Clemente T. Sánchez

MIT Political Science

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(Updated on October 10, 2026)

My research sits at the intersection of bureaucratic autonomy, institutional backsliding, and the politics of enforcement. In particular, my dissertation argues that policy-motivated bureaucrats can slow the erosion of the rule of law, as well as improve societal outcomes. Additionally, I have ongoing interests in causal inference, individual-level adaptation to climate change, and the broader field of environmental politics.

Education

2021 – present **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**

Doctoral program in Political Science
Comparative Politics and Political Economy workshop chair (2023 – present)
Editorial assistant for the *American Journal of Political Science* (2025 – 2026)
Graduate Student Council president (2023 – 2024)
Graduate Student Work-in-Progress workshop chair (2022 – 2023)

Spring 2020 **New York University (NYU)**

International exchange program
16 credits in the Department of Politics

2016 – 2020 **Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC-Chile)**

BA in Political Science (*Título profesional*, five-year degree)
Graduated 1^{st} out of an incoming cohort of 59, maximum distinction

Academic research

Working papers

2026 "Forbearance Forgone: The Electoral Cost of Enforcing the Law." *Revise and resubmit (R&R) at the American Journal of Political Science. Available here.*

"Zealots Unbound: The Bureaucratic Microfoundations of the Rule of Law." *Job market paper. Available here.*

"Swimming in the Flood: Ideology and Individual-Level Climate Adaptation." With Preston Johnston. *Post-pilot survey draft available here.*

"Seeing with Blind Eyes: Scope and Limits of Politicized Enforcement." *Available upon request.*

Publications

Forthcoming "Bureaucratic Capacity." With Mai Hassan. Book chapter for the *Oxford Handbook of State Building and State Capacity*, edited by Mark Dincecco and Yuhua Wang. Under contract with Oxford University Press; expected early 2028.

2023 "Two Paths Towards the Exceptional Extension of National Voting Rights to Non-Citizen Residents." With David Altman and Sergio Huertas-Hernández. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *49*(10), pp. 2541–2560.

2021 "Citizens at the Polls: Direct Democracy in the World, 2020." With David Altman. *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*, *17*(2), pp. 85–106.

Fellowships and grants

2021 – present Luksic Fellowship, Luksic Scholars Foundation
MIT CIS Graduate Student Working Group Grants (US$5,500 over four cycles)

2024 – 2025 MIT Center for International Studies Summer Fellowship (US$5,000)
MIT Governance Lab Seed Grant (US$5,000)
Adam Smith Fellowship, George Mason University (US$4,000)

2024 MIT MISTI support for field research (US$7,000)

Selected conference presentations

- American Political Science Association **(APSA)**: 2024, 2025, 2026
- Midwest Political Science Association **(MPSA)**: 2024, 2025, 2026
- Pre-APSA Latin American Politics Workshop **(LATAM)**: 2026
- Political Economy of Climate and Environment **(PECE)**: 2026
- Columbia Climate Pipeline Conference **(Pipeline)**: 2026
- Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science **(NEWEPS)**: 2026
- Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina **(REPAL)**: 2025, 2026
- Public Sector Organizational Effectiveness Workshop **(PSOE)**: 2025
- Annual Brown-MIT Doctoral Workshop in International Development **(Brown-MIT)**: 2023

Teaching experience and training

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

2026 MIT Teaching Certificate (Teaching + Learning Lab)
Participated in teaching twelve workshops over the course of three semesters

2024 17.802 - *Quantitative Research II: Causal Inference* (F. Daniel Hidalgo)
Teaching assistant for PhD-level course; student evaluations: 6.8 out of 7.0

2023 17.801 - *Political Science Scope and Methods* (Fotini Christia)
Teaching assistant for undergraduate course; student evaluations: 6.9 out of 7.0

Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC-Chile)

Teaching assistant for undergraduate courses:

2019 ICP0101 - *Introduction to Political Science* (Carla Alberti)
ICP0114 - *Indigenous Politics In Latin America* (Carla Alberti)
ICP0147 - *Political Processes in Latin America* (Valeria Palanza)

2018 ICP0101 - *Introduction to Political Science* (Carla Alberti)
ICP0103 - *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (Julieta Suárez)
ICP0505 - *Qualitative Research Methods in Political Science* (Julieta Suárez)
ICP0601 - *Writing in Political Science* (Maria de la Calle)

2017 ICP0601 - *Writing in Political Science* (Maria de la Calle)

Relevant work experience

Amazon Institute of People and the Environment (Imazon)

2024 Non-profit scientific institution whose mission is to promote conservation and sustainable development in the Amazon. Location: Belém do Pará, Brazil. Role: visiting researcher. Supervisor: Carlos Souza Jr.

Chilean National Agency for Research and Development (ANID)

2021 FONDECYT grant. *Fiscal Origins of Democracy: How Different Sources of Income Affect Democratization*. Role: researcher. Supervisor: Diego Díaz.

2020 FONDECYT grant. *The impact of migratory waves and the extension of suffrage in contemporary democracies*. Role: researcher. Supervisor: David Altman.
FONDECYT grant. *Becoming parties: indigenous social movements and party politics in Latin America*. Role: researcher. Supervisor: Carla Alberti.
FONDECYT grant. *The paradoxical adoption of citizen-initiated mechanisms of direct democracy*. Role: researcher. Supervisor: David Altman.

Millennium Institute For Foundational Research on Data (IMFD)

2021 Millennium Science Initiative grant. *Data for the study of highly complex social problems*. Role: researcher. Supervisor: Juan Pablo Luna.

References

F. Daniel Hidalgo
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Miscellaneous

- **Languages**: Spanish (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (advanced)
- **Programming**: R, Python, Qualtrics, Stata
- **Hobbies and interests**: Bird and portrait photography, hiking, theater, cinema, travel