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Department of Political Science & International Relations
University of Delaware
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Academic Appointments

University of Delaware

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations August 2023–

Education

University of Notre Dame (United States)

Ph.D. in Political Science January 2024

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

Winner, 2025 Edward S. Corwin Award, Best Doctoral Dissertation in Public Law
(American Political Science Association)

Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (Argentina)

M.A. in Political Science May 2016

Universidad de San Andrés (Argentina)

B.A. in Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude* August 2011

Publications

Book

1. Mainwaring, Scott, and **Benjamín García-Holgado**. *From Authoritarianism to Long-Lasting Democracy: Latin America in the Third Wave* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming in 2027)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

14. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**. 2026. “The Social Movement Origins of Military Coups: Radicalization, Coordination, and Authoritarian Breakdown in Argentina (1954–1955)” (forthcoming in *Latin American Research Review*)

13. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**. 2026. “Governing at the Edge of Legality: Javier Milei and Democratic Erosion in Argentina (2023–2026)” (forthcoming in *Revista de Ciencia Política*)

12. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**. 2025. "Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion." *Journal of Law and Courts* 13(1): 274–303.

Winner, 2026 *Journal of Law and Courts* Best Article Award (Law & Courts Section, American Political Science Association)

11. Botero, Sandra, and **Benjamín García-Holgado**. 2024. "Jueces en tensión: la Corte Suprema argentina (2003–2023) y la Corte Constitucional colombiana (2002–2023) frente a la polarización" [Judges under Stress: The Argentine Supreme Court (2003–2023) and the Colombian Constitutional Court (2002–2023) amid Polarization]. *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 22(5): 1424–1448 (editor-reviewed).

10. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**, and Raúl Sánchez-Urribarri. 2024. "The Dark Side of Legalism: Abuse of the Law and Democratic Erosion in Argentina, Ecuador, and Venezuela." *American Behavioral Scientist* 68(12): 1578–1596.

9. Gamboa, Laura, **Benjamín García-Holgado**, and Ezequiel González-Ocantos. 2024. "Courts against Backsliding: Lessons from Latin America." *Law & Policy* 46(4): 358–379.

8. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**, and Raúl Sánchez-Urribarri. 2023. "Court-Packing and Democratic Decay: A Necessary Relationship?" *Global Constitutionalism* 12(2): 350–377.

7. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**, and Scott Mainwaring. 2023. "Why Democracy Survives Presidential Encroachments: Argentina since 1983." *Comparative Politics* 55(4): 525–548.

6. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**. 2023. "Radicalization and the Origins of Populist Narratives about the Courts: The Argentinian Case, 2007–2015." *Journal of Illiberalism Studies* 3(2): 43–64.

5. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**, and Nicolás Taccone. 2018. "Diseño institucional e inestabilidad presidencial en autoritarismos: el Proceso de Reorganización Nacional en la Argentina (1976–1983)" [Institutional Design and Presidential Instability in Authoritarian Regimes: The Proceso de Reorganización Nacional in Argentina (1976–1983)]. *Desarrollo Económico. Revista de Ciencias Sociales* 58(224): 3–24.

4. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**. 2017. "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 (1946–1955)]. *Studia Politicae* 42(1): 5–46.

3. **García-Holgado, Benjamín**. 2016. "Vencedores y Vencidos: Surgimiento y Éxito de la Coalición Golpista Antiperonista dentro de las Fuerzas Armadas (1946–1955)" [Victors and Vanquished: The Emergence and Success of the Anti-Peronist Coup Coalition within the Armed Forces (1946–1955)]. *Postdata* 21(1): 85–128.

2. **García-Holgado, Benjamín.** 2014. “Apuntes sobre el Exilio Antiperonista en Montevideo entre 1943 y 1945” [Notes on the Anti-Peronist Exile in Montevideo, 1943–1945]. *Revista Colección* 24(1): 11–15.

1. **García-Holgado, Benjamín.** 2014. “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 and Her Interpretation of the Proceso de Reorganización Nacional (1976–1983) and of Neoconservative Modernization (1989–1999) in Argentina]. *Revista de la SAAP* 8(1): 145–175.

Book Chapters

5. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Scott Mainwaring. “Democratic Resilience in Argentina.” *The Oxford Handbook of Argentine Politics* (eds. Nelson D. Cardozo, Pablo A. Bulcourn, M. Melina Guardamagna, and María Elena Martin) (Oxford University Press, forthcoming in 2027)

4. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Laura Gamboa. “Democratic Self-Defense in Latin America.” *The Oxford Handbook of Democratic Self-Defense* (eds. Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser, Anthoula Malkopoulou, and Bastiaan Rijpkema) (Oxford University Press, forthcoming in 2027)

3. **García-Holgado, Benjamín.** “Defining (and Defending) Democracy: Constitutional Reasoning against Executive Aggrandizement.” *The Sage Handbook of Democratization* (eds. Jean Grugel, Enrique Peruzzotti, and Jewellord Nem Singh) (SAGE Publications, forthcoming in 2027)

2. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Eugenia Artabe. 2026. “The Dynamics of Democratic Backsliding in Latin America.” *Handbook of Latin American Politics* (eds. Claudia Nancy Avellaneda, Ricardo A. Bello-Gomez, and Nathalie Méndez). Edward Elgar Publishing.

1. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. 2021. “The Weaknesses of Illiberal Regimes.” *The Routledge Handbook of Illiberalism* (eds. András Sajó, Stephen Holmes, and Renáta Uitz). Routledge.

Other Publications

2. **García-Holgado, Benjamín.** 2023. “Political Actors, Institutions, and Large-N Analysis.” *Democracy and Autocracy* (Newsletter of the APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section), Special Issue “Why Do Democracies Develop and Decline?,” 21(1).

1. **García-Holgado, Benjamín.** 2010. “Validez, Eficacia y la Norma Hipotética Fundamental en el pensamiento de Hans Kelsen” [Validity, Efficacy, and the Basic Norm in Hans Kelsen’s Thought]. *Revista Electrónica – Instituto de Investigaciones Gioja* 1(5).

Work in Progress

Books

1. **García-Holgado, Benjamín.** *The Judicial Bulwark: Courts and the Populist Erosion of Democracy* (manuscript in progress)

Working Papers (drafts available upon request)

1. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Nicolás Taccone. “From Meaning to Theory: Evidence Interpretation in Process Tracing” (under review)
2. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Ben Yoel. “Conceptualizing Democratic Resistance to Backsliding”
3. Gamboa, Laura, **Benjamín García-Holgado,** and Ezequiel González-Ocantos. “Judicial Resistance to Democratic Backsliding: The Politics of Constitutional Balancing in Colombia and Mexico”
4. Ortiz-Ocaña, Mayra, and **Benjamín García-Holgado.** “From Loyalists to Resisters: Why Do Justices Defy Populist Presidents? Insights from the Mexican Case (2018–2024)”
5. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Julio Ríos-Figueroa. “Passive Virtues or Active Harm? Judicial Abdication Under Democratic Decay”
6. **García-Holgado, Benjamín,** and Diana Kapiszewski. “Judicial Resistance: Conceptualization and Measurement”
7. **García-Holgado, Benjamín.** “Democratic Erosion and Resilience as Sequences of Regime Events: A Micro-Level Conceptualization”

Book Chapters

1. Castagnola, Andrea, and **Benjamín García-Holgado.** “The Politicization of Courts in Latin America.” *Handbook on Latin American Politics* (eds. Néstor Castañeda and Malu Gatto) (De Gruyter, under review)

Selected Awards and Honors

<i>Journal of Law and Courts</i> Best Article Award, American Political Science Association	2026
Best Doctoral Dissertation in Public Law, American Political Science Association	2025
Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Kellogg Institute for International Studies	2023
Excellence in Teaching Award, Political Science, University of Notre Dame	2019
First Prize, Political Theory Contest, Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Político	2014

Selected Grants and Fellowships

External

Democratic Guardians Under Pressure, Notre Dame Democracy Initiative	2025
Travel Grant, IPSA Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies	2022, 2024
Ph.D. Scholarship, Fulbright Commission (declined)	2017–2022
Ph.D. Scholarship, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (Argentina)	2015–2017
Ph.D. Scholarship, Agency of Scientific and Technological Promotion (Argentina)	2012–2015
Scholarship, Institute for Young Leaders, Fulbright Commission (declined)	2015
Travel Grant, School on Mixed Methods, Universidad Católica de Chile	2014, 2015
Travel Grant, IPSA-USP Summer School, São Paulo	2014

Internal

Go! Grant, University of Delaware	2025
University Presidential Fellowship, University of Notre Dame	2017–2022
Ph.D. Fellowship, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame	2017–2022
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
Full Merit Scholarship, Universidad de San Andrés	2007–2010

Presentations and Conferences (since 2018)

Invited Presentations

2027

Invited to present a paper at a workshop organized by the Malyi Center for the Study of Institutional and Legal Integrity, University of Chicago Law School, March 26–27, 2027.

2026

Invited to present a paper at a workshop “Rethinking the Rule of Law in Latin America: Judicial Systems at a Crossroads,” Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY), November 5–6, 2026.

“Determinantes de la Confianza en el Poder Judicial: La Experiencia Reciente en Latinoamérica.” Invited talk on the panel “¿Qué pasa en una sociedad cuando no hay confianza?,” Cátedra Colombiana Ciudadanía, Integridad y Lucha contra la Corrupción, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (virtual), September 9, 2026.

“La Izquierda Populista como Amenaza para la Democracia Liberal: Evidencia de América Latina.” Invited talk at the conference “Law and Democratic Backsliding,” Universidad del País Vasco, San Sebastián, July 2–3, 2026.

“La Erosión Democrática en la Argentina Actual.” Invited talk at the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas y Sociales Ambrosio L. Gioja, Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de Buenos Aires, June 12, 2026.

“Resistencia Judicial y Erosión Democrática en América Latina.” Invited talk at the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), May 29, 2026.

“From Authoritarianism to Long-Lasting Democracy: Latin America in the Third Wave.” Invited paper presentation, Seminario de la División de Estudios Políticos, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), February 18, 2026.

2025

“Democratic Erosion as a Sequence of Regime Events.” Invited talk at the Speaker Series, Center for Inter-American Policy and Research, Tulane University, December 1, 2025.

“Judicial Resistance in Contexts of Democratic Erosion.” Invited paper presentation, Department of Law, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), November 28, 2025.

“Courts at the Crossroads: Executive Aggrandizement, Democratic Erosion, and Resilience.” Invited talk at the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Initiative (LACS), George Washington University, October 14, 2025.

“Neutralizando al Ejecutivo: Estrategias Judiciales para Prevenir la Erosión Democrática.” Invited talk at the conference “Crisis de la democracia: ¿Péndulo o cambio de era?” Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, September 9, 2025.

“Conceptualizing ‘Judicial Resistance’: Courts Combatting Democratic Decay.” Invited talk at the Global Democracy Conference 2025 / “Global Democracy & Executive Power.” Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, May 12–13, 2025.

2024

“Ecuador’s Political Institutions and Political Actors.” Invited talk on the panel “Ecuador and Drug Politics,” Department of Political Science and International Affairs, University of Mary Washington, April 23, 2024.

2023

“Presidentes Delegativos y Poder Judicial en Argentina (1983–2023).” Invited talk 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 paper presentation at the Justin Seminar, Judicial Studies Institute (JUSTIN), Masaryk University, November 20, 2023.

Conferences and Workshops

2026

“Passive Virtues or Active Harm? Judicial Abdication Under Democratic Decay.” Paper presented at the Workshop “Court Roles in the Current Authoritarian Moment,” IPSA Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies–Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), October 15–16, 2026.

“Judicial Resistance to Backsliding: The Politics of Constitutional Balancing in Latin America.” Paper presented at the Conference “Guarding the Guardrails of Democracy,” Nonviolent Action Lab, Harvard Kennedy School, October 12, 2026.

“From Authoritarianism to Durable Democracy: Latin America in the Third Wave.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 3–6, 2026.

“Passive Virtues or Active Harm? Judicial Abdication Under Democratic Decay.” Paper presented at the International Society of Public Law (ICON·S) Annual Conference, University College Dublin, June 29–July 1, 2026.

“From Loyalists to Resisters: Why Do Justices Defy Populist Presidents? Insights from the Mexican Case (2018–2024).” Paper presented at the Workshop “The Legal Complex and Autocratization: Resistance, Cooperation, and Repair,” Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL), June 4–5, 2026.

2025

“From Loyalists to Resisters: Why Do Justices Defy Populist Presidents? Insights from the Mexican Case (2018–2024).” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 11–14, 2025, and the Latin American Studies Association Congress (LASA), May 23–25, 2025.

“Strengthening Process Tracing through a Context-Centered Analysis of Evidence.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 11–14, 2025.

“La Erosión Democrática como una Secuencia de Eventos.” Paper presented at the Argentinian Political Science Association Conference, July 23–26, 2025.

“Conceptualizing ‘Judicial Resistance’: Courts Combatting Democratic Decay.” Paper presented at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 22–25, 2025.

2024

“When Explanation Meets Interpretation: Bridging the Gap in Qualitative Methods.” Paper presented at the Research Colloquium, University of Delaware, December 5, 2024, and the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 5–8, 2024.

“Conceptualizing ‘Judicial Resistance’: Courts Combatting Democratic Decay.” Paper presented at the International Political Science Association Work-in-Progress Sessions, December 4–6, 2024.

“Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion.” Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association Congress (LASA), June 12–15, 2024; the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, June 6–9, 2024; and the Emerging Scholars Conference in Public Law, The University of Texas at Austin, February 29–March 1, 2024.

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

2022

“Populists, Judges, and Democratic Erosion in Latin America and Eastern Europe.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 15–18, 2022.

“Overruling the Executive: Judicial Strategies to Resist Democratic Erosion.” Paper presented 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 presented at the Workshop “Global Crisis and Global Constitutionalism,” University of Southampton, July 21–22, 2022.

“Political Radicalization, Illiberalism, and the Threat to Liberal Democracy in Latin America.” Paper presented at the Workshop on Illiberalism in Latin America, George Washington University, April 13, 2022.

“Populists, Courts, and Democratic Backsliding in Latin America.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA), April 7–10, 2022.

2021

“Populist Leaders and the Threat to Liberal Democracy.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 20–October 2, 2021.

“Populism and Democratic Erosion in Latin America.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 14–18, 2021.

2020

“Populism and Democratic Erosion in Latin America.” Poster presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 10–13, 2020.

“Democratic Erosion and Populist Leaders: Regime Trajectories in Contemporary Latin America.” Paper accepted for the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA), April 16–19, 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19).

2019

“Beliefs and Actions: An Ontological Foundation for Ideational Explanations.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 29–September 1, 2019.

“Dictatorships and Survival: Explaining Variation in Military Regimes Instability.” Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association Congress (LASA), May 24–27, 2019.

“Who Decides? Despotism Sources of Economic Performance in Military Regimes.” Paper presented at the Workshop “Coups, Politics, and Civil-Military Relations,” Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame, April 29, 2019.

“Determining the Impact of Regional Norms on Coups.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA), April 4–7, 2019.

2018

“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 presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA), April 5–8, 2018.

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

Teaching Experience

Graduate (Semester-Long Courses, Instructor)

Philosophy of Science and Research Design, University of Delaware	Fall 2026
Qualitative Methods for Political Science, University of Delaware	Spring 2024, Spring 2025
Comparative Democratization, University of Delaware	Fall 2024

Graduate (Intensive Courses, Instructor)

Qualitative Methods and Techniques, Universidad Nacional de San Martín	August 2025, 2026
Dissertation Workshop, Universidad Austral	June 2025, 2026
Process-Tracing Methodology, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	July 2025
Civil Society and Social Movements, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella	May 2022

Undergraduate (Semester-Long Courses, Instructor)

Introduction to Comparative Politics, University of Delaware	Fall 2023, 2024, Fall 2026
Comparative Judicial Politics, University of Delaware	Spring 2025
Global Populism and the Future of Democracy, University of Notre Dame	Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant

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

Advising

University of Delaware

Master's Committee Member: Nicolas Hernandez, Baffour Boakye, Yatan Sharma, Gena Eleias, Richmond Agyarkwa, and Ronald Trenchi.

Dissertation Committee Member: Toms Ratfelders, Dianne Faye Despi, Gunay Khalilova, Ronald Trenchi, Baffour Boakye, and Yatan Sharma (defended in 2026).

Graduate Advisor: Caroline Schenk and Gena Eleias.

Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

Master's advisor: Jose Manuel Sobral Reyes.

Professional Service

To the Profession

Editorial

Topic Editor (with Bill Gelfeld), Research Topic “Reinforcing Democracy: Exploring the Mechanisms and Stages of Democratic Resilience,” *Frontiers in Political Science* (in progress).

Conference and Workshop Organizing

Co-organizer (with Lisa Hilbink and Yasser Kureshi), Workshop “The Legal Complex and Autocratization: Resistance, Cooperation, and Repair,” Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL), June 4–5, 2026.

Award Committees

Member, Kendra Koivu Paper Award Committee, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section, American Political Science Association, 2026.

Journal Reviewer

Perspectives on Politics, International Political Science Review, Political Studies, Governance (x2), Democratization (x2), Third World Quarterly, Politics & Policy, Law & Social Inquiry, Global Constitutionalism, Journal of Law and Courts, Law & Policy (x2), Springer, Frontiers in Political Science, Cogent Social Sciences, Latin American Research Review, Journal of Latin American Studies, Social Sciences & Humanities Open, Social Sciences, Journal of Illiberalism Studies, Revista de Ciencia Política (Chile) (x2), Perfiles Latinoamericanos (México), Política y Gobierno (México), Revista Desafíos (Colombia), Desarrollo Económico (Argentina), and Revista de la SAAP (Argentina).

To the University of Delaware

Member, Executive Committee	2023–
Graduate Placement Director	2024–
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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Additional Training

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University	2019
Summer School in Comparative Social Science, University of Oslo Courses: “Case Study Research Methods” (Prof. Andrew Bennett) and “Mixed and Merged Methods” (Prof. Giampietro Gobo)	2018
School on Methods and Concepts in Political Science, IPSA Course: “Case Study Methodology” (Prof. Derek Beach)	2014
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
Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Notre Dame Graduate Associate in Learning Research (2022–2023); certificates in Advanced Teaching Scholar (2022), Collaborative Teaching & Learning (2021), and Striving for Excellence in College and University Teaching (2020); courses in Inclusive Pedagogy: Designing Equitable Learning Experiences (Winter 2021) and Pedagogy and Practice in the College Classroom (Fall 2020)	2020–2023

References

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