

BENJAMÍN GARCÍA-HOLGADO
Department of Political Science & International Relations
University of Delaware
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Current Academic Positions

University of Delaware

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations 2023-

Education

University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. in Political Science 2023
Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Qualitative Methods
Dissertation: “The Judicial Bulwark: Courts and the Populist Erosion of Democracy”
Committee: Michael Coppedge (chair), Scott Mainwaring, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, and Diana Kapiszewski (Georgetown University)

Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (Argentina) 2016
M.A. in Political Science

Universidad de San Andrés (Argentina) 2011
B.A. in Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude*

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2024. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin** and Raul Sanchez-Urribarri. “The Dark Side of Legalism: Abuse of the Law and Democratic Erosion in Argentina, Ecuador, and Venezuela.” *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027642241268332>

2024. Gamboa, Laura, **Benjamín García-Holgado**, and Ezequiel González-Ocantos. “Courts against Backsliding: Lessons from Latin America.” *Law & Policy* 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lapo.12246>

2023. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin** and Scott Mainwaring. “Why Democracy Survives Presidential Encroachments: Argentina since 1983”, *Comparative Politics* Vol.5, Issue 4, 525-548.

2023. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin** and Raul Sanchez-Urribarri. “Court-Packing and Democratic Decay: a Necessary Relationship?,” *Global Constitutionalism* Vol. 12, Issue 2, 350-377.

2023. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin**. “Radicalization and the Origins of Populist Narratives about the Courts: The Argentinian Case, 2007–2015,” *Journal of Illiberalism Studies* 3 no. 2 (Summer 2023), 43-64.

2018. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin** and Nicolas Taccone. “Diseño institucional e inestabilidad presidencial en autoritarismos: el Proceso de Reorganización Nacional en la Argentina (1976-1983)” [Institutional Design and Presidential instability in Authoritarianisms: the Proceso de Reorganización Nacional in Argentina (1976-1983)], *Desarrollo Económico. Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, Vol. 58, N° 224.

2017. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin**. “De la paz hacia la guerra: moderación y radicalización de preferencias entre la Iglesia Católica y el Gobierno peronista (1946-1955)” [From Peace to War: Moderation and Radicalization of Preferences Between the Catholic Church and the Peronist government], *Studia Politicae*, N° 42

2016. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin**. “Vencedores y Vencidos: Surgimiento y Éxito de la Coalición Golpista Antiperonista dentro de las Fuerzas Armadas (1946-1955)” [Winners and Vanquished: Emergence and Success of the Anti-Peronist Coup Coalition within the Armed Forces], *Postdata*, N° 21, Vol. 1

2014. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin**. “Apuntes sobre el Exilio Antiperonista en Montevideo entre 1943 y 1945” [Notes on the Anti-Peronist Exile in Montevideo between 1943-1955], *Revista Colección*, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina, N° 24, Vol. 1

2014. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin**. “Una Apoteosis de la Democracia: María de los Ángeles Yannuzzi y su interpretación del Proceso de Reorganización Nacional (1976-1983) y de la modernización neoconservadora (1989-1999) en la Argentina” [An Apotheosis of Democracy: María de los Ángeles Yannuzzi’s interpretation of the *Proceso de Reorganización Nacional* (1976-1983) and the *modernización neoconservadora* (1989-1999) in Argentina], *Revista de la SAAP*, N° 8, Vol. 1

Editor-Reviewed Book Chapters and Journal Articles

2021. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin** and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. “The Weaknesses of Illiberal Regimes,” *The Routledge Handbook of Illiberalism*, eds., Andrés Sajó, Stephen Holmes, and Renáta Uitz (London: Routledge)

2010. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin** “Validez, Eficacia y la Norma Hipotética Fundamental en el pensamiento de Hans Kelsen” [Validity, Efficacy and the Basic Norm in the Thought of Hans Kelsen], *Revista Electrónica – Instituto de Investigaciones Gioja, UBA - Año V*

Other Publications

2023. **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin**. “Political Actors, Institutions, and Large-N Analysis,” *Newsletter Democracy and Autocracy ‘Why do Democracies Develop and Decline?’*, APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section, Vol. 21(1)

Work in progress

Books

Mainwaring, Scott and **Benjamin Garcia Holgado**. “Explaining Democratic Breakdown and Survival: Theory Building and the Argentine Case (1976-2024)” (under review at *Oxford University Press*)

Garcia Holgado, Benjamin. “The Judicial Bulwark: Courts and the Populist Erosion of Democracy” (manuscript in progress)

Textbooks

Buttolph Johnson, Janet, Jason Mycoff, and **Benjamin Garcia Holgado**. *Political Science Research Methods*, 10ed (Under contract with CQ Press).

Articles

Garcia Holgado, Benjamin. “Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion” (invited to Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Law and Courts*)

Botero, Sandra and **Benjamin Garcia Holgado**. “Blows Hot and Cold: The Argentine Supreme Court (2003-2024) and the Colombian Constitutional Court (2002-2024) Confronting Polarization” (invited for a special issue at the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*)

Garcia Holgado, Benjamin. “Cleaving Political Coalitions: Social Movements and Radicalization in Authoritarian Regimes” (draft available)

Garcia Holgado, Benjamin and Nicolas Taccone. “When Explanation Meets Interpretation: Bridging the Gap in Qualitative Methods” (draft available)

Garcia Holgado, Benjamin and Benjamin Sehnert. “Beliefs and Actions: An Ontological Foundation for Ideational Explanations” (draft available)

Garcia Holgado, Benjamin and Jacob Turner. “Populism and Democratic Erosion in Latin America” (draft available)

Kapiszewski, Diana and **Benjamin Garcia Holgado**. “Judicial Resistance: conceptualization and measurement” (in preparation)

Benjamin Sehnert and **Garcia Holgado, Benjamin**. “The Pitfalls of Populist Participation: Democratic Theory and Possibility of a ‘Benign’ Populism” (in preparation)

Artabe, Eugenia and **Benjamin Garcia Holgado**. “Can Independent Courts Threaten Democracy? Recent Evidence from Latin America” (in preparation)

Book Chapters

Garcia Holgado, Benjamin and Eugenia Artabe. “The Dynamics of Democratic Backsliding in Latin America” for the *Elgar Encyclopedia of Latin American Politics* (edited by Claudia Nancy Avellaneda, Ricardo A. Bello-Gomez, and Nathalie Méndez) (in preparation)

Awards and Honors (selection)

Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Kellogg Institute for International Studies	2023
Excellence in Teaching Award, Political Science, University of Notre Dame	2019
Nominated “Best Teaching Assistant”, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	2015-2017
First Prize, Political Theory Contest, Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Político	2014

Grants and Fellowships (selection)

Travel Grant, IPSA Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies	2022, 2024
Conference Travel Grant, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame	2019, 2022
Travel Grant, Graduate Student Union, University of Notre Dame	2020, 2022
Doctoral Research Grant, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame	2021
University Presidential Fellowship, University of Notre Dame	2017-2022
PhD Fellowship, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame	2017-2022
PhD Scholarship, Fulbright Commission (declined)	2017-2022
PhD Scholarship, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (Argentina)	2015-2017
PhD Scholarship, Agency of Scientific and Technological Promotion (Argentina)	2012-2015
Travel Grant, School on Mixed Methods, Universidad Católica de Chile	2014, 2015
Scholarship, Institute for Young Leaders, Fulbright Commission (declined)	2015
Travel Grant, IPSA-USP Summer School Sao Paulo	2014

Research Experience

Research Assistant Fall 2018
Democratization Theory Research Cluster, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame
Principal Investigators: Michael Coppedge, Gary Goertz, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Samuel Valenzuela,
and Dianne Pinderhughes

Conferences, Workshops, and Presentations (since 2018)

“Courts Combatting Democratic Decay: Conceptualizing ‘Judicial Resistance’”
Paper presentation at the Workshop Courts and their Interactions with Politics, International
Political Science Association-University of Texas, Austin, October 24-26, 2024

“When Explanation Meets Interpretation: Bridging the Gap in Qualitative Methods”
Paper presentation at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference,
September 5-8, 2024

“Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion”
Paper presentation at the Annual Latin American Studies Association Conference,
June 12-15, 2024

“Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion”
Paper presentation at the Annual Law and Society Association Conference, June 6-9, 2024

Invited to chair the Panel: “State of the World: Four Decades of Democracy in Latin America”
Global Democracy Conference, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame, May 20-22, 2024

“Can Independent Courts Threaten Democracy? Recent Evidence from Latin America”
Paper presentation at the Research Colloquium, University of Delaware, May 1, 2024

“Ecuador’s political institutions and political actors”
Invited to speak at the panel Ecuador and Drug Politics, Mary Washington University
April 23, 2024

“Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion”
Paper presentation at the Emerging Scholars Conference in Public Law, The University of Texas
at Austin, February 29-March 1, 2024

“Presidentes Delegativos y Poder Judicial en Argentina (1983-2023)”
Invited to deliver a presentation at the Conference La obra de Guillermo O’Donnell a 40 años del
Restablecimiento de la Democracia, Universidad Austral, November 28, 2023

“The Judicial Bulwark: Courts and the Populist Erosion of Democracy”

Invited to present a paper at the Justin Seminar, Judicial Studies Institute, Masaryk University
November 20, 2023

Comparative Politics Workshop, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame

Discussant of Adriana Albanus’s paper “Populists in Office: What Explains Their Rhetorical
Attacks to Political Parties?” September 8, 2023

“Judicial Independence Beyond High Courts: The Case of Argentina Under Carlos Menem”

Paper presentation at the Annual Latin American Studies Association Conference
May 24-27, 2023

“The Pitfalls of Populist Participation: Democratic Theory and the Possibility of a ‘Benign’
Populism”

Paper presentation at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference
April 13-16, 2023

Invited to moderate Jean Cohen’s lecture “Rethinking Hybrid Regimes: Populism in Power”

Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame, November 8, 2022

“Populists, Judges, and Democratic Erosion in Latin America and Eastern Europe”

Paper presentation at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference
September 15-18, 2022

“Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion”

Paper presentation at the Workshop Courts under Pressure: Threats to Judicial Independence and
the Rule of Law, International Political Science Association-Georgetown University,
August 10-12, 2022

“Court-Packing and Democratic Backsliding: A Necessary Relationship?”

Paper presentation at the Workshop Global Crisis and Global Constitutionalism, Global
Constitutionalism-University of Southampton, July 21-22, 2022

“Court-packing and democratic backsliding: a Necessary Relationship?”

Paper presentation at the Annual International Society of Public Law Conference
4-6 July, 2022

“Political Radicalization, illiberalism, and the threat to liberal democracy in Latin America”

Paper presentation at the Workshop Illiberalism in Latin America, George Washington
University, April 13, 2022

“Populists, Courts, and Democratic Backsliding in Latin America”

Paper presentation at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference

April 7-10, 2022

“Populist Leaders and the Threat to Liberal Democracy”

Paper presentation at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference
September 20- October 2, 2021

“Cleaving Political Coalitions: Social Movements and Radicalization in Authoritarian Regimes”

Paper presentation at the Annual American Sociological Association Conference
August 6-10, 2021

“Populism and Democratic Erosion in Latin America”

Paper presentation at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference
April 14-18, 2021

“Populism and Democratic Erosion in Latin America”

Poster presentation at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference
September 10-13, 2020

“Democratic erosion and populist leaders: regime trajectories in contemporary Latin America”

Paper presentation at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference
April 16-19, 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19)

“Beliefs and Actions: An Ontological Foundation for Ideational Explanations”

Paper presentation at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference
August 29 – September 1, 2019

“Dictatorships and Survival: Explaining Variation in Military Regimes Instability”

Paper presentation at the Annual Latin American Studies Association Conference
May 24–27, 2019

“Who Decides? Despotic Sources of Economic Performance in Military Regimes”

Paper presentation at the Workshop Coup Politics and Civil-Military Relations, Kellogg
Institute, University of Notre Dame, April 29, 2019

“Determining the Impact of Regional Norms on Coups”

Paper presentation at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference
April 4-7, 2019

“Actor’s Preferences in the Breakdown of Political Regimes: A Case Study on Transitions
between Distinct Kinds of Authoritarian Regimes in Argentina, 1946-1955”

Poster presentation at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference
April 5-8, 2018

“Cleaving Political Coalitions: Radicalization of Preferences and the Collapse of Authoritarian Regimes.” Presentation at the Democratization Theory Research Cluster Workshop, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame, November 2, 2018

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Comparative Democratization (Graduate), University of Delaware	Fall 2024
Qualitative Methods for Social Science (graduate), University of Delaware	Spring 2024, 2025
Introduction to Comparative Politics, University of Delaware	2023-2025
Civil Society and Social Movements (graduate), Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Spring 2022
Global Populism and the Future of Democracy, University of Notre Dame	Fall 2020
Social Studies and History, Manantiales High School (Buenos Aires)	2011

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to International Relations, University of Notre Dame	Spring, Fall 2019
Thesis Seminar (online, graduate), FLACSO Argentina	2014-2017
Political Sociology, Universidad de Buenos Aires	2014-2017
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Fall 2014-2017
Political Methodology, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Fall 2015-2017
Political Institutions, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	2015, Fall 2017
Introduction to Politics, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Fall 2015, 2017
Contemporary Political Theory, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Spring 2012-2016
Latin American Politics and Society, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Spring 2014-2015
Introduction to Public Administration, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Spring 2012-2014
Thesis Seminar (graduate), Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Spring 2013
Research Design, Universidad de San Andrés	Fall 2012-2013
Qualitative Methods and Techniques, Universidad de San Andrés	Spring 2012-2013
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Universidad de San Andrés	Fall 2011, 2013, 2014
Political Methodology, Universidad de San Andrés	Fall 2011

Guest Lecturer

Latin American Politics, Luther College	Spring 2023
Latin American Politics, University of Notre Dame	Fall 2020-2022
Qualitative Methodology (graduate), Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	Fall 2020
Introduction to International Relations, University of Notre Dame	Fall 2019

Advising

University of Delaware

Long Paper Committee member: Nicolas Hernandez, Baffour Boakye, Yatan Sharma, and Gena Eleias.

Dissertation Committee member: Toms Ratfelders, Dianne Faye Despi, and Gunay Khalilova

Graduate Advisor: Caroline Schenk.

Professional Service

To the Profession

Peer reviewer for *Journal of Law and Courts*, *Political Studies*, *Law & Policy*, *Journal of Illiberalism Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Perfiles Latinoamericanos* (México), *Política y Gobierno* (México), and *Revista Desafíos* (Colombia).

To the University of Delaware

Member, Executive Committee	2023-2025
Graduate Placement Director	2024-2025
Member, Honors and Awards Committee	2023-2024

To the University of Notre Dame

Founder and Coordinator, “Global Stage: A Kellogg Institute Podcast”	2022-2023
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Methods Training

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University	2019
Summer School in Comparative Social Science, University of Oslo	2018
Courses: “Case Study Research Methods” (Prof. Andrew Bennett) “Mixed and Merged Methods” (Prof. Giampietro Gobo)	
School on Methods and Concepts in Political Science, IPSA	2014
Course: “Case Study Methodology” (Prof. Derek Beach)	
Summer School in Mixed Methods, Universidad Católica de Chile	2014, 2015
Six graduate courses in historiography and historical methods, Universidad Nacional de San Martín (Argentina)	2014

Pedagogical Training

Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Notre Dame

Teaching Position

Graduate Associate in Learning Research	2022-2023
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Certificates

Advanced Teaching Scholar	2022
Collaborative Teaching & Learning	2021
Striving for Excellence in College and University Teaching	2020

Courses

Inclusive Pedagogy: Designing Equitable Learning Experiences
Pedagogy and Practice in the College Classroom (full-semester)

Winter 2021
Fall 2020

Workshops

Twenty-two workshops on college pedagogy

2019-2022

References

Reference Name and Contact

David P. Redlawsk
Chair of the Department of Political Science
James R. Soles Professor
redlawsk@udel.edu

Scott Mainwaring
Eugene and Helen Conley Professor of
Political Science
University of Notre Dame
smainwar@nd.edu

Diana Kapiszewski
Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor
of Government
Director, Center for Latin American Studies
Georgetown University
dk784@georgetown.edu

Reference Name and Contact

Michael Coppedge
Professor of Political Science
University of Notre Dame
mcoppedg@nd.edu

Aníbal Pérez-Liñán
Professor of Political Science and Global
Affairs
Director, Kellogg Institute for International
Studies
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aperezl1@nd.edu

Kristi Rudenga
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Excellence
University of Notre Dame
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