

Javier Pérez Sandoval

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Overview

I am a comparative political scientist and a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford. My award-winning research examines why democracy, political institutions, and political violence vary inside countries, with a primary regional focus on Latin America and a broader comparative engagement across the Global South. I combine original subnational data, historical evidence, quantitative analysis, and comparative mixed-method research to connect subnational variation to broader debates on democratization and autocratization. Over the past five years, this agenda has also informed my undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in comparative politics, Latin American politics, political economy, and research methods.

Current Academic Appointments

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow	2024-2027
Department of Politics and International Relations University of Oxford Mentor: David Doyle	
Research Fellow	2024-2027
Keble College, Oxford.	

Education

DPhil - University of Oxford	2021
Thesis: <i>The Origins of Subnational Democracy</i> Advisor: Timothy J. Power Committee: Ezequiel González Ocantos and James Mahoney Awards: 2022 APSA William Anderson Award 2022 ECPR Jean Blondel Prize Shortlist	(December)
Associate Fellow - UK Higher Education Academy	2023
UK Professional Standards Framework (PSF).	
MPhil - University of Oxford	2017
Thesis: <i>Subnational Democracy: An Empirical Assessment of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico</i> Thesis with Distinction.	
B.A. - Political Science and Public Administration	2013
Ibero-American University, Mexico City (UIA). Graduated with Honours.	

Peer Reviewed Publications

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| 7. Correlates of Subnational Polyarchy: Evidence from Contemporary Brazil | 2026 (July) |
| Accepted in <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> .
With Timothy J. Power and Virginia Rocha. | |
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Peer
Reviewed
Publications
(cont.)

- 6. Crossing Borders, Expanding Evidence, and Strengthening Theory: Synergies between Subnational and Mixed-Method Research**

Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Vol. 23(2), pp. 26-38.

2025
- 5. Multilevel Regime Decoupling: The Territorial Dimension of Autocratization and Contemporary Regime Change**

Perspectives on Politics, Vol. 23(2), pp. 524-551.

2024
- 4. Measuring and Assessing Subnational Electoral Democracy: A New Dataset for the Americas and India**

Democratization, Vol. 30(4), pp. 715-740. Winner of the 2024 Frank Cass Prize for best article by a young scholar.

2023
- 3. The Persistence of Latin America's Violent Democracies: Reviewing the Research Agenda on Policing, Violence, and Security across the Region**

With Daniel Barker Flores. *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, Vol. 49(4), pp. 378-386.

2023
- 2. El origen, trayecto, y rumbo de la investigación en torno a la variación de los regímenes subnacionales**

Agenda Política, Journal of the Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil, Vol. 9(3), pp. 27-54.

2022
- 1. Inside Countries: reduciendo la escala de análisis en el análisis político**

Perfiles Latinoamericanos, Journal of the Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO), Vol. 29(58), pp. 1-4.

2021

Other
Academic
Publications

- 2. How Global Illiberalism Damages Democracy**

Journal of Democracy, Vol. 37(2), pp. 121-133. Co-authored with Timothy J. Power and Maryhen Jiménez.

2026
- 1. Why Populists Hollow Out Their States**

Journal of Democracy, Vol. 37(1), pp. 45-55. Co-authored with Andrés Mejía Acosta.

2026

Work Under Review

2. **Regime Decoherence: When Political Regimes Fragment Across Scales and Between Dimensions** 2026 (July)
Research note. Revise and resubmit at the *European Journal of Political Research*.
1. **Multilevel Autocratization? Patterns of Subnational Electoral Democracy after the Third Wave** 2026 (July)
Revise and resubmit at *Comparative Politics*.

Awards

4. **Frank Cass Prize** 2024
Best article by a young scholar published in *Democratization*.
3. **APSA William Anderson Award** 2022
Best doctoral dissertation in the general field of federalism or intergovernmental relations, state, and local politics.
2. **ECPR Jean Blondel Prize Shortlist** 2022
Best doctoral thesis in politics.
1. **Pembroke Teaching Excellence Award** 2022
Best Politics undergraduate Lecturer.

Working Papers

4. **Democratic Stagnation in Latin America**
With Scott Mainwaring and Fernando Bizarro.
3. **Challenges and Practicalities in Designing Subnational Research**
With Gonzalo Contreras, Josephine Lechartre and Eugenia Aguirre.
Presented at MPSA 2025 and APSA 2025.
2. **The Political Correlates of Organized Criminal Violence: Evidence from Contemporary Mexican Municipalities**
With Daniel Barker Flores.
1. **The Visibility Deficit Index: Triangulating Nighttime Lights and Event Data to Overcome Conflict Illegibility**
With Jorge Ruiz Reyes.

Work In Progress Portfolio

3. **Subnational State Capacity and Subnational Political Regimes: Evidence from Brazil**
With Virginia Rocha.

Work In Progress Portfolio (cont.)

2. Remittances and Subnational Democracy in Contemporary Mexico

With David Doyle. Presented at LASA 2025.

1. Rethinking Backsliding: Structurally Revisiting Democratic Erosion as Performance

Presented at the 2023 *Comparative Politics* Workshop of the Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame.

Book Projects

The Origins of Subnational Democracy: Colonial Legacies and Organized Labor in the Making of Regime Variation within Latin America

Manuscript stemming from doctoral dissertation. Potential publishers: Oxford, Cambridge or Princeton University Press.

Latin American Politics: A Guide for the Uninitiated

Coordinator. Edited volume discussing key topics in Latin American Politics. Potential publishers: Routledge or Palgrave Macmillan. Long-term project.

Other Contributions

Animal Político · The Washington Post · Presidential Power · OxPol

Teaching Experience

University of Oxford

2017-2025

Research Methods (PG)

Latin American Economies (PG)

Politics of Brazil (PG)

Comparative Government (PG, UG)

Politics in Latin America (PG, UG)

Introduction to Quantitative Methods (UG)

Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Politics (UG)

Political Sociology (UG)

Comparative & Multi-Method Approaches within Political Economy Research

2024-2025

APSA Doctoral Dissertation Workshop, with Dr. E. Pfeffer, Dartmouth College.

University of Oxford International Summer School

2023-2024

Latin American Political Economies: Past, Present, and Future.

Teaching Experience (cont.)

Oxford Brookes University, Associate Lecturer 2018
Development & Social Change in Latin America.

CIDE-CLEAR-IDB 2018-2021
Results Based Management Course, 2018; Monitoring and Evaluation Fundamentals, 2021.

Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education 2015
Mexico's Economic and Political Structure.

Universidad Iberoamericana 2012-2013
Teaching Assistant.

Supervision

The Long Arc of Silence: Attitudinal Legacies of Authoritarian Repression: Evidence from Chile 2024-2026
Ranganatha, N. MPhil in Comparative Government, University of Oxford.

Divided we Stand? Federal Institutions and Democratic Breakdown in a Global Contemporary Perspective 2025-2026
Wang, J. BA in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, University of Oxford.

Afro-Brazilian Perspectives from the Favelas 2022-2023
Youngs do Patrocinio, R. MSc in Latin American Studies, University of Oxford.

An Account of German Influences on Guatemalan Development 2022-2023
Höher, L. MSc in Latin American Studies, University of Oxford.

The Paradox of Democracy and Environmentalism in Contemporary Latin America 2022-2023
Kirk, H. MSc in Latin American Studies, University of Oxford.

Funding Secured

British Academy Postdoctoral Project 2024-2027
Approximately \$450K USD.

Notre Dame Democracy Initiative Catalyst Grant 2025-2026
Approximately \$18K USD.

Funding Secured (cont.)

Oxford Social Sciences Division Small Research Grant Approximately \$670 USD.	2025
LASA Economics & Politics Section Travel Grant Approximately \$300 USD.	2025
GCRF Official Development Committee Bursary Approximately \$1.5K USD.	2021
CONACYT-PFAN Scholarship Approximately \$104K USD.	2015-2021
Wolfson Travel Grant Approximately \$500 USD.	2020
DPIR-ESRC Studentship Approximately \$20K USD.	2017-2019
International Institute of Administrative Sciences Approximately \$500 USD.	2012

Datasets

MOBILISE: National Representative Panel and Protest Surveys (2019-2022) With Olga Onuch, David Doyle, Evelyn Ersanilli, et al. UK Data Service ReShare.	2024
Index of Subnational Electoral Democracy: A New Dataset for the Americas and India Available through the Harvard Dataverse.	2023

Previous Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Democracy Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame. PI: Scott Mainwaring.	2025-2026
Visiting Fellow Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame.	2023 (Autumn)
Departmental Lecturer in Latin American Studies Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA).	2022-2023

**Previous
Academic
Appointments**
(cont.)

Stipendiary Lecturer in Politics St Hugh's College, Oxford.	2022-2023
Director of the Dartmouth Visiting Student Programme Keble College, Oxford.	2022-2023
Postdoctoral Research Associate MOBILISE Project, University of Manchester. PI: Olga Onuch.	2022
Stipendiary Lecturer in Politics Pembroke College, Teaching Excellence Award.	2021-2022
Associate Lecturer in Politics Oxford Brookes University.	2018 (Spring)

**Selected
Consulting &
Policy
Engagement**

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Co-designed an online/hybrid capacity-building module to strengthen electoral observation expertise in comparative political systems and electoral institutional design.	2025-2026
Organization of American States (OAS) Designed and delivered a capacity-building course for policy evaluation officers across Latin America on results-based budgeting, democratic governance, and local politics.	2018

**Professional
Service**

Country Expert: Mexico, Varieties of Democracy Project	2023-2025
Co-host of the Research & Ideas in Progress Seminar Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), University of Oxford.	2023-2025
DPIR Review Committee for British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship Applications University of Oxford, first round.	2024
Comparative & Multi-Method Approaches within Political Economy Research Doctoral Dissertation Workshop, with Dr. E. Pfeffer, Dartmouth College.	2024-2025

Professional Service (cont.)

Teaching & Administration Committees 2022-2023
Latin American Centre, University of Oxford.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee 2022-2023
Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford.

Admissions & Academic Review Panels 2021-2023
St Hugh's, Keble, and Pembroke College, Oxford.

Journal Reviewer
American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics in Latin America; Political Studies; Regional & Federal Studies; Perspectives on Politics; Alternatives; Agenda Política.

Professional Affiliations

APSA · EPSA · PSA · LASA · ECPR · ALACIP

Further Training

Bullying & Harassment in the Workplace 2024
Equality and Diversity Unit, University of Oxford.

Advancing Teaching and Learning Programme 2023
Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Oxford.

Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) 2021
Syracuse University, Maxwell School.

Python Data Analysis 2018
Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).

Quantitative and Qualitative Research 2014
National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

Contemporary Mexico Summer Seminar 2011
El Colegio de México (COLMEX).

Talks & Public Lectures

Democracy Paradox Podcast 2025
Guest Contributor & Introductory Discussant. (Autumn)

Talks & Public Lectures (cont.)

Ballots & Bullets: The Political Causes of Criminal Violence in Mexico St Antony's College.	2024 (Summer)
Mexico 2024: How and Why We Got Here Mexican Elections Seminar, LAC Oxford.	2024 (Summer)
The State of Latin American Democracies: Challenges from Within and Without St Antony's College.	2023 (Summer)
(Un)Bowed, (Un)Bent, Unbroken: Mexican Democracy in the Midst of AMLO's 4th Transformation Center for Research on Democracy (CREDO), Nuffield College, Oxford.	2023 (Spring)
Mexico's Midterm Election OxPol Blogcast interview, online.	2021 (Spring)
Navigating Subnational Tides amidst a National Tsunami: The Territorial Aftermath of the 2018 Mexican Election Nuffield College, Oxford.	2018 (Autumn)

Additional Academic Experience

Research Assistantships	
Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, University of Oxford	2017
Roberto Rodríguez Rodríguez, UIA	2014
Gabriela Pérez Yarahuán, UIA	2010-2013

Other Professional Experience

Race and Equality Task Force Data Analyst University of Oxford.	2022 (Spring)
Part-Time Bookseller Social Sciences & Popular Science Non-Fiction, Blackwell's Bookshop, Oxford.	2019-2021
Part-Time Senior Bookseller Social Sciences & Popular Science Non-Fiction, Waterstones Bookshop, Oxford.	2016-2019

**Other
Professional
Experience**
(cont.)

Junior Financial Advisor to the Public Research Centre System 2013-2015
Mexican National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT).

Intern at the Office for Democracy and Human Rights 2012
Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Language and
Skills**

Spanish (native), English (100%), French (50%), Portuguese (listening and reading)
MS Office, Stata, LaTeX, R, Python, Atlas.ti.

Other Skills

Hybrid athlete, real-time strategy gamer, cosmology and quantum physics aficionado
Swimming, running, and weightlifting.

References

Prof. Timothy J. Power
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