

# MICHELLE TORRES

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Employment **Rice University**, *Department of Political Science*  
Assistant Professor, 2019-Present

Education **Washington University in St. Louis**, St. Louis, MO  
Ph.D, Political Science, 2019.  
M.A., Statistics, 2019.  
M.A., Political Science, 2015.

**Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)**, Mexico City, Mexico  
B.A., Political Science & International Relations, 2010.  
*Degree with Honors.*

Articles Homola, Jonathan, Jon Rogowski, Betsy Sinclair, Michelle Torres, Patrick Tucker, and Steven Webster. *"Through the Ideology of the Beholder: Partisan Perceptions and Polarization Among the Mass Public."* Conditionally accepted pending replication at *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Torres, Michelle, and Francisco Cantú. 2022. *"Learning to See: Visual Analysis for Social Science Data."* *Political Analysis* 30(1): 113-131.

Torres, Michelle. 2020. *"Estimating controlled direct effects through marginal structural models."* *Political Science Research and Methods* 28(3): 391-408 (Leading article).

Tucker, Patrick, Betsy Sinclair, Steven S. Smith, and Michelle Torres. 2019. *"Pathways to Trump: Republican Voters in 2016."* *Electoral Studies* 61: 102035.

Montgomery, Jacob M., Brendan Nyhan, and Michelle Torres. 2018. *"How controlling for post-treatment variables can ruin your experiment and what to do about it."* *American Journal of Political Science* 62(3): 760-75.

- One of the twenty most downloaded articles published in the journal from 2017–2018
- Featured in [the 2019 virtual issue](#) of twenty highly-cited articles from the journal.

Boston, Joshua, Jonathan Homola, Betsy Sinclair, Michelle Torres, and Patrick Tucker. 2018. *"The Dynamic Relationship between Personality Stability and Political Attitudes."* *Public Opinion Quarterly* 82(1): 257-79.

Butler, Ryden, Jacob M. Montgomery, Brendan Nyhan, and Michelle Torres. 2018. *"Revisiting White Backlash: How Race Affects Death Penalty Opinion Today."* *Research & Politics* 5(1): 1-9.

Torres, Michelle, and Steven S. Smith. 2018. *"Revisiting Bedrock Values: The Stability and Predictive Power of the Society Works Best Index."* *American Politics Research* 46(2): 308-35.

Books and book chapters	<p>Torres, Michelle, and Jeff Gill. Forthcoming. "Flagship entries: Generalized Linear Models." In <i>Methods Foundations</i>. SAGE Publications.</p> <p>Gill, Jeff, and Michelle Torres. 2019. <i>Generalized Linear Models. A unified approach</i>. 2nd edition. SAGE Publications.</p>
Working papers	<p>Torres, Michelle. "A framework for the unsupervised and semi-supervised analysis of visual frames."</p> <p>Torres, Michelle. "Framing a Protest: Determinants and Effects of Visual Frames."</p> <p>Archer, Allison and Michelle Torres. "Local News, Billionaire Owners, and Political Accountability."</p> <p>Ba, Bocar, Jacob Kaplan, Dean Knox, Mayya Komisarchik, Rachel Mariman, Jonathan Mummolo, Roman Rivera, and Michelle Torres. "Who are the Police? Descriptive Representation in the Coercive Arm of Government."</p> <p>Butler, Daniel M., Adam Dynes, and Michelle Torres. "Minimizing Partisanship in Elections: The Impact of Nonpartisan Ballots on Who is Elected."</p>
Manuscripts in preparation	<p>Torres, Michelle, and Jonathan Homola. "The shades and shapes of the pink wave: Visual perspectives of the Women's March."</p> <p>Torres, Michelle. "A picture is worth a thousand treatments: a dimension reduction method for the identification of visual treatments."</p> <p>Torres, Michelle. "Beyond prediction: using Convolutional Neural Networks for inference."</p> <p>Gasparyan, Olga, Elena Sirotkina, and Michelle Torres. "How non-textual information impacts polarization."</p>
Honors & Awards	<p>2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. Travel grant for the Political Methodology Summer Meeting, National Science Foundation.</p> <p>2018. Association of Women Faculty Graduate Student Award, Washington University in St. Louis.</p> <p>2017. Society for Political Methodology: Best Poster Award, 34th Annual Summer Meeting.</p> <p>2017. Three Minute Thesis Competition winner, Washington University in St. Louis.</p> <p>2013-2018. Academic Scholarship for International Graduate Students, National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), Mexico</p> <p>2013. University Fellowship, Washington University in Saint Louis.</p> <p>2011. Honoric mention for Senior Thesis, Adviser: Lorena Ruano.</p> <p>2007. Academic Excellence Scholarship, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).</p> <p>2006. Academic Excellence Scholarship, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE).</p>
Grants	<p><b>Creative Venture funds</b>, 2021, <i>Rice University</i>: \$9,670.00</p> <p><b>Race and Anti-Racism Research Fund</b>, 2020, <i>Rice University</i>: \$22,392.00</p> <p><b>Creative Venture funds</b>, 2019, <i>Rice University</i>: \$9,475.00</p>
Invited talks	<p><b>Colloquium for Statistical Analyses at WZB Berlin</b> 2022.</p> <p><b>NYU Quantitative Methods Seminar</b> 2021.</p> <p><b>CIVICA Data Science Seminar Series</b> 2021.</p> <p><b>Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Festival</b> 2021</p> <p><b>TAMU Program in Research Methods Speaker Series</b> 2020.</p> <p><b>LSU Research Colloquium Series</b> 2020.</p>

**UC-Berkeley Research Workshop in American Politics** 2019.  
**UW-Madison American Politics Workshop** 2019.  
**UCLA Methods Workshop** 2019.  
**Stanford Political Methodology Workshop** 2019.  
**ISU Methods Speaker Series** 2019.  
**Gender, Politics, and Quantitative Methods** 2019.  
**Black & Blue Conference** 2019.  
**New Faces in Political Methodology** 2018.  
**Harvard Applied Statistics Workshop** 2018.  
**Northeast Political Methodology Program** 2017.  
**Modeling Politics in Time and Space Conference** 2017.  
**St. Louis Area Methods Meeting** 2015.

Conference  
Participations

**Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science** 2021 (Chair), 2020 (Chair).  
**TexMeth** 2019.  
**Latin America Polmeth** 2018, 2021.  
**American Political Science Association Annual Conference** 2021 (Discussant), 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015.  
**Summer Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology** 2021 (Discussant), 2020 (Discussant), 2019 (Discussant), 2018 (Paper), 2017 (Poster), 2016 (Poster).  
**St. Louis Area Methods Meeting** 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018.  
**Harvard Experimental Political Science Graduate Student Conference** 2018, 2017.  
**Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference** 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015.  
**Political Science Data Conference** 2016 (Discussant).  
**Behavioral Models of Politics** 2014.

Teaching

**Rice University**

*Graduate level*

"Introduction to Statistics" (Fall 2021)

"Advanced Topics in Political Methodology: Causal Inference" (Fall 2019, Spring 2022)

"Advanced Topics in Political Methodology: Computational Social Sciences" (Fall 2020)

"Visual analysis" (STaRT Rice course, Fall 2021)

*Undegraduate level*

"Applied Research Methods" (Spring 2020)

**Washington University in St. Louis**

"Introduction to Python" (2017 Summer course).

**Others**

"Image as Data: Quantitative Image Analysis with R and Python", Data Science Summer School, CIVICA, Summer 2021.

"Causal Inference", Department of Economics, Universidad de la República in Uruguay, 2020.

Departmental  
Service

American Politics Search Committee, *Rice University*, 2021.

Speaker Series Committee, *Rice University*, 2021.

Undergraduate Studies Committee, *Rice University*, 2020.

Speaker in "Reflections on Juneteenth and America's Racial Legacy Lectures", *Rice University*, 2020.

Speaker Series Committee, *Rice University*, 2019.

American Politics Search Committee, *Rice University*, 2019.

Speaker in Minorities in Social Sciences panels, *Rice University*, 2019.

Service to the discipline	<p>Section chair of the EPSA Annual Meeting, 2022.</p> <p>Section chair of the MPSA Annual Meeting, 2022.</p> <p>Member of the editorial board of the Journal of Politics, 2021-Present.</p> <p>Member of the editorial board of the Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media, 2020-Present.</p> <p>Section chair of the MPSA Annual Meeting, 2021.</p> <p>Member of the Depolarization Challenge Advisory Board, 2020-Present.</p> <p>Member of the Diversity Committee of the Society for Political Methodology, 2020-2022.</p> <p>Reviewer for <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, <i>American Political Science Review</i>, <i>Political Analysis</i>, <i>Journal of Politics</i>, <i>Journal of Experimental Political Science</i>, <i>Electoral Studies</i>, <i>Research &amp; Politics</i>, <i>International Journal of Communication</i>, <i>Science Advances</i>, <i>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics</i>, <i>Political Research Quarterly</i>, and <i>Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research</i>.</p>
Non-academic experience	<p><b>Buendía &amp; Laredo, Mexico City, Mexico</b></p> <p>Project Coordinator, June 2011 - August 2013.</p> <p>Chief of Research Department, February 2011-May 2011.</p> <p>Internship, October 2010-January 2011.</p> <p><b>Office of International Affairs of the Presidency, Mexico City, Mexico</b></p> <p>Social service, January 2009-June 2009.</p>
Software	<p><b>weightTAPSPACK</b> (with Dave Carlson and Taeyong Park).</p> <p>The <b>weightTAPSPACK</b> is an R package that subsets The American Panel Survey (TAPS) data by outcome and covariates, models the attrition rates, imputes data for attrited individuals, and finds weights for analysis. <a href="https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/weightTAPSPACK/index.html">https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/weightTAPSPACK/index.html</a></p> <p><b>GLMpack</b> (with Jeff Gill and Simon Heuberger).</p> <p>The <b>GLMpack</b> is an R package that contains all the data and functions used in <i>Generalized Linear Models</i>, 2nd edition, by Jeff Gill and Michelle Torres. Examples to create all models, tables, and plots are included for each data set. <a href="https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/weightTAPSPACK/index.html">https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/weightTAPSPACK/index.html</a></p>
Computer Skills	<p>Statistical Packages: R, STATA, MPlus, BUGS/JAGS, &amp; SPSS.</p> <p>Languages: Python, HTML.</p>
References	<p>Betsy Sinclair</p> <p>Jacob Montgomery</p> <p>Jeff Gill</p> <p>Steve S. Smith</p>