

MOLLIE J. COHEN

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### **Academic Appointment**

Research Fellow, Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) and Post-doctoral Researcher with the Trans-Institutional Brazil Health Policy Project, Vanderbilt University

### **Education**

**Ph.D.** Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN. December 2016

Dissertation Title: “The Causes and Representative Consequences of Invalid Voting in Latin America”  
Committee: Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Chair), Mitchell A. Seligson, Jonathan Hiskey, Zeynep Somer-Topcu (University of Texas-Austin), Timothy Power (Oxford)

**M.A.** Political Science, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN (2013)  
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology

**B.A.** Political Science, 2009, Cum laude  
University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA

### **Coursework:**

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, 2007, 2012 (political science, Chilean studies)  
Universidad de Chile, 2007 (Spanish literature and language)

### **Peer Reviewed Publications**

“Protest Via the Null Ballot: An Assessment of the Decision to Cast an Invalid Vote in Latin America.”  
*Political Behavior*, (in print): 1-20. DOI: 10.1007/s11109-017-9405-9.

Cohen, Mollie J., & Smith, Amy Erica. 2016. “Do Authoritarians Vote for Authoritarians? Evidence from Latin America.” *Research & Politics*, 3(4): 2053168016684066.

### **Manuscripts in Submission**

“Electoral Volatility and Political Fractionalization in Latin America.” With Facundo Salles and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Conditional Accept, *Journal of Politics*)

“A Dynamic Model of the Invalid Vote: How A Changing Candidate Menu Shapes Null Voting Behavior.” (Under Review)

### **Working Papers**

“Campaigning for No-One: Elite Mobilization of the Invalid Vote in Latin American Presidential Elections.”

“Vote Buying and Trust in Elections in Latin America.” With Elizabeth J. Zechmeister

“Strategic Entry under Uncertainty: The Peruvian Case.”

“Mosquito Politics: The Zika Epidemic and Abortion Attitudes in Latin America.” With Claire Q. Evans

“Knowledge of Tuberculosis Increases Disease Stigma in Brazil.” with Heather Ewing

“The Effect of Messages Promoting Invalid Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections.”

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

“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**

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 Collection in Progress**

*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

### **Teaching**

*Graduate, Vanderbilt University*

- Math Camp, Instructor (Fall 2017)
- Introductory Statistics, Dr. Suzanne Globetti (Fall 2012-Spring 2013)

*Undergraduate, Vanderbilt University*

- Seminar: Public Opinion and Democracy in Latin America, Dr. Noam Lupu (Spring 2017)
- The Politics of Global Inequality (Instructor, Fall 2015)
- Honors Seminar: Public Opinion and Democracy in Latin America, Dr. Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Spring 2015)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics, Dr. Katherine Carroll (Spring 2011)
- Public Opinion and Democracy in Latin America, Dr. Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Summer 2011, 2012)

### **Conference Presentations and Invited Talks**

*American Political Science Association*

- 2017: “The Effect of Messages Promoting Invalid Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections.”

*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

*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: *Journal of Politics; Política y Gobierno; Politics and the Life Sciences; Political Research Quarterly, Social Movement Studies; Swiss Political Science Review*

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

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 (near native proficiency), Portuguese (intermediate), French (intermediate)

### **Statistical Packages/ Computing**

STATA, R, Qualtrics, NVivo, Python, Beamer

### **References**

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