

# Carla Garcia

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## Education

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### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Cambridge, MA

2020 – Expected Spring 2026

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow

Subfields: Comparative Politics and Political Economy

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

Committee: F. Daniel Hidalgo (Chair), Evan Lieberman, Ben Ross Schneider

### University of Central Florida

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, BS IN ECONOMICS

Orlando, FL

2016 – 2020

Magna Cum Laude and University Honors

## Working Papers

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### UNDER REVIEW

“A Little Guatemala: Power, Politics, and Democratic Erosion at the University of San Carlos of Guatemala.”  
Revise & Resubmit at *Perspectives on Politics* for special issue on “Political Science and the University”

### IN PROGRESS

“Grievances, Framing Effects, and Public Support for Protests: Evidence from Argentina’s Student Movement.”

“The Effects of Social Protest on Public Opinion: Evidence from Colombia.”

## Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

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2026	Dissertation Grant Finalist, BeSample (Awarded credit for n=500 online survey)	
2026	Professional Development Exploration Conference Grant, MIT GSC	\$ 350
2020 – 2025	Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation	\$ 138,000
2020 – 2021	Diversity Fellowship, American Political Science Association	\$ 4,000
2018 – 2020	Ronald E. McNair Scholar, University of Central Florida	
2016 – 2020	National Hispanic Scholarship, University of Central Florida	\$ 48,000

## Teaching Experience

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Spring 2024	17.503 How Dictatorships Work, Grader ( <i>Mai Hassan</i> )	MIT
Spring 2026		
Spring 2026	MAS.S70 Community Driven Innovation, Facilitator ( <i>Instructors: Ila Kumar, Vippy Yee, Alison Hynd, Raechel Walker</i> )	MIT
2019-2020	ECO2023 Principles of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant ( <i>Tarek Buhagiar</i> )	UCF

## Presentations

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**Sept 2025.** *"Grievances, Framing Effects, and Public Support for Protests: Evidence from Argentina's Student Movement."* APSA Annual Meeting. Vancouver, Canada.

**Oct 2024.** *"The Electoral Appeal of Social Movement-Inspired Political Candidates."* MIT Political Experiments Research Lab Workshop.

**Sept 2023.** *"The Effects of Social Protest on Public Opinion: Evidence from Colombia."* APSA Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.

**Sept 2022.** *"The Effects of Social Protest on Public Opinion: Evidence from Colombia."* LAPOP The Public and Democracy in the Americas Conference. Antigua, Guatemala.

## Research Experience

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### FIELD RESEARCH

- Jan – Feb 2026 **Buenos Aires, Argentina** Site research/interviews with national student association leaders
- Jan – Mar 2025 **Guatemala City, Guatemala** Interviews with student activists at the University of San Carlos
- Oct – Nov 2023 **Mexico City, Mexico** Site research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico

### RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Spring 2026 **Evan Lieberman**, Research Assistant
- Summer 2021 **Ben Ross Schneider**, Research Assistant
- Winter 2021 **Evan Lieberman**, Research Assistant
- 2022 – 2024 **MIT GOV/LAB**, Graduate Research Fellow

### RESEARCH TRAINING

- Summer 2024 **Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research**, Syracuse University
- Sept 2023 **APSA Pre-Conference Short Courses on Process Tracing**
- 2020 – 2021 **Coursework** (Quantitative Research Methods I-IV sequence, MIT)

## Professional Experience

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- 2025 – Present **Graduate Community Fellow**, MIT PKG Center for Social Impact
- Summer 2024 **Pod Leader Liaison**, MIT Summer Research Program
- Summer 2023 **Pod Leader (Graduate Student Mentor)**, MIT Summer Research Program

## Service & Leadership

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### LEADERSHIP (MIT)

- 2025 – Present **MIT Latinx Graduate Student Association**, President
- 2024 – 2025 **MIT Latinx Graduate Student Association**, Social & Cultural Chair
- 2024 – Present **MIT Office of Graduate Education – GradDiversity**, Graduate Ambassador

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE (MIT POLITICAL SCIENCE)

- 2024 – 2025 **Political Science Graduate Student Council**, Diversity Co-Chair  
**Political Science Application Mentorship Program**, Co-Organizer  
**Women in Political Science Coffee Hour**, Co-Organizer
- 2023 – 2024 **Latin American Working Group**, Organizer
- 2022 – 2023 **Latin American Working Group**, Co-Organizer
- 2021 – 2022 **Women in Political Science Coffee Hour**, Co-Organizer
- 2021 – 2025 **Graduate Student Mentorship Program**, Mentor

## OTHER SERVICE

- 2025, 2026 **MIT Latino Graduation Ceremony**, Planning Committee Member
- 2023 – 2026 **MIT Summer Research Program**, Application Review Committee Member
- 2025 – Present **MIT ALL IN Civic Engagement Committee**, Member
- 2024 – 2025 **UCF McNair Scholars Program**, Alumni Mentor
- 2024 **Bridging Talents and Opportunities Forum**, Press Coordinator

## OTHER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

- Mar 2026 **Compact26**, Chicago, IL
- Oct 2025 **California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education** (Exhibitor), Merced, CA
- Nov 2024 **MIT Multicultural Conference**, Deadham, MA
- Sept 2024 **APSA Annual Meeting** (Panel chair/discussant), Philadelphia, PA
- July 2024 **Leadership Alliance National Summit (LANS)** (Exhibitor/Mentor), Hartford, CT

## Skills

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**Technical:** R, Quarto, LaTeX

**Research:** Survey experiments, causal inference, qualitative interviews

**Other software:** Airtable, Adobe Creative Suite

**Languages:** Spanish (heritage)