

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
McMaster University
1280 Main St. West
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8

(647) 883-8629
vargasct@mcmaster.ca
www.thomasrvargas.com
Citizenship: Costa Rica / Canada PR

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

DEGREES

2014-2020 Ph.D. in Political Science, **University of Minnesota**
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology
Committee: David Samuels, Teri Caraway, John Freeman, and Paul Glewwe.
Dissertation: The Political Origins of Education Decentralization in Latin America

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

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

RESEARCH

Thomas R. Vargas. Forthcoming. "Decentralization as a Political Weapon: Education Politics in El Salvador and Paraguay." *Comparative Politics*.
· Honorable Mention, Latin American Studies Association Subnational Politics Section Best Paper Award.

Thomas R. Vargas. 2020. "Flying Blind: Education Reform in Latin America in the 1990s." *International Journal of Education Reform*, 30, 1: 39-55. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1056787920931487>.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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

David Samuels and Thomas R. Vargas. "Democracy, Land Inequality, and Human Capital Formation."

Thomas R. Vargas, Sarah Parkinson, Benjamin Bagozzi. "Reporting versus Reality: US Political Processes and Overreporting Bias in International Events Data. "

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION FOR SUBMISSION TO PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Michelle Dion and Thomas R. Vargas. "The Political Preferences of Prospective Homeowners: Evidence from Canada."

Michelle L. Dion, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, and Thomas R. Vargas. "Do Altimetrics Amplify or Improve the Gender Gap in Scholarly Impact?"

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	2021	Instructor of Record, Comparative Democratization, McMaster University.
	2021	Instructor of Record, Development and Public Policy, McMaster University.
	2020 - 2021	Editorial Assistant, <i>American Political Science Review</i> .
	2019 - 2020	Visiting Scholar, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University.
	2018	Instructor of Record, Political Economy of Development, University of Minnesota
	2016 - 2018	Managing Editor, <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> .
	2016	Teaching Assistant, Politics of the Middle East, University of Minnesota.
	2015	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Comparative Politics, University of Minnesota.
	2012 - 2014	Policy and Training Analyst, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Chile.
AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS	SSHRC Explore - Standard Research and Creation Grant, McMaster University - CAN\$7,000.	
	Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2019 (Top, University-Wide Prize), U of M - US\$25,000.	
	Department of Political Science Dissertation Research Fellowship 2018, U of M - US\$6,000.	
	Five-Year Department of Political Science Summer Fellowship, U of M - US\$40,000.	
	Five-Year Department of Political Science Graduate Studies Fellowship, U of M - US\$113,000.	
CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION	David N. Lopez and Thomas R. Vargas. 2021. "Subnational State Capacity, Trust in Government, and Responses to COVID-19: Experimental Survey Evidence from Mexico." Latin American Studies Association.	
	David N. Lopez and Thomas R. Vargas. 2021. "Subnational State Capacity, Trust in Government, and Responses to COVID-19: Experimental Survey Evidence from Mexico." Midwest Political Science Association.	
	Thomas R. Vargas. 2021. " <i>Slow Burn: The Incremental Effect of Unions on Social Spending in Latin America</i> ." APSA Educational Politics and Policy Winter Conference.	
	Thomas R. Vargas. 2020. " <i>The Political Economy of Education Reform in Latin America</i> ." Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference at the University of Pittsburgh. <i>SUSPENDED</i> .	
	Thomas R. Vargas. 2019. " <i>The Political Economy of Education Reform in Latin America</i> ." American Political Science Association.	
	David Samuels and Thomas R. Vargas. 2019. " <i>Democracy, Land Inequality, and Human Capital Formation</i> ." Midwest Political Science Association.	
	Thomas R. Vargas. 2019. " <i>Flying Blind: Re-Assessing The State of Latin American Education by the 1990s</i> ." Midwest Political Science Association.	
	Thomas R. Vargas. 2018. " <i>The International Dimension of Social Policy Reform in Latin America</i> ." Midwest Political Science Association.	
	Carly Potz-Nielsen and Thomas R. Vargas. 2017. " <i>Capital Mobility and Democratization: The Role of the Foreign Elites</i> ." International Studies Association Conference.	
	Thomas R. Vargas. 2017. " <i>The Redistributive Effects of Constitutional Courts in Latin America</i> " Graduate Student Public Law Conference at the University of Texas, Austin.	
	Carly Potz-Nielsen, Robert Ralsont, and Thomas R. Vargas. 2016. " <i>Treating Text as Data over Time: Implications for Descriptive and Causal Inference</i> ." Society for Political Methodology Annual Conference.	
	Sarah Parkinson, Benjamin Bagozzi, and Thomas R. Vargas. 2016. " <i>Bleeding but not Leading: Reporting Bias in Political Violence Events</i> " International Studies Association Conference.	

SKILLS AND
LANGUAGE

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

Languages: Spanish and English (Native Proficiency)