

Catalina Vega Méndez

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Democracy Postdoctoral Researcher

Kellogg Institute for International Studies
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

August 2025 - Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Fields: Comparative Politics, Latin American Politics, and International Relations

August 2019 - August 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.

January 2015 - December 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND METHODOLOGY

Research Interests: Comparative Political Behavior, International Migration and Forced Displacement, Latin American Politics, Human Rights.

Methods: Experimental and quasi-experimental methodologies, including survey experiments and causal inference from observational data.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Vega-Méndez, Catalina, & Visconti, Giancarlo. (2026). "Immigration and Nationalistic Attitudes: Panel Evidence from Chile." *Political Behavior* (Forthcoming).

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 the María Braun Award for the best paper published in *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública (RLOP)* in 2021

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW AND IN PREPARATION FOR SUBMISSION

Córdova, Abby, & **Vega-Méndez, Catalina**. "Who Deserves Entry? Political Polarization and the Limits of Gendered Humanitarian Appeals in U.S. Immigration Preferences." *Under Review*.

Levitt, Barry, & **Vega-Méndez, Catalina**. "Support for Disaster Risk Reduction Policy in Mexico after Hurricane Otis." *Under Review*.

Vega-Méndez, Catalina. "Narratives, Not Facts: How Emotional Engagement Shapes Support for Migrants in Chile." *In Preparation for Submission*.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

External

Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University (\$32,000) 2023-2024

Travel Grant, American Political Science Association (\$500) 2021

María Braun Award for the best paper published in *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública (RLOP)* (\$500) 2021

Internal

Best Prospectus Award, Political Science Department, Purdue University (\$1,000) 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 (\$1,500) 2022, 2023, 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record <i>Governments of the World</i>	Purdue University Summer 2023
Teaching Assistant <i>Governments of the World</i> <i>Comparative Environmental Policy and Politics</i> <i>International Organizations</i>	Purdue University Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 Spring 2020 Spring 2021
Guest Lecturer <i>International Development Studies Capstone Seminar</i> <i>Introduction to International Relations Seminar</i>	University of Notre Dame Fall 2025 Universidad Nacional de Colombia Fall, 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow <i>Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University</i> Supervisor: Dr. Barry S. Levitt	August 2024 - December 2024
Graduate Research Assistant <i>Department of Political Science, Purdue University</i> Supervisor: Dr. Mollie Cohen	May 2024 - August 2024
Research Intern <i>Latin America and the Caribbean Team, Migration Policy Institute</i> Supervisor: Diego Chaves-González	May 2022 - December 2022
Graduate Research Assistant <i>Purdue Honors College, Purdue University</i> Supervisor: Dr. Natasha T. Duncan	August 2021 - 2023
Graduate Research Assistant <i>Purdue Policy Research Institute (PPRI), Purdue University</i> Supervisor: Dr. Stacey Connaughton	May 2020 - August 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association (APSA)	2021, 2022, 2024, 2025
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2022, 2024, 2025, 2026
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)	2025, 2026
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)	2023, 2025, 2026
International Studies Association (ISA)	2023

INVITED TALKS

Midwest Migration Conference, hosted by the Klau Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame	2026
Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection, 5th, 6th, and 7th Editions organized by the OAS and the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs. Washington, D.C.	2024, 2025, 2026
The Methodology Center at Purdue (MCAP). Purdue University. West Lafayette	2024
Political Science Research Workshops (PSRW) Purdue University. West Lafayette	2023
Research Intern Workshop, Migration Policy Institute. Washington, D.C.	2022

SKILLS

Programs: R (*advanced*), Stata (*advanced*), $\text{\LaTeX}$ (*intermediate*), Qualtrics (*intermediate*), Python (*intermediate*).
Languages: Spanish (*native*), English (*fluent*), French (*basic*).

CERTIFICATES

International Survey Methods. Vanderbilt University	2024
Advanced Methods at Purdue (AMAP) in Behavioral, Health, and Social Sciences	2025

SERVICE

Political Science Graduate Student Association. Recruitment and Mentorship Chair	2020-2021
Reviewer, <i>Latin American Research Review</i>	2025
Reviewer, <i>Research & Politics</i>	2025

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Co-Organizer, Sixth and Seventh Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection	2025, 2026
OAS, UNHCR, IOM, and the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs. Washington, D.C.	

Policy Publication

Chaves-González, Diego, Mora, María Jesús, Banulescu-Bogdan, Natalia, and **Vega-Méndez, Catalina**. (2023). "Colombia's Evolving Approach to Immigrant Integration: An Institutional Mapping." Washington, D.C., and Bogotá: MPI and U.S. Agency for International Development.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association (APSA)
International Studies Association (ISA)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)