

Simon Ballesteros

Chicago Center on Democracy - The University of Chicago
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RESEARCH INTEREST Comparative Politics; Democracy; Constitution-Making; Democratic Backsliding; Latin American Legal and Political Institutions

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS **Chicago Center on Democracy** 2025-present
The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
Postdoctoral Scholar

EDUCATION **Georgetown University**, Washington D.C. 2018-2025
Ph.D. Government
Dissertation: Explaining Variation in the Democratic Nature of Constitution-Making Processes: A Comparative Analysis
Committee: Diana Kapiszewski (Chair), Marko Klačnjak, and George Tsebelis

University of Chile, Santiago, Chile 2013-2015
M.A. in Economic Analysis

University of Chile, Santiago, Chile 2008-2013
B.A. in Economics

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS [Formal Institutions after Conflict: Rebel Ideology and Post-war Constitutional Design](#) with L. Balcells and D. Solomon. Comparative Political Studies

WORK IN PROGRESS Institutional Foundations of Democratic Backsliding in Latin America (with M. Aguirre, D. Kapiszewski and D. Yanovich)

Democracy in Constitution-making: A Global Dataset (1945-2023)

Failed Constitution-making in Comparative Perspective

SIGLA: A New Database of Political and Legal Institutions in Latin America (with A. Celis, J. Gelvez, D. Kapiszewski, H. Kurowski, A. Sanchez, R. Swain and H. Xuan)

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH [Longevity and pensions: A proposal of insurance for the fourth age](#). Working Paper No 441, Department of Economics, University of Chile (with Guillermo Larraín and Sebastián García)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024-2025 Jill Hopper Fellowship (Full tuition and stipend for the academic year) - Department of Government, Georgetown University
2023-2024 Predoctoral Fellowship with States and Institutions of Governance in Latin America (SIGLA) database project (full tuition and stipend for the academic year) - Center for Latin American Studies, Georgetown University
2022 Georgetown Americas Institute (GAI) Student Fellows Program 2022 - Georgetown University
2022 Dissertation Research Travel Grant - Graduate School of Arts and Sciences - Georgetown University
2022 Summer Research Award - Department of Government, Georgetown University
2020 Summer Collaborative Award with Prof. Laia Balcells - Department of Government, Georgetown University
2015 Academic Excellence Award Spring, Master in Economic Analysis - University of Chile
2014 Scholarship for Graduate Studies, Master in Economic Analysis - University of Chile

CONFERENCES

2024 Annual Meeting American Political Science Association (APSA)
Paper presentation: Democratic Constitution-Making in Comparative Perspective

2024 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress
Paper presentation: Political Elites' Decision-making and Democratic Constitutional Change in Chile after a Social Uprising

2024 Graduate Student Conference on Constitutional Change
Paper presentation: Democratic Constitution-Making in Comparative Perspective

2023 Chilean Congress of Political Science
Paper presentation: (i) Democratic Constitution-Making in Comparative Perspective, (ii) Failed Constitution-making: a Global Analysis.

2023 Annual Convention American Political Science Association (APSA)
Paper presentation: Rebel Ideology and Post-war Constitutional Behavior (with Laia Balcells and Daniel Solomon).

2023 World Congress International Political Science Association (IPSA)
Paper presentation: Democratic Constitution-Making in Comparative Perspective

2023 Annual Midwest Political Association Conference (MPSA)
Paper presentation: Democratic Constitution-Making in Comparative Perspective

2021 Annual Midwest Political Association Conference (MPSA)
Paper presentation: Constitution-Making after Civil Wars (with Laia Balcells)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Government - Georgetown University	2019-2021
Graduate:	
2021 Instructor - Math Camp	
2020 Teaching Assistant - Math Camp	
2020 Teaching Assistant - Quantitative Methods 3 (GOVT 703)	
Undergraduate:	
2025 Instructor - The Politics of Inclusion in Latin America (GOVT 4011)	
2021 Teaching Assistant - Senior Capstone in Political Economy (PECO 401)	

2020 Teaching Assistant - Comparative Political Systems (GOVT 040)
2019 Teaching Assistant - Comparative Political Systems (GOVT 040)

Department of Economics - University of Chile

2010-2014

Undergraduate:

2014 Teaching Assistant - Economic Development

2013 Teaching Assistant - Economic Policy

2010 - 2011 Teaching Assistant - Introduction to Macroeconomics

**PROFESSIONAL
AND RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant - Laia Balcells - Georgetown University	2020 - 2023
Research Assistant - Diana Kapiszewski - Georgetown University	2019 - 2022
Data Analyst – Vice President of Financial Affairs University of Chile	2018
Data Analyst – President of the University of Chile	2017
Research Assistant - Daniel Hojman - University of Chile	2017
Research Assistant – Guillermo Larraín - University of Chile	2015-2018
Research Assistant - Nicolás Grau - University of Chile	2015-2016
Research Assistant - Ricardo Ffrench-Davis - University of Chile	2014-2016
Research Assistant – Solange Berstein	2015
Research Assistant - Aldo González - University of Chile	2013-2014

**PUBLIC
OUTREACH**

"Roles de género y bajas pensiones para la mujer". CIPER, November 2016 (with Tatiana Reyes).

"A propósito de la Comisión Bravo: El límite normativo de los expertos". CIPER, October 2015 (with Felipe Correa).

"AFP estatal, ley corta para el sistema de AFP y el fin de las reformas estructurales". El Mostrador, June 2016.

"Lo que no abordó la Comisión Bravo: la falta de legitimidad del sistema de AFP". El Mostrador, September 2015.

"AFP: la piedra angular del modelo concentrador de riqueza en Chile". El Mostrador, June 2013 (with Marco Kremerman).

LANGUAGE

Spanish (native), **English** (fluent), **Portuguese** (Beginner)

Programming: \LaTeX , R, Stata

REFERENCES

Dr. Diana Kapiszewski
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Georgetown University
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Associate Professor
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Professor

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