

# MICHELLE TORRES

---

Contact Information Department of Political Science  
4289 Bunche Hall, Office 3377  
11282 Portola Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90095

☎ 314-660-5059  
✉ [smtorres@ucla.edu](mailto:smtorres@ucla.edu)  
🌐 <http://smtorres.org>  
👤 [smtorres](#)

Employment **University of California, Los Angeles**, *Department of Political Science*  
Assistant Professor, 2023-Present

**Rice University**, *Department of Political Science*  
Assistant Professor, 2019-2023

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**, *DYNAMICS Research Training Group*  
Visiting Researcher, Spring 2023

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 Torres, Michelle. Forthcoming. [“A framework for the unsupervised and semi-supervised analysis of visual frames.”](#) *Political Analysis*.

Homola, Jonathan, Jon Rogowski, Betsy Sinclair, Michelle Torres, Patrick Tucker, and Steven Webster. 2023. [“Through the Ideology of the Beholder: Partisan Perceptions and Polarization Among the Mass Public.”](#) *Political Science Research and Methods* 11(2): 275–92.

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.

	<p>Butler, Ryden, Jacob M. Montgomery, Brendan Nyhan, and Michelle Torres. 2018. <i>"Revisiting White Backlash: How Race Affects Death Penalty Opinion Today."</i> <i>Research &amp; Politics</i> 5(1): 1-9.</p> <p>Torres, Michelle, and Steven S. Smith. 2018. <i>"Revisiting Bedrock Values: The Stability and Predictive Power of the Society Works Best Index."</i> <i>American Politics Research</i> 46(2): 308-35.</p>
Books and book chapters	<p>Torres, Michelle, and Jeff Gill. 2021. <i>"Flagship entries: Generalized Linear Models."</i> 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>Archer, Allison and Michelle Torres. <i>"Local News, Billionaire Owners, and Political Accountability."</i></p> <p>Ba, Bocar, Jacob Kaplan, Dean Knox, Mayya Komisarchik, Rachel Mariman, Jonathan Mummolo, Roman Rivera, and Michelle Torres. <i>"Who are the Police? Descriptive Representation in the Coercive Arm of Government."</i> Under review.</p> <p>Butler, Daniel M., Adam Dynes, and Michelle Torres. <i>"Minimizing Partisanship in Elections: The Impact of Nonpartisan Ballots on Who is Elected."</i> Under review.</p> <p>Pugh, Alex, and Michelle Torres. <i>"Beyond prediction: Identifying and Accounting for Latent Treatments in Images."</i></p> <p>Torres, Michelle, and Asha Jones. <i>"Framing a Protest: Determinants and Effects of Visual Frames."</i></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. Honorific 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>Methods Seminar, Berkeley</b> 2023.</p> <p><b>Master Class, University of Oxford</b> 2023.</p> <p><b>LSE Political Behaviour Seminar Series, London School of Economics</b> 2023.</p> <p><b>MZES Colloquium, Universität Mannheim</b> 2023.</p> <p><b>DYNAMICS Lecture Series , Humboldt-Universität</b> 2023.</p> <p><b>Speaker series, Universidad de Barcelona</b> 2023.</p> <p><b>Stanford Political Methodology Workshop</b> 2022.</p> <p><b>Global and Transnational Challenges Speaker Series</b>, University of Pittsburgh, 2022.</p> <p><b>Conference in Applied Methods for Political Science</b>, University of Rochester, 2022.</p>

Colloquium for Statistical Analyses at WZB Berlin 2022.  
 NYU Quantitative Methods Seminar 2021.  
 CIVICA Data Science Seminar Series 2021.  
 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Festival 2021  
 TAMU Program in Research Methods Speaker Series 2020.  
 LSU Research Colloquium Series 2020.  
 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 2022 (Organizer), 2021 (Chair), 2020 (Chair).  
 TexMeth 2019.  
 Latin America Polmeth 2018, 2021.  
 American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2022, 2021 (Discussant), 2020, 2019,  
 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015.  
 Summer Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology 2022 (Paper), 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 2022, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015.  
 Political Science Data Conference 2016 (Discussant).  
 Behavioral Models of Politics 2014.

Teaching

**University of California, Los Angeles**

*Graduate level*

"Special Topics in Formal Theory and Quantitative Methods: Computational Social Sciences"  
(Fall 2023)

*Undergraduate level*

"Studies in Statistical Analysis of Political Data: Applied Research Methods" (Fall 2023)

**Rice University**

*Graduate level*

"Introduction to Statistics" (Fall 2021, 2022)

"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)

*Undergraduate level*

"Applied Research Methods" (Spring 2020)

**Washington University in St. Louis**

"Introduction to Python" (2017 Summer course).

Teaching Assistant for "The American Presidency" (Andrew Reeves).

## Others

"Methods for Image Analysis", Methods and Professionalization Workshop Series, DYNAMICS, Spring 2023.

"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/University Service	<p>Graduate Admissions Committee, <i>UCLA</i>, 2023-Present.</p> <p>Methods Field Chair Representative of the Graduate Studies Committee, <i>UCLA</i>, 2023-Present.</p> <p>Co-director of STaRT@Rice (Statistical Training and Research Techniques), <i>Rice University</i>, 2022-2023.</p> <p>Sponsor of Minorities in Social Sciences club, <i>Rice University</i>, 2022-2023.</p> <p>American Politics Search Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2021.</p> <p>Speaker Series Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2021.</p> <p>Undergraduate Studies Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2020.</p> <p>Speaker in "Reflections on Juneteenth and America's Racial Legacy Lectures", <i>Rice University</i>, 2020.</p> <p>Speaker Series Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2019.</p> <p>American Politics Search Committee, <i>Rice University</i>, 2019.</p> <p>Speaker in Minorities in Social Sciences panels, <i>Rice University</i>, 2019.</p>
Service to the discipline	<p>Member of the editorial board of the <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, 2023-Present.</p> <p>Member of the editorial board of the <i>Journal of Politics</i>, 2021-Present.</p> <p>Member of the editorial board of the <i>Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media</i>, 2020-Present.</p> <p>Associate Editor of <i>Research &amp; Politics</i>, 2022-Present.</p> <p>Section chair of the EPSA Annual Meeting, 2022.</p> <p>Section chair of the MPSA Annual Meeting, 2022.</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>, <i>International Organization</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>

The GLMpack is an R package that contains all the data and functions used in Generalized Linear Models, 2nd edition, by Jeff Gill and Michelle Torres. Examples to create all models, tables, and plots are included for each data set. <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/weightTAPSPACK/index.html>

Computer Skills      Statistical Packages: R, STATA, MPlus, BUGS/JAGS, & SPSS.  
Languages: Python, HTML.

References          Betsy Sinclair  
Jacob Montgomery  
Rick Wilson  
Jeff Gill  
Steve S. Smith