

MOLLIE J. COHEN

---

University of Georgia  
311 Candler Hall, 202 Herty Dr.  
Athens, Georgia 30602

Phone: 706-542-6705  
Email: [mj.cohen@uga.edu](mailto:mj.cohen@uga.edu)  
Web: [www.molliecohen.com](http://www.molliecohen.com)

### Academic Appointments

- 2018-present: Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs. University of Georgia.
- 2017-2018: Research Fellow, Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP). Vanderbilt University.  
Post-Doctoral Researcher with the Trans-Institutional Brazil Health Policy Project.  
Vanderbilt University.

### Education

- 2016: Ph.D., Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University.
- 2013: M.A., Political Science, Vanderbilt University  
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology
- 2009: Political Science, *Cum laude*, University of California San Diego

### Peer Reviewed Publications

- Mollie J. Cohen. 2018. "Protest Via the Null Ballot: An Assessment of the Decision to Cast an Invalid Vote in Latin America." *Political Behavior*, 40(2): 395-414. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-017-9405-9>
- Mollie J. Cohen, Facundo E. Salles Kobilanski, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2018. "Electoral Volatility and Political Fractionalization in Latin America." *Journal of Politics*, 80(3). DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/697464>
- Mollie J. Cohen. 2018. "A Dynamic Model of the Invalid Vote: How A Changing Candidate Menu Shapes Null Voting Behavior." *Electoral Studies*, 53: 111-121
- Mollie J. Cohen and Amy Erica Smith. 2016. "Do Authoritarians Vote for Authoritarians? Evidence from Latin America." *Research & Politics*, 3(4). DOI: 10.1177/2053168016684066

### Work in Progress

- None of the Above: Protest Voting in Latin America and the World* (Book manuscript)
- "Vote Buying and Trust in Elections in Latin America." With Elizabeth J. Zechmeister and Eui Young Noh (Working paper)
- "Reducing Non-Response to Vote Choice using Sensitive Survey Item Techniques." With Kaitlen J. Cassell (Working paper)
- "Strategic Candidate Entry under Uncertainty." (Working paper)

“Stopping Fraud in Real Time: Using Machine Learning to Improve Quality Control in Public Opinion Surveys.” With Zach Warner (Working paper)

“Knowledge of Tuberculosis Increases Disease Stigma in Brazil.” With Peter Rebeiro, Heather Ewing, Kleydson Bonfim Andrade, Marshall Eakin, Timothy Sterling, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Working paper)

## **Policy Briefs, Research Reports and Chapters**

“Latin American Views on Abortion in the Shadow of the Zika Epidemic.” With Claire Q. Evans. AmericasBarometer Topical Brief No. 33 (2018).

“Blaming the Victim: Knowledge of Tuberculosis is Associated with Greater Stigma in Brazil.” With Heather Ewing, Marshall Eakin, Timothy Sterling, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. AmericasBarometer Insights No. 131 (2018).

"Measuring Political Knowledge in the AmericasBarometer." With Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. AmericasBarometer Methodological Note No. 003 (2018).

"Assessing and Improving Interview Quality in the 2016/17 AmericasBarometer." With Sebastian Larrea. AmericasBarometer Methodological Note No. 002 (2018).

“Support for Electoral Democracy in the Americas.” Chapter in Eds. Cohen, Mollie J., Noam Lupu, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2017. *The Political Culture of Democracy in the Americas, 2016/17: A Comparative Study of Democracy and Governance*.

“Here’s what Citizens who Vote for Authoritarians Have in Common.” With Amy Erica Smith, The Monkey Cage Blog, The Washington Post, November 2, 2016.

“Declining Trust in Parties Likely to Increase Already-High Invalid Voting Rates in Peru’s National Elections.” AmericasBarometer Topical Brief No. 26 (2016).

“Who is Interested in Politics?” With Ariel Helms, Hillary Rosenjack, Kelly Schultz, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. AmericasBarometer Insights No. 126 (2016).

“Who Approves of Those Who Block Roads to Protest in the Americas?” With Christine Huang, Susan Ma, Kyle Uber, Lauren White, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. AmericasBarometer Insights No. 121 (2015).

“Low Levels of External Efficacy Can be Improved by Government efforts to Deliver Better Outcomes.” With Hannury Lee, Ginny Randall, Jackson Vaught, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. AmericasBarometer Insights No. 115 (2015).

“Effort Trumps Output in Predicting Satisfaction with Democracy.” With Kristina Bergmann, Kelly Perry, Kevin Zhang and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. AmericasBarometer Insights No. 117 (2015).

“Those with Darker Skin Report Slower Police Response Time in the Americas.” With Elizabeth J. Zechmeister and Mitchell A. Seligson, AmericasBarometer Topical Brief No. 16 (2015) [also published at The Monkey Cage Blog, The Washington Post, February 9, 2015].

“Explaining Support for Interethnic Marriage in Four Countries.” AmericasBarometer Insights No. 77 (2012).

“Double Jeopardy: How U.S. Enforcement Policies Shape Tunkaseño Migration.” With Jonathan Hicken and Jorge Narvaez, in Cornelius, Wayne A. et al. (2010). Mexican Migration and the U.S. Economic Crisis: A Transnational Perspective. Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, San Diego, CA.

## **Awards, Grants, and Fellowships**

- Travel Award, Southeastern Latin American Behavior Mini Conference (2017)
- Graduate Student Pilot Grant, RIPS Lab, Vanderbilt University (2016)
- Erwin Hargrove Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Political Science Department, Vanderbilt University (2015)
- National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Grant #1428326 "Doctoral Dissertation Research in Political Science: The Causes and Representative Consequences of Invalid Voting." (2014-2015)
- Graduate Student Field Research Award, Latin American Public Opinion Project (2014)
- Summer Research Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University (2014)
- Dissertation Enhancement Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University (2014)
- Graduate Student Pilot Grant, RIPS Lab, Vanderbilt University (2013)
- Summer Graduate Education Enhancement Award, Vanderbilt University (2011)
- University Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University (2010-2015)

## **Data Collections in Progress**

*Brazilian Democracy in the Balance* – Five-wave panel study of the 2018 Brazilian presidential election. We aim to understand the nature and consequences of elections with authoritarians on the ballot.

*Global Ballot Initiative* – Codes presidential ballots by design features, links to election outcomes

*Latin American Presidential and Legislative Elections Database* – Detailed presidential and legislative electoral data from democratic transitions to present day in Latin American countries.

[www.lapaledata.com](http://www.lapaledata.com)

## **Teaching Experience**

*Undergraduate, University of Georgia*

- Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2018)

*Graduate, Vanderbilt University*

- Math Camp (Instructor, Fall 2017)
- Introductory Statistics (T.A., Fall 2012-Spring 2013)

*Undergraduate, Vanderbilt University*

- Seminar: Public Opinion and Democracy in Latin America (T.A., Spring 2017, 2018)

- The Politics of Global Inequality (Instructor, Fall 2015)
- Honors Seminar: Public Opinion and Democracy in Latin America (T.A., Spring 2015)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics (T.A., Spring 2011)
- Public Opinion and Democracy in Latin America (T.A., Summer 2011, 2012)

## Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

### *American Political Science Association*

- 2018: “Using Machine Learning Tools to Stop Survey Fraud in Real Time.” With Zach Warner.
- 2017: “The Effect of Messages Promoting Invalid Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections.”

### *American Political Science Association Women’s Mentoring Workshop*

- 2018: “Campaigning for No-One: Invalid Vote Campaigns in Latin America.”

### *Midwest Political Science Association*

- 2017: “Campaigning for No-One: Elite Mobilization of the Invalid Vote in Latin American Executive Elections.”
- 2016: “Electoral Volatility and Political Fractionalization in Latin America.” With Facundo Salles Kobilanski and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister
- 2016: “How Political Competition Affects Invalid Voting in Latin America.”
- 2014: “Apathy, Political Information, and Invalid Voting.”

### *Southern Political Science Association*

- 2014: “Protesting What? An Exploration of Invalid Voting.”
- 2012: “Reluctant vs. Content Clients?: Vote Buying in the Americas.” With Brian Faughnan and Elizabeth Zechmeister

### *Southeastern Latin American Behavior Mini Conference (SeLAB)*

- 2018: “Who Can be Mobilized by Organized Protest Voting Campaigns?”
- 2017: “Mosquito Politics: The Zika Epidemic and Abortion Attitudes in Latin America.” With Claire Q. Evans

### *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú (Grupo de Investigación Política Subnacional)*

- 2015: “Claridad de competencia y el voto de protesta en América Latina.”

### *Jurado Nacional de Elecciones (Peruvian electoral commission)*

- 2014: “Nociones básicas de la opinión pública.”
- 2014: “Experimentos: obsesionados por el control.”

## Service and Volunteer Work

Referee: *British Journal of Political Science, European Union Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, The Journal of Politics, Latin American Research Review, Política y Gobierno, Political Behavior, Political Research Quarterly, Politics and the Life Sciences, Social Movement Studies, Swiss Political Science Review*

Student Liaison, Research Experience for Peruvian Undergraduates program (2012- 2017)

Graduate Liaison to the Job Search Committee, Vanderbilt University Political Science (2012)

### **Research Skills**

Applied econometrics (statistics and regression, maximum likelihood estimation, Bayesian statistics, structural and simultaneous equation models, formal theory); survey research methods (study coordination and fieldwork oversight, question design, pre-testing, training, quality control); qualitative data analysis; experimental methods

### **Language Skills**

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

### **Statistical Packages/ Computing**

STATA, R, Qualtrics, NVivo, LaTeX, Python

### **References**

Elizabeth J. Zechmeister  
Political Science, Vanderbilt University  
PMB 0505, 230 Appleton Pl.  
Nashville, TN 37203-5721  
[liz.zechmeister@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:liz.zechmeister@vanderbilt.edu)

Jonathan Hiskey  
Political Science, Vanderbilt University  
PMB 0505, 230 Appleton Pl.  
Nashville, TN 37203-5721  
[j.hiskey@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:j.hiskey@vanderbilt.edu)

Zeynep Somer-Topcu  
Government, University of Texas at Austin  
158 W 21st ST STOP A1800Batts Hall 3.124  
Austin, TX 78712-1704  
[zsomer@utexas.edu](mailto:zsomer@utexas.edu)