

## Simon Ballesteros

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Chicago Center on Democracy - The University of Chicago  
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<b>RESEARCH INTEREST</b>	Democracy; International and Domestic Drivers of Democratic Backsliding; Latin American Legal and Political Institutions; Comparative Constitution-Making
<b>ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS</b>	<b>Chicago Center on Democracy</b> 2025-present <b>The University of Chicago</b> , Chicago, IL. Postdoctoral Scholar
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Georgetown University</b> , 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 Klašnja, and George Tsebelis <b>University of Chile</b> , Santiago, Chile 2013-2015 M.A. in Economic Analysis <b>University of Chile</b> , Santiago, Chile 2008-2013 B.A. in Economics
<b>REFEREED PUBLICATIONS</b>	<a href="#">Formal Institutions after Conflict: Rebel Ideology and Post-war Constitutional Design</a> with L. Balcells and D. Solomon. <u>Comparative Political Studies</u> .
<b>WORK IN PROGRESS</b>	Democratic Backsliding: Conceptual Foundations (with D. Kapiszewski) Democracy in Constitution-making: A Global Dataset (1945-2023) When Does Constitution-Making Fail? A Global Analysis of Conflict and Exclusion 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)
<b>PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH</b>	<a href="#">Longevity and pensions: A proposal of insurance for the fourth age</a> . Working Paper No 441, Department of Economics, University of Chile (with Guillermo Larraín and Sebastián García)
<b>GRANTS AND AWARDS</b>	<b>2024-2025</b> Jill Hopper Fellowship (Full tuition and stipend for the academic year) - Department of Government, Georgetown University <b>2023-2024</b> 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

**2025** Chilean Congress of Political Science  
Paper presentation: When Does Constitution-Making Fail? A Global Analysis of Conflict and Exclusion

**2025** Annual Meeting American Political Science Association (APSA)  
Paper presentation: When Does Constitution-Making Fail? A Global Analysis of Conflict and Exclusion

**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)

## CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

**2026** [The International Dynamics of Democratic Backsliding: Multidisciplinary Perspectives from 1900 to the Present.](#)  
Organizer

**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:** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, R, Stata

## REFERENCES

**Diana Kapiszewski**

Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor  
Georgetown University  
[dk784@georgetown.edu](mailto:dk784@georgetown.edu)

**Susan Stokes**

Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor  
University of Chicago  
[sstokes@uchicago.edu](mailto:sstokes@uchicago.edu)

**Marko Klasnja**

Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor  
Georgetown University  
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**Laia Balcells**

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