LUCAS BORBA

Vanderbilt University ◇ Department of Political Science ◇ 331 Commons Center
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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science *2027 (Expected)*

Dissertation Title: Segregation and the Weak State Trap: Spatial Inequalities and Local Governance in Cities

Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology

Committee: Jessica Gottlieb, Noam Lupu, Nina McMurry, Jessica Trounstine (Co-Chair), Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Co-Chair)

M.A. in Political Science *2024*

Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil *2020*
M.A. in Political Science

University of Pernambuco, Brazil *2017*
B.A. in History (Major), *Summa Cum Laude*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Do Conspiracy Theories Undermine Support for Democracy? (with Marcelle Amaral, Eduarda Lessa, Vanessa Lira, and Nara Pavão) *Political Behavior* 48, no. 1 (2026): 1-22.

- Best graduate student poster presented at the Latin American POLMETH Conference 2023, Brazil.

Conceptualizing and Measuring Support for Democracy: A New Approach (with Christopher Claassen et al), *Comparative Political Studies* 58, no. 6 (2025): 1171-1198.

Rethinking Coups, Autogolpes, Illegitimate Impeachments, and Sundry Other Democratic Violations (with Amy Erica Smith), *International Studies Review* 24 (1), no. 1 (2022): 1-29.

Research Methods in Political Science (with Dalson Figueiredo, Antônio Fernandes and Thais Helena Aguiar), *BIB – Revista Brasileira de Informação Bibliográfica em Ciências Sociais*, 94, no. 1 (2020): 1-34.

UNDER REVIEW

Private-sector support for programmatic candidates: Evidence from Senegal (with Abhit Bhandari and Jessica Gottlieb). Conditionally Accepted, Political Science Research and Methods (PSRM).

Houses for the People, Power for the Gangs: Criminal Capture of Social Housing in Brazil (with Eduardo Mello, Dani Nedal, Daniel Rio Tinto, and Bruno Pantaleão). Revise and resubmit, American Political Science Review (APSR).

- 2025 REPAL Conference Best Paper Award.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Segregation and the Fiscal Bargain: How Spatial Inequality Erodes State Capacity (Job Market Paper).

- Honorable Mention, 2026 REPAL Conference Best Graduate Student Paper Award.
- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award 2024, Political Science Department, Vanderbilt University.

Property Rights and Economic Informality: Evidence from a Land Lottery in Argentina (with Antonella Bandiera, Horacio Larreguy, and Jorge Mangonnet). Working Paper.

Breaking the Incumbency Curse? Campaigns and Incumbency (Dis)Advantage in Brazilian Cities. (with Joaquim Meira). Working Paper.

Applying Adaptive Cluster Sampling to Study Hard-to-Reach Populations (with Noam Lupu, J. Daniel Montalvo, Robert Vidigal, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister). Working Paper.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

American Political Science Association

APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant ($14,913) *2025*
Centennial Center Research Grant ($2000) *2025*
SPARK Award ($750) *2022*
EPOVB Travel Grant *2022*
Conference Travel Grant *2022*

Vanderbilt University

Edward Ferguson Jr. Graduate Award for Excellence in Research ($5,000) *2025*
Graduate School
Vanderbilt Award for Doctoral Dissertation ($2,500) *2025*
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)
CSDI Activity and Training Grant ($15,250) *2024, 2025*
Department of Political Science
Summer Research Award ($5,000) *2024*
Graduate Leadership Institute
Professional Development and Training Grant ($2,500) *2024*
LAPOP Lab/Center for Global Democracy
LAPOP Field Research Award ($3,750) *2022, 2023*
LAPOP Conference Travel Grant *2019, 2022*
College of Arts and Science
Summer Research Award ($7,250) *2023*
Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies (CLACX)
Tinker Fellowship ($2500) *2022*

Southern Political Science Association

Prestage-Cook Award ($500) *2026*

Society for Political Methodology

John Garcia Scholarship *2023*

Universität Hamburg

PolMeth Europe travel grant (canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic) *2020*

Federal University of Pernambuco
Conference Travel Grant *2018*

National Consortium for Scientific and Technological Development - CNPq
M.A. Fellowship *2018 - 2020*

FACEPE (Pernambuco's Research Agency – Brazil)
Undergraduate Research Fellowship *2014 - 2016*

PRESENTATIONS

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB) *2026*
Berlin Meetings on the Political Economy of Development (MoPED)

European Political Science Society *2026*
Annual Meeting

Midwest Political Science Association *2026*
Annual Meeting

Southeast Exchange of Development Studies (SEEDS) *2026*
Conference

Fundação Getúlio Vargas – Brazil *2025*
School of International Relations Workshop Series (By invitation)

Vanderbilt University *2025*
Comparative Politics Workshop

Local Political Economy Conference *2025*
APSA Pre-conference

American Political Science Association *2022, 2025*
Annual Meeting

Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina (REPAL) *2024, 2025, 2026*
Annual Conference

Federal University of Pernambuco – Brazil *2024, 2025*
Comparative Politics Workshop (By invitation)

Southern Political Science Association *2025, 2026*
Annual Meeting

Emory University *2024*
Southern Workshop on Empirical Political Science (SoWEPS-7)

Urban Politics in the Global South *2024*
Annual Meeting

Georgia State University *2023*
Atlanta Symposium on Political Science

Latin American Public Opinion Project *2019, 2022*
Conference: The Public and Democracy in the Americas

Brazilian Political Science Association *2020, 2022*
Biannual Meeting

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Segregation and the Weak State Trap (P.I., Team Management) *2025–present*
Management of a team of six research assistants for my dissertation project.

LAPOP Lab/Center for Global Democracy (Research Affiliate) *2021–present*
Vanderbilt University

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions – CSDI (Research Affiliate) *2024–present*
Vanderbilt University

Research on Individuals, Politics, and Society – RIPS (Research Affiliate) *2022–present*
Vanderbilt University

The Politics of Loneliness (Research Assistant) *2024S, 2025S*
P.I.: Elizabeth J. Zechmeister

Public Opinion and the Environment in Brazil (Research Assistant) *2020–2021*
P.I. Amy Erica Smith

Political Parties, Elections, and Political Behavior (Research Affiliate) *2019–2021*
Federal University of Pernambuco

Center for Research on Latin American History (Research Affiliate) *2013–2017*
University of Pernambuco

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University (Instructor of Record)
Math and Statistics Skills Camp (Graduate Level) *Aug 2026*

Vanderbilt University (Teaching Assistant)
Statistics for Political Research I (Graduate Level; Instructor: Jennifer Larson) *2026F*
The Logic of Politics (Instructor: Federica Izzo) *2024F*
The Politics of Mexico (Instructor: Jonathan Hiskey) *2023F*
African Politics (Instructor: Kristin Michelitch) *2022S*
Elections and Voters Around the World (Instructor: Elizabeth Zechmeister) *2021F*

Federal University of Pernambuco (Teaching Assistant)
Special Topics in Methodology: OLS and Panel Data (Instructor: Dalson Figueiredo) *2019F*
Quantitative Methods I (Instructor: Dalson Figueiredo) *2019S*

Poliedro High School, Brazil (School Teacher) *2015 – 2016*
History of Brazil and Latin America

SERVICE

Coordinator *2024-2025*
Comparative Politics Graduate Student Lab – Vanderbilt University

Mentor *2022-2025*
APSA Mentoring Program – American Political Science Association

Mentor *2023-2025*
Graduate Mentorship Program – Vanderbilt University

Graduate Student Coordinator *2023-2024*
Comparative Politics Workshop – Vanderbilt University

Treasurer *2023-2024*
Political Science Graduate Student Association – Vanderbilt University

Conference Organization Committee *2022-2023*
Vanderbilt Graduate Student Seminar – Vanderbilt University

Editorial Assistant *2016-2018*
University of Pernambuco Press – University of Pernambuco

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

Political Behavior
Electoral Studies
Brazilian Political Science Review
De Gruyter Brill

TRAINING

ICPSR Summer Program *2023*
The University of Michigan

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science – SICSS *2021*
The University of Arizona

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Data Analysis	R (advanced), Python (intermediate), Stata (intermediate), Gephi (beginner)
Softwares & Tools	RMarkdown, Github, LaTeX
Languages	English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), Portuguese (native)