

Academic Background

New York University (NYU): August 2019 – May 2021

Master's in politics

During my graduate studies, I took classes from the Ph.D. program in Political Science. I took four core courses: Quantitative Methods (Prof. Neal Beck), Mathematics (Prof. Congyi Zhou), American Politics (Prof. Patrick Egan), and Comparative Politics (Prof. Arturas Rozenas). Three field seminars: Democracy in Crisis? (Prof. John Ferejohn), Representation: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives (Prof. Melissa Schwartzberg and Prof. Patrick Egan), and Social Media and Political Participation (Prof. Jonathan Nagler and Prof. Joshua Tucker). Finally, I took two extra quantitative courses: Text as Data (Prof. Arthur Spirling) and Messy Data and Machine Learning (Prof. Ravi Shroff).

Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM):

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science: August 2010 – December 2014

- Thesis with honors: The Imbalance in the System of Media Access for Political Parties: A critique of the media access in electoral campaigns.

Certificate in Applied Statistics: October 2015 – August 2016

A seven courses certification in: non-parametric statistics and treatment of nominal data, sampling methods, Bayesian statistics, linear models, multivariate analysis, and time series analysis.

Professional Experience

Advisor at the General Council of the National Electoral Institute: January 2019 – August 2019

Collaborated in the Committees in charge of the organization of the six Governor elections for 2019 in Mexico. This included electoral policy-making in diverse topics: geographical distribution of the ballots and voting centers, vote counting mechanisms (including sample vote tallying), training of the citizens and public servants in charge of the electoral material during the election day, organization of electoral debates, design and printing of the electoral ballots, distribution and monitoring of the public funding and mass media ads available as prerogatives for political parties, and the audit of campaign expenses.

In addition, I researched the impact of voting rules in the formation of Congress with data of the 2018 federal elections in Mexico. As a result of that research, two articles were published in specialized magazines. In one of them, we explained how the current institutional arrangement allows political parties to overcome overrepresentation limits included in the Constitution (using data from the 2018 federal electoral process) and its effect on political representation. In the second one, we tracked the impact of that arrangement by measuring the party system fragmentation from 1988 to 2018 using the effective number of parties (in Congress and the electorate) and the Gallagher index.

Deputy Director of Anti-Corruption Analysis in the Liaison Unit of the National Anti-Corruption System: August 2017 – December 2018

Part of the first generation of public servants that worked on implementing the National Anticorruption System in Mexico. My main tasks were analyzing the public policy proposals created inside the System and proposed by International Organizations (including USAID, OECD, and UNDP), organizing national communication campaigns on the operation of the System, monitoring the implementation of the System at the local level, speechwriting for the Minister of Civil Service, and conducting research on specific topics, for example a report with a statistical approach (principal components) about international bribery for the OECD.

Coordinator of Public Affairs at CNN-Expansión Group: July 2016 – August 2017

In charge of gathering on the record and off the record sources for the political news branch of the company. I organized all the editorial committees with the participation of high-level members of the public and private sectors. Collaborated

in the editorial committee responsible for the coverage of the electoral processes in Mexico and the electoral process in the United States. Collaborated on the organization and curation of various massive events (from forums where the national economic policy was discussed with the participation of the Minister of Finance, to culinary events where the best Mexican chefs were awarded).

Advisor at the General Council of the National Electoral Institute: January 2015 – February 2016

I collaborated in the first federal electoral process (renewal of Congress) organized by the National Electoral Institute (NEI), in 9 Governor elections, 17 local Congress elections, and 1,009 mayor elections. The above implied the design and implementation of electoral policy in different topics: the distribution of prerogatives (public funding and advertisement on TV and radio) for political parties, the implementation of a control system for campaign spending, the vote counting mechanisms during the election day, the design and distribution of electoral material (including the electoral ballot), the distribution and setting-up of the voting centers, the training of the citizens and public servants in charge of the electoral material during the election day, and the distribution from votes to seats in Congress.

Also, I researched the voting behavior in the General Electoral Council (the most relevant institution inside the NEI) and the agenda-setting power of the different Committees that conform the NEI. Finally, I collaborated on research on the efficiency of the vote counting mechanisms during election day.

Junior Faculty Member of the Department of Political Science (ITAM): January 2014 – December 2014

Teaching assistant. I collaborated in different Political Science Department research projects, tutoring students, and Public Choice classes.

Co-host at Reporte 98.5 F.M. radio station (national broadcast): January 2013 – January 2015

Collaborated as a reporter and co-host in Hora Capital, broadcasting Monday-Friday, 17:00-18:00, serving mainly as political analyst and interviewer. Examples of the interviews include Ministers and writers (Martín Caparrós and Valeria Luiselli) and coverage of cultural and political events.

Extracurricular Activities

Violence and New Mores Workshop – Columbia University: September 2020 – present

Participant in the workshop organized by the Center for Mexican Studies at Columbia University. The topics of the workshop range from criminal governance and criminal mores, to violence against women and the war against drugs.

Member of the Mexican Council of International Affairs (COMEXI): September 2019 – present

Member of the international affairs think tank.

Editorial Advisor of the R Magazine (Revista R – El Reforma): February 2018 – February 2019

Member of the editorial board of the Reforma newspaper Sunday supplement.

President of the Political Science Student Representation “CAUCUS” – ITAM: January 2013 – January 2014

Elected President of the Political Science student representation. Organized diverse events (research workshops, book presentations, forums with relevant decision-makers, and trips) to integrate Political Science students and the Department into an authentic student community.

Awards

Alonso Lujambio Political Essay Award 2015. Award granted by ITAM

Awarded for the essay: “Voting Rules, Committees, and Information: An analysis of the National Electoral Institute through Legislative Models”. Jury: Prof. Federico Estévez, Prof. Arturo Sánchez Gutiérrez, Prof. Jesús Silva-Herzog Márquez, Dr. Rodolfo Vázquez and Dr. Horacio Vives Segl.

Publications

Academic publications (in Spanish):

Ascencio, Salvador & Gou, Martín & Sánchez, Pedro. 2015. Voting Rules, Committees, and Information: An analysis of the National Electoral Institute through Legislative Models. *Estudios Magazine*, 115: 91-119. Link: <http://estudios.itam.mx/sites/default/files/estudiositamx/files/115/000266076.pdf>

- We analyzed the distributive implications and the agenda-setting power behind the conformation of the Committees in Mexico's National Electoral Institute based on legislative organization theories. We constructed a hypothesis on voting scenarios and provided case evidence of the Institute's past collective decisions to illustrate them.

External publications (in Spanish):

“Coaliciones vemos”. *Reforma newspaper*. June 18, 2021. Link: <https://www.reforma.com/coaliciones-vemos-2021-06-18/op206825>

“Three decades of the integration of Congress: irreversible plurality”. *Configuraciones Magazine*, March 2020. (with Dr. Ciro Murayama). Link: <https://www.ietd.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Configuraciones-50.pdf>

- We used the effective number of parties (in Congress and the electorate) and the Gallagher index to analyze the fragmentation of the party system and the proportionality between votes and seats from 1988 to 2018 in Mexico's Congress (the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies).

“Capture of Congress by Morena”. *Nexos Magazine*, July 1, 2019. (with Dr. Ciro Murayama). Link: <https://www.nexos.com.mx/?p=43100>

- We explained using data from the 2018 federal electoral process how the current institutional arrangement (pre-electoral coalitions) allows political parties to overcome overrepresentation limits included in the Constitution and its effect on political representation.

“The problems of (and for) democracy. An interview with Adam Przeworski”. *Nexos Magazine*, March 20, 2018. (with Dr. Horacio Vives). Link: <https://economia.nexos.com.mx/?p=1189>

“The rules for the Conformation of Mexico City's Constitutional Assembly: Winners and losers”. *Nexos magazine*, June 3rd, 2016. Link: <http://redaccion.nexos.com.mx/?p=7712>

- We analyzed the distributive effects of the seat-assignment rules chosen for Mexico City's Constituent Assembly from a theoretical and empirical perspective. We presented a prediction of the distribution of seats using Monte-Carlo simulations.

Open editorials in *Expansión Magazine/ADN Político website* for the federal electoral process of 2018 in Mexico:

- Pragmatism as virtue: <https://expansion.mx/opinion/2018/02/06/opinion-el-pragmatismo-como-virtud>
- The snapshot of the first debate: https://adnpolitico.com/columnas/2018/04/23/opinion-la-fotografia-del-primer-debate?internal_source=PLAYLIST
- Who do we believe? <https://adnpolitico.com/voces/2018/05/21/opinion-segundo-debate-a-quien-le-creemos>
- Third debate: ¿Is this enough? <https://adnpolitico.com/voces/2018/06/13/opinion-tercer-debate-sera-suficiente>
- The last alternation of power <https://adnpolitico.com/voces/2018/07/02/opinion-la-ultima-alternancia>

Languages

Spanish (Native Speaker) – English (advanced).

Computer Tools

- Data Analysis: R (advanced) – Stata (intermediate).