

CARLA GARCIA

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Education	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2020 – Expected Spring 2026
	Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science Subfields: Comparative Politics and Political Economy Dissertation: “ <i>Who Said That All Is Lost?</i> ” Essays on Student Movements in Latin America Committee: F. Daniel Hidalgo (Chair), Evan Lieberman, Ben Ross Schneider	
	University of Central Florida	2016 – 2020
	B.A. in Political Science B.S. in Economics <i>Magna Cum Laude and University Honors</i>	
Professional Experience	Graduate Community Fellow, MIT PKG Public Service Center	Sept 2025 – Present
	Pod Leader Liaison, MIT Summer Research Program	Summer 2024
	Pod Leader (Grad student mentor), MIT Summer Research Program	Summer 2023
Working Papers	“A Little Guatemala: The University of San Carlos as a Window into Guatemala’s Democratic Backsliding” (<i>Under Review</i>)	
	“Framing Social Movement Grievances: Evidence from Argentina’s University Protests”	
	“The Effects of Social Protest on Public Opinion: Evidence from Colombia”	
Conference Presentations	APSA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada	Sept 2025
	APSA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA	Aug 2023
	LAPOP Public and Democracy in the Americas Conference, Guatemala	Sept 2022
Conference Attendance	Exhibitor, California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education	Oct 2025
	Panel Chair/Discussant, APSA Annual Meeting	Sept 2024
	Exhibitor/Mentor, LANS (Leadership Alliance National Summit)	July 2024

Awards & Fellowships	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2020 – 2025
	American Political Science Association Diversity Fellowship	2020
	MIT GOV/LAB Graduate Research Fellow	2022 – 2024
	MIT Political Science Goldenberg Fund	2022 – 2023
	Ronald E. McNair Scholar (UCF)	2018 – 2020
Fieldwork	Guatemala City, Guatemala: Interviews, site research	Jan – Mar 2025
	Mexico City, Mexico: Interviews, site research	Oct – Nov 2023
Research Experience	Research Assistant, Ben Ross Schneider (MIT)	Summer 2021
	Research Assistant, Evan Lieberman (MIT)	Jan 2021
	Research Assistant, Cristina Bodea (MSU)	Summer 2019
	Research Assistant, Jonathan Powell (UCF)	2018
Teaching Experience	Grader, How Dictatorship Works (MIT)	Spring 2023
	Undergraduate TA, Principles of Microeconomics (UCF)	2019 – 2020
Student Leadership & Outreach	President, Latinx Graduate Student Association at MIT	2025 – Present
	Social & Cultural Chair, Latinx Graduate Student Association at MIT	2024 – 2025
	Co-Chair, MIT Latino Graduation Ceremony Planning Committee	2025
	Graduate Ambassador, MIT Office of Graduate Education	2024 – Present
	Alumni Mentor, UCF McNair Scholars Program	2024 – 2025
	Press Coordinator, Bridging Talents and Opportunities Forum	2024
	Reviewer, MSRP Application Review Committee	2023, 2024
Department Service (MIT Political Science)	Diversity Co-Chair, Political Science Graduate Student Council	2024 – 2025
	Co-Organizer, Political Science Application Mentorship Program (PS-AMP)	2024
	Organizer, MIT Latin American Working Group	2023 – 2024
	Co-Organizer, MIT Latin American Working Group	2022 – 2023
	Co-Organizer, Women in Political Science Coffee Hour	2021 – 2022, 2024 – 2025
Methods Training	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University	2024
	APSA Pre-Conference Short Courses on Process Tracing	2023
Skills	Technical Skills: R, LaTeX, Qualtrics, Airtable, Adobe Creative Cloud Languages: English (native), Spanish (heritage)	