

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 Trounstein (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
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Society for Political Methodology

John Garcia Scholarship	2023
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Universität Hamburg

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

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) <i>Management of a team of six research assistants for my dissertation project.</i>	<i>2025–present</i>
LAPOP Lab/Center for Global Democracy (Research Affiliate) Vanderbilt University	<i>2021–present</i>
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions – CSDI (Research Affiliate) Vanderbilt University	<i>2024–present</i>
Research on Individuals, Politics, and Society – RIPS (Research Affiliate) Vanderbilt University	<i>2022–present</i>
The Politics of Loneliness (Research Assistant) P.I.: Elizabeth J. Zechmeister	<i>2024S, 2025S</i>
Public Opinion and the Environment in Brazil (Research Assistant) P.I. Amy Erica Smith	<i>2020–2021</i>
Political Parties, Elections, and Political Behavior (Research Affiliate) Federal University of Pernambuco	<i>2019–2021</i>
Center for Research on Latin American History (Research Affiliate) University of Pernambuco	<i>2013–2017</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University (Teaching Assistant)	
The Politics of Mexico (Instructor: Jonathan Hiskey)	<i>2023F</i>
African Politics (Instructor: Kristin Michelitch)	<i>2022S</i>
Elections and Voters Around the World (Instructor: Elizabeth Zechmeister)	<i>2021F</i>
Federal University of Pernambuco (Teaching Assistant)	
Special Topics in Methodology: OLS and Panel Data (Instructor: Dalson Figueiredo)	<i>2019F</i>
Quantitative Methods I (Instructor: Dalson Figueiredo)	<i>2019S</i>
Poliedro High School, Brazil (School Teacher)	<i>2015 – 2016</i>
History of Brazil and Latin America	

SERVICE

Coordinator	<i>2024–2025</i>
Comparative Politics Graduate Student Lab – Vanderbilt University	
Mentor	<i>2022–2025</i>
APSA Mentoring Program – American Political Science Association	
Mentor	<i>2023–2025</i>
Graduate Mentorship Program – Vanderbilt University	
Graduate Student Coordinator	<i>2023–2024</i>
Comparative Politics Workshop – Vanderbilt University	
Treasurer	<i>2023–2024</i>
Political Science Graduate Student Association – Vanderbilt University	
Conference Organization Committee	<i>2022–2023</i>
Vanderbilt Graduate Student Seminar – Vanderbilt University	
Editorial Assistant	<i>2016–2018</i>
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, L^AT_EX

Languages

English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate),
Portuguese (native)