparation

"Slow Burn: The Incremental Effect of Unions on Social Spending in Latin America."

"Capital Mobility and Democratization: The Role of the Foreign Elites" with Carly Potz-Nielsen.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2019 (Top, University-Wide Prize), U of M

Department of Political Science Dissertation Research Fellowship 2018, U of M

David and Janis Larson Graduate Research Fellowship in Political Economy 2016-2017, U of M

Robert and Shirley Holt Discovery Fellowship 2014-2015, U of M

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award 2011 & 2012, William & Mary

Graduate Assistant Fellowship 2011 & 2012, William & Mary

SKILLS AND LANGUAGE

Software: STATA, R, LaTeX, JAGS, Git, Beginner Python

Languages: Spanish and English (Native Proficiency)

METHODOLOGY COURSEWORK

Modeling Political Processes:	**A-**
Quantitative Political Science I:	**A**
Quantitative Political Science II:	**A**
Game Theory I:	**A**
MLE for Generalized Linear Models:	**A**
Advanced Multivariate Statistical Methods:	**A**
Dynamic Analysis (Time-Series):	**A-**
Applied Bayesian Statistics (**Audited**)	
Applied Multilevel Modeling (**Audited**)	

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

"*The Political Economy of Education Reform in Latin America*". American Political Science Association 2019.

"*Democracy, Land Inequality, and Human Capital Formation*" with David Samuels. Midwest Political Science Association 2019.

"*Flying Blind: Re-Assessing The State of Latin American Education by the 1990s*" Midwest Political Science Association 2019.

"*The International Dimension of Social Policy Reform in Latin America*" Midwest Political Science Association 2018.

"*Capital Mobility and Democratization: The Role of the Foreign Elites*" with Carly Potz-Nielsen. International Studies Association Conference 2017.

"*The Redistributory Effects of Constitutional Courts in Latin America*" Graduate Student Public Law Conference at the University of Texas, Austin 2017 .

"*Treating Text as Data over Time: Implications for Descriptive and Causal Inference*" with Carly Potz-Nielsen and Robert Ralston. Society for Political Methodology Annual Conference 2016.

"*Bleeding but not Leading: Reporting Bias in Political Violence Events*" with Sarah Parkinson and Benjamin Bagozzi. International Studies Association Conference 2016.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, UMN

- Political Economy of Development (Instructor of Record.) *Summer 2018*.

- TA: Puzzles in World Politics (Professor David Samuels.) *Fall 2015.*
- TA: Struggles and Issues in the Middle East (Professor Sarah Parkinson.) *Spring 2016.*