

CATALINA VEGA MÉNDEZ



EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Expected: May 2025

M.A. in Political Science

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

August 2019- May 2021

B.A. in Political Science

Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá D.C., Colombia

January 2015- December 2019

EMPLOYMENT

Research Associate

Green School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University

August 2024 - Present

- Analyzed longitudinal and panel public opinion data from Latin America.
- Assisted Dr. Barry Levitt in interpreting analysis results, focusing on public support for risk reduction policies.
- Contributed to the production of research papers based on the findings of data analyses.

Graduate Research Assistant

Purdue University, Department of Political Science

May 2024 - August 2024

- Conducted archival fieldwork in Colombia and El Salvador to collect and organize electoral data at the precinct level.
- Assisted Dr. Mollie Cohen in a project investigating how local political competition shapes participation in public opinion surveys used for a grant proposal.
- Matched geo-located survey responses and interview attempts to election results at the precinct level.

Graduate Research Assistant

Purdue Honors College, Purdue University

August 2021 - August 2023

- Gathered and compiled data from the World Bank, Polity IV and Fragile State Index to analyze the impact of emigration on political instability.
- Organized and analyzed data using correlation matrices and survival multilevel models.
- Developed visually engaging infographics for the Honors College.

Research Intern

Migration Policy Institute, Latin America and the Caribbean Team (LACI)

May 2022 - December 2022

- Conducted literature reviews and summarized research findings, contributing to the development of strategic communication materials and reports.
- Collected and analyzed public opinion survey data to generate evidence-based insights for policymakers.
- Assisted in designing and implementing 24 interviews with government officials and civil organizations.
- Co-authored the “Colombia’s Evolving Approach to Immigrant Integration” report.
- Developed data visualizations for research papers and presentations, enhancing the accessibility and impact of research findings.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Vega-Méndez, Catalina., & Visconti, Giancarlo. (2021). “Does Immigration Increase Concerns about the Provision of Public Services? Evidence from Colombia.” *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública*, 10(1), 79–103.

- *Winner of Maria Braun award for the best paper published in Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública (RLOP) in 2021*

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Chaves-González, Diego, Mora, María Jesús, Banulescu-Bogdan, Natalia, and **Vega-Méndez, Catalina**. “Colombia’s Evolving Approach to Immigrant Integration: An Institutional Mapping.” Washington, DC, and Bogota: MPI and U.S. Agency for International Development.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Governments of the World

Purdue University

Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant

Governments of the World

Comparative Environmental Policy and Politics

International Organizations

Purdue University

Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Spring 2020

Spring 2021

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

External

Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University, 2023-2024.

Travel grant, American Political Science Association, 2021.

Maria Braun award for the best paper published in RLOP in 2021.

Internal

Best Prospectus Award, Political Science Department, Purdue University, 2023.

Field Paper to Journal Submission Award, Political Science Department, Purdue University, 2022.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publication Award, Political Science Department, Purdue University, 2022.

PROMISE Travel Award, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University, 2022, 2023 & 2024.

SKILLS

Programs: R (*advanced*), Stata (*intermediate*), L^AT_EX (*intermediate*), Qualtrics (*intermediate*), Python (*basic*).
Languages: Spanish (*native*), English (*fluent*).

CERTIFICATES

Summer School in International Survey Methods. LAPOP Lab. Vanderbilt University. 2024.

Advanced Methods at Purdue (AMAP) in Behavioral, Health, and Social Sciences. Purdue University. 2024.

REFERENCES

- **Giancarlo Visconti**: Assistant Professor, Government and Politics, University of Maryland. (gvis@umd.edu).
- **Diego Chaves Gonzales**: Senior Manager, Latin America and Caribbean Initiative, the Migration Policy Institute. (dchaves@migrationpolicy.org).
- **Mollie Cohen**: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Purdue University. (mjcohen@purdue.edu).