

# LUCAS BORBA

Vanderbilt University ◊ Department of Political Science ◊ 331 Commons Center  
230 Appleton Place ◊ Nashville – TN 37203  
✉ [lucas.borba@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lucas.borba@vanderbilt.edu)

## 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

M.A. in Political Science 2020

### University of Pernambuco, Brazil

B.A. in History (Major), *Summa Cum Laude* 2017

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Political Economy of Development

State Capacity and Governance

Inequality and Social Policies

Local and Distributive Politics

Democratic Attitudes in Developing Democracies

Latin America

## 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). Under review.

*Houses for the People, Power for the Gangs: The Negative Externalities of Housing Policies* (with Eduardo Mello, Dani Nedal, Daniel Rio Tinto, and Bruno Pantaleão). Under review.

- 2025 REPAL Conference Best Paper Award.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

---

*The Spatial Dynamics of State Capacity.* Working Paper.

- 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.

## 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**

---

**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

Annual Conference

**Federal University of Pernambuco – Brazil** 2024, 2025

Comparative Politics Workshop (By invitation)

**Southern Political Science Association** 2025

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

<b>The Politics of Loneliness</b> (Research Assistant) P.I.: Elizabeth J. Zechmeister	<i>2024S, 2025S</i>
<b>Public Opinion and the Environment in Brazil</b> (Research Assistant) P.I. Amy Erica Smith	<i>2020–2021</i>
<b>Political Parties, Elections, and Political Behavior</b> (Research Affiliate) Federal University of Pernambuco	<i>2019–2021</i>
<b>Center for Research on Latin American History</b> (Research Affiliate) University of Pernambuco	<i>2013–2017</i>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

<b>Vanderbilt University</b> (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>
<b>Federal University of Pernambuco</b> (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>
<b>Poliedro High School, Brazil</b> (School Teacher)	<i>2015 – 2016</i>
History of Brazil and Latin America	

## SERVICE

---

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

## TRAINING

---

<b>ICPSR Summer Program</b>	<i>2023</i>
The University of Michigan	
<b>Summer Institute in Computational Social Science – SICSS</b>	<i>2021</i>
The University of Arizona	

## SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

---

<b>Data Analysis</b>	R (advanced), Python (intermediate), Stata (intermediate), Gephi (beginner)
<b>Softwares &amp; Tools</b>	RMarkdown, Github, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
<b>Languages</b>	English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), Portuguese (native)