

# Carla Garcia

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## Education

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### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

Cambridge, MA

2020 – Expected Summer 2026

### University of Central Florida

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, BS IN ECONOMICS

Magna Cum Laude and University Honors

Orlando, FL

2016 – 2020

## Working Papers

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“A Little Guatemala: Power, Politics, and Democratic Erosion at the University of San Carlos of Guatemala.”

“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 Conference Grant**, MIT Graduate Student Council \$ 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

## 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

- June 2024 **Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research**, Syracuse University  
Sept 2023 **APSA Pre-Conference Short Courses on Process Tracing**  
2020 – 2022 **Coursework** (Quantitative Research Methods I – IV sequence and survey experiments course)

## Professional Experience

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2025 – Present **Graduate Community Fellow**, MIT PKG Center for Social Impact

- Collaborate with the Assistant Dean of Community Based Programs to connect MIT faculty members with community partner organizations to create experiential learning opportunities for students
- Build an Airtable database of MIT courses that feature community-engaged learning projects
- Liaise with student groups, faculty, and administrators to promote civic and voter engagement at MIT.

Summer 2024 **Pod Leader Liaison**, MIT Summer Research Program

- Assisted the MIT Office of Graduate Education staff in providing support and programming for a cohort of nearly 100 high-achieving undergraduate research interns from diverse backgrounds and institutions
- Supported a group of 20 pod leaders (graduate student mentors) by providing guidance on mentorship and managing issues within their intern group

Summer 2023 **Pod Leader (Graduate Student Mentor)**, MIT Summer Research Program

- Working alongside a partner, mentored a group of ten undergraduate research interns and supported their professional development

## 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

- Oct 2025 **California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education** (Exhibitor), Merced, CA
- Sept 2024 **APSA Annual Meeting** (Panel chair/discussant), Philadelphia, PA
- July 2024 **Leadership Alliance National Summit (LANS)** (Exhibitor/Mentor), Hartford, CT

## Teaching Experience

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

## Skills

**Technical:** R, Quarto, LaTeX

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

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

**Languages:** Spanish (heritage/bilingual proficiency)