

# SERGIO J. ASCENCIO

University of New Mexico ◊ Social Science Building 2074 ◊ Albuquerque, NM 87131  
[sergioascencio@unm.edu](mailto:sergioascencio@unm.edu) ◊ (505) · 313 · 9253 ◊ [www.sergioascencio.org](http://www.sergioascencio.org)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

**University of New Mexico**, Albuquerque, NM

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019–

**New York University Abu Dhabi**, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Postdoctoral Associate, Social Science Division, 2018–2019

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Rochester**, Rochester, NY.

Ph.D., Political Science, 2018.

Committee: Gretchen Helmke (Chair), Tasos Kalandrakis, Bonnie M. Meguid, G. Bingham Powell, Jr.  
Fields: Comparative Politics, Formal Theory, Methods.

M.A., Political Science, 2014.

**Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)**, Mexico City.

B.A., Political Science (with Highest Honors), 2011.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

**Comparative Politics:** comparative political institutions, political economy, party strategy, candidate selection, electoral manipulation, Latin American politics.

**Formal Theory:** non-Downsian models of elections, structural estimation of game-theoretic models.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

Ascencio, Sergio J. and Miguel R. Rueda. 2019. “[Partisan Poll Watchers and Electoral Manipulation](#).” *American Political Science Review* 113(3): 727-742.

## WORKING PAPERS

---

“[Retaining Political Talent: A Candidate-Centered Theory of Primary Adoption](#).”

“[Nomination Rules and the Calculus of Mobilization: Theory and Evidence from Mexico](#).” *Under review*

“[Party Influence in Presidential Primaries: Evidence from Mexico](#).”

“Party Strategy, Candidate Selection and Legislative Behavior in Mexico,” (with Yann P. Kerevel). Invited to revise and resubmit at *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

“[Endogenous Issue Salience in an Ownership Model of Elections](#),” (with Mike Gibilisco).

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

- “Stacking the Deck: Electoral System Change and Democratization in the Mexican States, 1979-2009.”  
“Clientelism as a Signaling Game,” (with Han Il Chang).  
“Using Gender Quotas to Fight Intraparty Battles,” (with Chit Basu).  
“Divisive Primaries? How Polarization, Incumbency, and Term Limits Shape Intraparty Competition.”  
“Dynastic Ties, Gender Stereotypes, and Candidate Evaluations,” (with Han Il Chang).  
“Party System Polarization: Citizen Perception, Manifesto Statements, and Change,” (with Bing Powell).  
“Do Divisive Primaries Hurt Parties? Evidence from Mexico.”

## PUBLICATIONS IN SPANISH

---

- “Mecanismos de delegación en las comisiones de los Congresos estatales” (2009) in Luisa Béjar *Qué hacen los legisladores en México: el trabajo en comisiones*. México: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. (with Daniel Hernández and Álvaro López-Lara)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

---

### **United States–Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange**

- 2011–2014. Fulbright–García Robles Scholarship for Graduate Studies (Declined).

### **Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México**

2012. 17th Ex ITAM Research Award for Best Thesis in Political Science.

### **University of California, San Diego**

- 2016–2017. Predoctoral Fellowship, Center for U.S.–Mexican Studies (Declined).

### **University of Rochester**

2017. Program in Empirical Policy Research (PEPR) Grant, Wallis Institute of Political Economy.  
2016–2017. Dean’s Post-Field Research Dissertation Completion Fellowship.  
2015. The Star Lab Conference Presentation Award, Department of Political Science.  
2014–2015. W. Allen Wallis Graduate Student Fellowship, Wallis Institute of Political Economy.  
2013–2014. Prize for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, Department of Political Science.  
2014. Summer Seed Grant for International Field Research, Department of Political Science.  
2013. Second-Year Paper Fellowship, Department of Political Science.  
2011–2016. University Fellowship, Department of Political Science.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

- 2019 Party Congress Research Group Workshop. University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.  
European Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Belfast, Northern Ireland.  
Political Economy of Development and Accountability Conference. University of Oxford, England.
- 2018 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2017 Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico. (Invited talk)  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.  
Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2016 Formal Theory and Comparative Politics Conference. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.  
Latin American Studies Association International Congress. New York, NY.  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 The Electoral Integrity Project Workshop. San Francisco, CA.  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**Assistant Professor**, University of New Mexico

- Fall 2019. LTAM 400/POLS 320: Latin American Culture and Society

**Instructor**, University of Rochester

- Summer 2017. Political Science Instructor for [Early Connection Africa](#).
- Summer 2016, 2017 & 2018. Psc 101: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate).
- Summer 2015 & 2016. Political science department “math pre-fresher” (Graduate).

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Rochester

- Spring 2018. Psc 107: Introduction to Positive Political Theory (Undergraduate), Prof. Scott Abramson.
- Spring 2014, 2015 & 2018. Psc 288: Game Theory (Undergraduate), Prof. Tasos Kalandrakis.
- Fall 2014. Psc 407: Mathematical Modeling (Graduate), Prof. Mark Fey.
- Fall 2013. Psc 101: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate), Prof. Bonnie M. Meguid.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

---

**Office of the Mexican Presidency**, Mexico City, Mexico.

Director of Strategic Political Analysis, 2008–2011.

## SKILLS

---

**Technical:** R, Stata, MATLAB,  $\LaTeX$ .

**Languages:** Spanish (native), English (fluent), Italian (basic).

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

---

American Political Science Association (2011–present).

Midwest Political Science Association (2011–present).

Latin American Studies Association (2015–present).

European Political Science Association (2018–present).

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

---

**Reviewer:** *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*; *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*; *Política y Gobierno*.

## REFERENCES

---

**Gretchen Helmke**

Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
(585) 275-5236  
[gretchen.helmke@rochester.edu](mailto:gretchen.helmke@rochester.edu)

**Tasos Kalandrakis**

Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
(585) 273-4902  
[kalandrakis@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:kalandrakis@ur.rochester.edu)

**Bonnie M. Meguid**

Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
(585) 275-2338  
[bmeguid@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:bmeguid@ur.rochester.edu)

**G. Bingham Powell, Jr.**

Marie C. Wilson and Joseph C. Wilson Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
(585) 275-0621  
[gb.powell@rochester.edu](mailto:gb.powell@rochester.edu)

Updated September 3, 2019