

Mollie J. Cohen

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Academic Appointments

- 2025-present Associate Professor, Department of Political Science. Purdue University
- 2023-2025 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science. Purdue University
- 2018-2023 Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs. University of Georgia
- 2017-2018 Research Fellow, LAPOP Lab. Vanderbilt University
- Post-Doctoral Researcher, 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 Book

- 2024 *None of the Above: Protest Voting in Latin American Democracies*. University of Michigan Press (Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Series). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.12738341>
- Reviewed in *CHOICE Magazine*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública*
- Winner of the 2025 David O. Sears Best Book on Mass Politics Award (ISPP)

Peer Reviewed Publications

- 2025 Mollie J. Cohen, Euiyoung Noh, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. "Vote Buying, Norms, Context, and Trust in Elections." *Comparative Political Studies* 58(4): 647-679. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140241252099>
- 2024 Mollie J. Cohen and Geoffrey Sheagley. "Partisan Poll Watchers and Americans' Beliefs about Electoral Integrity." *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 88(SI): 536-560. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfae024>
- 2023 Oscar Castorena, Mollie J. Cohen, Noam Lupu, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. "How Worried Should We Be? The Implications of Fabricated Survey Data for Political

- Science.” *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 35(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpor/edad007>
- 2023 Mollie J. Cohen, Amy Erica Smith, Mason W. Moseley, and Matthew L. Layton. “Winners’ Consent? Democratic Legitimacy when Illiberal Candidates Win Elections.” *American Journal of Political Science*, 67(2): 261-276. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12690>
- 2023 Mollie J. Cohen and Kaitlen J. Cassell. “Reducing Item Non-Response to Vote Choice Questions: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Mexico.” *Public Opinion Quarterly*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfad002>
- 2021 Mollie J. Cohen and Zach Warner. “How to Get Better Survey Data More Efficiently.” *Political Analysis*, 29(2): 121-138. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/pan.2020.20>
- 2021 Matthew L. Layton, Amy Erica Smith, Mason W. Moseley, and Mollie J. Cohen. “Demographic Polarization and the Rise of the Far Right: Brazil’s 2018 Presidential Election.” *Research and Politics*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168021990204>
- 2021 Mollie J. Cohen. “Citizen Approval of Monetary- vs Goods-For-Votes Exchanges.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 8(1): 85-89. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/XPS.2020.4>
- 2020 Peter F. Rebeiro,* Mollie J. Cohen,* Heather M. Ewing, Marina Cruvinel Figueiredo, Lauren Saag Peetluk, Kleydson B. Andrade, Marshall Eakin, Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, Timothy R. Sterling. “Knowledge and stigma of latent tuberculosis infection in Brazil: Implications for tuberculosis prevention strategies.” *BMC Public Health*, 80(297). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-020-09053-1> *Co-first author
- 2018 Mollie J. Cohen. “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>
- 2018 Mollie J. Cohen, Facundo E. Salles Kobilanski, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. “Electoral Volatility in Latin America.” *Journal of Politics*, 80(3). DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/697464>
- 2018 Mollie J. Cohen. “A Dynamic Model of the Invalid Vote: How A Changing Candidate Menu Shapes Null Voting Behavior.” *Electoral Studies*, 53: 111-121
- 2016 Mollie J. Cohen and Amy Erica Smith. “Do Authoritarians Vote for Authoritarians? Evidence from Latin America.” *Research & Politics*, 3(4). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168016684066>

Special Issues

- 2023 *Describing and Understanding Changes in Democratic Attitudes in Latin America Between 2012 and 2021: A Macro Perspective* (edited with Luis A. Camacho, Angelo Cozzubo, Ingrid Rojas, and Amy Erica Smith), special issue of *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública* 12(2): 5-22.

Work in Progress

“Rejecting Authoritarianism: When Threats to Democracy Shape Values.” With Amy Erica Smith, Mason W. Moseley, and Matthew L. Layton (Under review)

“Patrolling the Polls: The Effect of Partisan Observers on Election Outcomes.” (Under review)

“Finding Voice through Political Action? Perceptions of Participatory Efficacy in Brazil’s 2018 Presidential Election.” With Amy Erica Smith, Mason W. Moseley, and Matthew L. Layton (Under review)

“How Partisan Poll Watchers Affect Citizen Confidence in Elections.” With Amy Erica Smith (Under review)

“How Poll Worker Attendance Affects Elections: Evidence from Peru.” With Mariana Ramírez Bustamante (Working paper)

Watchers at the Polls: Partisan Election Observation and Trust in American Elections. With Geoffrey Sheagley (In progress)

Policy Briefs, Research Reports and Chapters

“1 in 5 Bolivians spoiled their ballots—a sign of voter dissatisfaction as nation tips to the right.” *The Conversation*, August 18, 2025.

"What poll watchers can--and can't--do on Election Day." With Geoffrey Sheagley. *The Conversation*, November 4, 2024.

Cultura política de la democracia en Nicaragua y en las Américas 2023: Tomándole el pulso a la democracia. 2024. Latin American Public Opinion Project. Chapters 4, 5, and 6.

Cultura política de la democracia en El Salvador y en las Américas 2023: Tomándole el pulso a la democracia. 2024. Latin American Public Opinion Project. Chapters 4, 5, and 6.

“LACLEARN: Analysis of Trends of Democratic Attitudes in Latin America.” With NORC. January, 2023.

Cultura política de la democracia en Nicaragua y en las Américas 2021: Tomándole el pulso a la democracia. Latin American Public Opinion Project. Chapters 4, 5, and 6.

Cultura política de la democracia en la República Dominicana y en las Américas 2021: Tomándole el pulso a la democracia. Latin American Public Opinion Project. Chapter 6.

“Watchers at the Polls: The Effect of Partisan Poll Watchers on Perceptions of Electoral Fairness.” With Geoffrey Sheagley. *MIT Election Lab Blog*, August 31, 2021.

“Brazil’s president is rallying his base — so that he can expand his power.” With Amy Erica Smith, Matthew Layton, and Mason Moseley. *The Monkey Cage Blog*, May 11, 2021.

“Did Brazilians vote against democracy last Sunday?” With Amy Erica Smith, Matthew Layton, and Mason Moseley. *Mischiefs of Faction*, October 30, 2018.

“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

2025	David O. Sears Best Book on Mass Politics Award, International Society of Political Psychology
2024	Russell Sage Foundation, Presidential Grant (with Sheagley)
2022	Political Analysis Outstanding Reviewer Award
2022	Small Grant, Department of International Affairs, UGA
2021	Small Grant, Department of International Affairs, UGA (with Sheagley)
2021	Seed Grant, University of Georgia (with Sheagley)
2020	Seed Grant, Department of International Affairs, UGA
2020	Seed Grant, Department of International Affairs, UGA (with Powers)
2020	Seed Grant, School of Public and International Affairs, UGA (with Sheagley)
2019	South Eastern Conference Faculty Travel Program Grant
2017	Travel Award, Southeastern Latin American Behavior Mini Conference
2016	Graduate Student Pilot Grant, RIPS Lab, Vanderbilt University
2015	Erwin Hargrove Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Political Science Department, Vanderbilt University
2014-2015	National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Grant #1428326 "Doctoral Dissertation Research in Political Science: The Causes and Representative Consequences of Invalid Voting."
2014	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
2013	Graduate Student Pilot Grant, RIPS Lab, Vanderbilt University
2011	Summer Graduate Education Enhancement Award, Vanderbilt University
2011-2015	University Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University

Teaching

Graduate, Purdue University

Causal Inference (Spring 2024)
Political Behavior (Fall 2023)
Research Design (Fall 2024)

Undergraduate, Purdue University

Electioneering Around the World (Fall 2024)
Transformative Texts, Critical Thinking and Communication (Spring 2024, 2025)

Graduate, University of Georgia

Comparative Analysis and Method (Fall 2020)
Comparative Political Behavior (Spring 2019)
Intermediate Political Methodology (Spring 2020, 2021, 2022)
Research Design (Fall 2022)

Undergraduate, University of Georgia

Applied Survey Research (Fall 2022)
Electioneering Around the World (Spring 2020, 2021)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2018, 2020)

Latin American Politics (Spring 2022)

Graduate, Vanderbilt University

Math Camp (Instructor, Fall 2017)

Undergraduate, Vanderbilt University

The Politics of Global Inequality (Instructor, Fall 2015)

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

American Political Science Association (2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2025)
American Political Science Association Women's Mentoring Workshop (2018)
Election Law Program, Carter Center, and the National Conference of State Legislatures (2021)
Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration (2021, 2023)
FLACSO – Mexico (2020)
Illiberalism in Latin America – George Washington University (2022)
Jurado Nacional de Elecciones (Peruvian electoral commission; 2014)
Latin American Studies Association (2019, 2020, 2023, 2025)
MapleMeth (2022)
Midwest Political Science Association (2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú (Grupo de Investigación Política Subnacional; 2015)
Southern Political Science Association (2012, 2014)
Southeastern Latin American Behavior Mini Conference (2017, 2018)
Tulane University, Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (2025)
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2024)
University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies (2024)
University of Michigan, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies (2025)

Conference Panel Discussant

American Political Science Association (2025)
Latin American Studies Association (2023)
Midwest Political Science Association (2016, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024)
Southeastern Latin American Behavior Mini Conference (2019)
Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science (2019)

Service

Journal Editor: Associate Editor, *Research and Politics* (2024-)

Reviewer: American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Democratization, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, European Union Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, International Political Science Review, Journal of Elections, Public opinion and Parties, Journal of Experimental Political Science, The Journal of Politics, Latin American Politics and Society, Latin American Research Review, Perspectives on Politics, PLOS-One, Política y Gobierno, Political Analysis, Political Behavior, Political Geography, Politics and the Life Sciences, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Quarterly, Representation, Revista de Ciencia Política, Social Science Research, Social Movement Studies, Swiss Political Science Review

Section Chair: Public Opinion, MPSA Annual Meeting (2020); Turnout and Political Participation, MPSA Annual Meeting (2021); Campaigns and Elections, MPSA Annual Meeting (2024); Public Opinion, SPSA Annual Meeting (2027)

Award Committee Member: APSA EPOVB John Sullivan Award Committee (2021-2)

Department: Search committee member (2020, 2021); Comprehensive exam grader, methods (UGA, 2020-21; Purdue, 2023-present); Graduate affairs committee member (UGA, 2020-2023) (Purdue, 2023-present); Joe and Maggie Kearnan Experimental Lab advisory committee (Purdue, 2025-present)

Organizer: Southern Working Group in Empirical Political Science (UGA/ FSU) Co-Organizer (2021); Junior Faculty Speaker Series Co-Organizer (UGA, 2021)

Community: Student Liaison, Research Experience for Peruvian Undergraduates program (2012-2017); Co-organizer and speaker, roundtable on Georgia's new election law (2021)

Language Skills

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

Fieldwork and International Experience

Chile: 2007, 2009-10, 2012, 2016

Ecuador: 2014

Mexico: 2008, 2018

Panama: 2014

Peru: 2013, 2014, 2022

Consulting

NORC (2021-3)

LAPOP (2019, 2021, 2023, 2024)