

# CARLA GARCIA (she/her)

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## EDUCATION

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### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

*Ph.D. in Political Science*

2020 – Expected Summer 2026

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow

Dissertation: “Who Said That All Is Lost?": Essays on Student Protest Movements in Latin America

### University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL

*B.A. in Political Science, B.S. in Economics*

2016 – 2020

Magna Cum Laude and University Honors

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

*PhD Candidate*

September 2020 – Present

- Leverage quantitative and qualitative research methods to study the politics of higher education in Latin America
- Design, implement, and analyze online survey experiments in international contexts
- Conducted interviews with student activists at public universities during six months of field research in Mexico City, Mexico, Guatemala City, Guatemala, and Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Presented at conferences and departmental workshops to communicate findings to academic community

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### MIT Priscilla King Gray (PKG) Center for Social Impact

Cambridge, MA

*Graduate Community Fellow*

September 2025 – Present

- Collaborate with the Assistant Dean of Community Based Programs to develop experiential learning initiatives by building connections between MIT faculty members and community partner organizations
- Aggregate and analyze an Airtable database of MIT courses that feature community-engaged learning projects
- Support the planning and development of a Spring 2026 course on Community-Driven Innovation
- Liaise with student groups, faculty, and administrators to promote civic and voter engagement at MIT
- Design posters, webpages and social media graphics to promote the PKG Center’s diverse student programming

## OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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- *MIT Summer Research Program, Pod Leader Liaison (June – August 2024); Pod Leader (June – August 2023)* – Supported programming, led workshops, and mentored over 100 undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds and institutions as part of an initiative to broaden participation in graduate education
- *MIT Latinx Graduate Student Association, President (2025 – Present), Social Chair (2024 – 2025)* – Plan events and cultivate relationships with students, faculty and administrators to support the Latinx student community
- *MIT Office of Graduate Education, Graduate Ambassador (2024 – Present)* – Participate in PhD recruitment efforts such as graduate school fairs, campus visits, and Q&A panels for underrepresented prospective students
- *MIT Latin American Working Group, Organizer (2022 – 2024)* – Organized a workshop on Latin American politics

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2020 – 2025 (\$138,000)
- American Political Science Association Diversity Fellowship, 2020 (\$4,000)
- BeSample Dissertation Grant finalist, 2026 (*awarded n= 500 online survey credit*)

## SKILLS

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- **Software:** R, LaTeX, Qualtrics, Airtable, Adobe Creative Cloud, Wordpress
- **Languages:** English (native), Spanish (heritage/working proficiency)