

SERGIO J. ASCENCIO

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019–

New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Postdoctoral Associate, Social Science Division, 2018–2019

EDUCATION

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.

Ph.D., Political Science, 2018.

Committee: Gretchen Helmke, Tasos Kalandrakis, Bonnie M. Meguid, G. Bingham Powell, Jr.
Fields: Comparative Politics, Formal Theory, Methods.

M.A., Political Science, 2014.

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City.

B.A., Political Science (with Highest Honors), 2011.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Politics: comparative political institutions, political economy, party strategy, candidate selection, electoral manipulation, Latin American politics.

Formal Theory: non-Downsian models of elections, structural estimation of game-theoretic models.

PUBLICATIONS

Ascencio, Sergio J. and Yann P. Kerevel. Forthcoming. “[Party Strategy, Candidate Selection and Legislative Behavior in Mexico](#).” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

Ascencio, Sergio J. Forthcoming. “[Party Influence in Presidential Primaries: Evidence from Mexico](#).” *Party Politics*.

Ascencio, Sergio J. and Miguel R. Rueda. 2019. “[Partisan Poll Watchers and Electoral Manipulation](#).” *American Political Science Review* 113(3): 727-742.

WORKING PAPERS

“Retaining Political Talent: A Candidate-Centered Theory of Primary Adoption.” *Under review*.

“Nomination Rules and the Calculus of Mobilization: Theory and Evidence from Mexico.” *Under review*.

“Does Vote Buying Undermine Confidence in Ballot Secrecy?” (with Han Il Chang). *Under review*.

“Do Divisive Primaries Hurt Parties? Evidence from Mexico.”

“Endogenous Issue Salience in an Ownership Model of Elections,” (with Mike Gibilisco).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Stacking the Deck: Electoral System Change and Democratization in the Mexican States, 1979-2009.”
- “Gubernatorial Influence in Candidate Selection: Evidence from Legislative Primaries in Mexico.”
- “Using Gender Quotas to Fight Intraparty Battles,” (with Chit Basu).
- “Nomination Rules and Candidate Evaluations: Experimental Evidence from Mexico,” (with Han Il Chang).
- “Divided Parties and Term Limits,” (with Gleason Judd).
- “Do Voters (Dis)Like Dynastic Politicians? Experimental Evidence from Pakistan,” (with Rabia Malik).
- “Party System Polarization: Citizen Perception, Manifesto Statements, and Change,” (with Bing Powell).

PUBLICATIONS IN SPANISH

- “Mecanismos de delegación en las comisiones de los Congresos estatales” (2009) in Luisa Béjar *Qué hacen los legisladores en México: el trabajo en comisiones*. México: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. (with Daniel Hernández and Álvaro López-Lara)

AWARDS AND HONORS

United States–Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange

- 2011–2014. Fulbright–García Robles Scholarship for Graduate Studies (Declined).

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

2012. 17th Ex ITAM Research Award for Best Thesis in Political Science.

University of California, San Diego

- 2016–2017. Predoctoral Fellowship, Center for U.S.–Mexican Studies (Declined).

University of Rochester

2017. Program in Empirical Policy Research (PEPR) Grant, Wallis Institute of Political Economy.
- 2016–2017. Dean’s Post-Field Research Dissertation Completion Fellowship.
2015. The Star Lab Conference Presentation Award, Department of Political Science.
- 2014–2015. W. Allen Wallis Graduate Student Fellowship, Wallis Institute of Political Economy.
- 2013–2014. Prize for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, Department of Political Science.
2014. Summer Seed Grant for International Field Research, Department of Political Science.
2013. Second-Year Paper Fellowship, Department of Political Science.
- 2011–2016. University Fellowship, Department of Political Science.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
European Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Prague, Czech Republic. (Canceled)
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. (Canceled)
- 2019 Party Congress Research Group Workshop. University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.
European Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Belfast, Northern Ireland.
Political Economy of Development and Accountability Conference. University of Oxford, England.
- 2018 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2017 Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico. (Invited talk)
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2016 Formal Theory and Comparative Politics Conference. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
Latin American Studies Association International Congress. New York, NY.
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

- 2015 The Electoral Integrity Project Workshop. San Francisco, CA.
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

TEACHING

University of New Mexico

Graduate Student Advisement

- Colin Hannigan, Dissertation committee member, April 2020.
- Melanie Dominguez, Dissertation committee member, In progress.
- Dylan McArthur, Second Year Paper committee member, April 2020.
- Samantha Cooney, Comparative Politics Comprehensive Exam committee member, April 2020.

Courses Taught

- Spring 2020. POLS 521: Comparative Political Institutions (Graduate).
- Spring 2020. POLS 320: Comparative Political Institutions (Undergraduate).
- Fall 2019. LTAM 400/POLS 320: Latin American Culture and Society (Undergraduate).

University of Rochester

Courses Taught (as main instructor)

- Summer 2017. Political Science Instructor for [Early Connection Africa](#).
- Summer 2016, 2017 & 2018. PSC 101: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate).
- Summer 2015 & 2016. Political science department “math pre-fresher” (Graduate).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Office of the Mexican Presidency, Mexico City, Mexico.

Director of Strategic Political Analysis, 2008–2011.

SKILLS

Technical: R, Stata, MATLAB, \LaTeX .

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), Italian (basic).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association (2011–present).

Midwest Political Science Association (2011–present).

Latin American Studies Association (2015–present).

European Political Science Association (2018–present).

SERVICE

Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science; *American Political Science Review*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*; *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Política y Gobierno*.

University Service

Member, Interdisciplinary Committee on Latin American Studies, UNM LAII (2019-2021).

Member, Undergraduate Committee, UNM Department of Political Science (2019-).

REFERENCES

Gretchen Helmke

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