

KATHERINE BERSCH

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
Davidson College
Davidson, NC 28035
kabersch@davidson.edu
berschkatherine.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Davidson College, Department of Political Science
Nancy Akers and J. Mason Wallace Assistant Professor of Political Science (2020-present)
Assistant Professor (2018-2020)

McGill University, Institute for the Study of International Development
Postdoctoral Fellow in Global Governance (2016-2018)

Stanford University, Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2015-2016)

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Government
Ph.D. Political Science, August 2015

The University of Notre Dame
B.A., Political Science, May 2004

BOOKS

When Democracies Deliver: Governance Reform in Latin America. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

Winner of the Donna Lee Van Cott Best Book Prize, Latin American Studies Association.

Winner of the Levine Memorial Book Prize, International Political Science Association.

Winner of the SPAR Best Book Award, American Society for Public Administration.

Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics* and *Latin American Politics and Society*

PUBLICATIONS

“Neoliberal Reform of Transport Institutions in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile: The Tortoise Beats the Hare,” 2021. *State Making and Nation Making in Latin America and Spain, Volume 3: The Neoliberal State and Beyond*, edited by Miguel Centeno and Agustin Ferraro, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Responding to COVID-19 Through Surveys of Public Servants,” (with Schuster, Weitzman, Sass Mikkelsen, Meyer-Sahling, Fukuyama, Paskov, Rogger, Mistree, and Kay.) 2020. *Public Administration Review*, (80)5: 792–796.

“Making Inroads: Infrastructure, State Capacity, and Chinese Dominance in Latin American Development,” (with Riitta-Ilona Koivumaeki). 2019. *Studies in Comparative International Development*. 54: 323–345.

“State Capacity, Bureaucratic Politicization, and Corruption in the Brazilian State,” 2017. Co-authored with Sérgio Praça and Matthew Taylor. *Governance*, (30)1: 105–124.

“Bureaucratic Capacity and Political Autonomy within National States: Mapping the Archipelago of Excellence in Brazil,” 2017. Co-authored with Sérgio Praça and Matthew Taylor. *States in the*

Developing World, edited by Miguel Angel Centeno, Atul Kohli, and Deborah Yashar (with Dinsha Mistree), Cambridge University Press.

[“The Merits of Problem-Solving over Powering: Governance Reform in Brazil and Argentina,”](#) 2016. *Comparative Politics*, 48(2): 205–225.

Reprinted in Portuguese “Os Méritos de Problem-Solving Sobre Powering: Reformas de Governança no Brasil e na Argentina.” In *Reforma do Estado e da Administração Pública (1995-2020): trajetória, tendências e desafios* edited by Pedro Cavalcante, IPEA, forthcoming.

[“Measuring Governance: Implications of Conceptual Choices,”](#) 2014. Co-authored with Sandra Botero. *European Journal of Development Research*, 26(1): 124–141.

[“Identifying Transparency,”](#) 2013. Co-authored with Gregory Michener. *Information Polity*, 18(3) 233–242.

WORKING PAPERS “Bureaucratic Autonomy, Agency Capacity, and Government Quality: Evidence from Brazil” (with Francis Fukuyama). *Under Review*.

“Appointments, Coalitions, and Constraints: Modeling the Deployment of the Presidential Toolkit in Coalitional Presidentialism” (with Felix Lopez and Matthew Taylor). *Under Review*.

“Bureaucratic Autonomy” (with Francis Fukuyama). Commissioned by *Annual Review of Political Science*.

“Exit, Voice, or Loyalty?: Civil Servant Responses to Political Interference in Brazil.” (with Andreza De Souza Santos). *In progress*.

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS *Qualidade do Governo e Capacidades Estatais: Resultados do Survey Sobre Governança Aplicado no Brasil*. Research Report, 2019. (with IPEA Team).

[“Some parts of the Brazilian government actually aren’t corrupt. Here’s what they have in common,”](#) 2016. *Washington Post: The Monkey Cage* (with Sérgio Praça and Matthew Taylor).

“Conceptualizing the Quality of Transparency” Working Paper no. 49, Political Methodology Working Paper Series of the IPSA Committee on Concepts & Methods (with Robert Michener).

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS Donna Lee Van Cott Best Book Prize, Latin American Studies Association, Political Institutions and Processes Section, 2020

Charles H. Levine Memorial Book Prize, awarded by International Political Science Association’s RC27 - Structure and Organization of Government, sponsor of the journal *Governance*, 2020

SPAR Best Book Award, American Society for Public Administration, 2020

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Global Governance, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University, 2016-18

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, 2015-16

Best Paper Award, Latin American Studies Association, Political Institutions Section (LAPIS), 2015

National P.E.O. Scholar Award, 2014-15 (\$15,000)

Dwight Eisenhower-Roberts Graduate Fellowship, The Eisenhower Institute, 2013-14 (\$10,000)

David L. Boren Fellowship, National Security Education Program, 2011-12 (\$24,000)

Fulbright Fellowship (Brazil), Institute of International Education, 2007 (\$16,150)

University of Texas at Austin

Mike Hogg Endowed Fellowship, 2014-15 (\$26,000)

Graduate School Continuing Fellowship, Fall 2012, Spring 2014 (\$19,400)

Macdonald Summer Research Fellowship, 2012, (\$5,000)

Long Dissertation Fellowship, 2011 (declined; \$18,100)

Institute for Qualitative & Mixed Method Research Fellowship, 2010

University of Notre Dame

John J. Kennedy Prize (for best thesis on Latin America), Helen Kellogg Institute, 2004

GRANTS

Latin American Studies Association Travel Grant, 2014 (\$600)

Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Award, University of Texas, 2011, 2013 (\$2,000)

American Political Science Association Travel Grant, 2013 (\$275)

Lozano Long Summer Research Grant, University of Texas, 2010, 2012 (\$3,775)

Tinker Summer Field Research Grant, University of Texas, 2009 (\$1,298)

Professional Development Award, University of Texas, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2014 (\$1200)

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

2018 Brazil (Brasília), August 2018

2012 Argentina (Buenos Aires), Fall, Dissertation fieldwork

2011-2012, Brazil (São Paulo and Brasília), Dissertation fieldwork

2010 Argentina (Buenos Aires), Summer, Pre-dissertation fieldwork

2009 Brazil (São Paulo and Brasília), Summer, Pre-dissertation fieldwork

2007 Brazil (Rio de Janeiro), Fulbright Fellowship

2004 Chile (Linares and Santiago), Summer

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Neoliberal Reform of Transport Institutions in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile: The Tortoise Beats the Hare" Zoom presentation at Workshop on "The Neoliberal State and Beyond." Princeton University, August 3-5, 2020.

"Bureaucratic Autonomy and Government Quality" Presented at the Keough School, University of Notre Dame, February 4, 2020.

"The Governance Project." Presented at University of Gothenburg's Workshop on "Measuring Governance Cross-Nationally." Gothenburg, Sweden, June 10-11, 2019.

"Bureaucratic Autonomy and Government Quality: Evidence from Brazil." Presented at IPEA's Workshop on "Measuring Governance Cross-Nationally." Gothenburg, Sweden, June 10-11, 2019.

"Bureaucratic Autonomy and Government Quality: Evidence from Brazil." Presented at University of Gothenburg's Workshop on "Measuring Governance Cross-Nationally." Gothenburg, Sweden, June 10-11, 2019.

"Bureaucratic Autonomy and Government Quality: Evidence from Brazil." Presented at Stanford University's Workshop on "Measuring Governance Cross-Nationally." Stanford, CA, May 30-31, 2019.

"The Danger of Transparency is Disillusionment: New Challenges for Institutions of Accountability in Brazil." Presented at University of Oxford, St Antony's College conference on "Backlash in Social Rights: Will Brazil's Institutions Hold?" Oxford, UK, February 15, 2019.

“The Governance Project.” Presented at the World Bank’s workshop on “Bureaucracy and State Capabilities: Frontier Diagnostics.” Washington, DC, December 4, 2018.

“The Archipelago of Excellence in Brazil: the Development of State Capacity in the Brazilian State.” Presented at Northwestern’s conference on “Islands of Integrity Conference.” Chicago, April 20-21, 2018.

“Governance Reform and State Capacity in Latin America” Keynote address at Brazil’s National School of Public Administration’s international conference on “Building State Capacity for Development.” Brasilia, September 19-20, 2017.

“State Capacity, Bureaucratic Politicization, and Corruption in the Brazilian State.” Presented at University of Sussex and ESRC Workshop on “Uneven State Building and Democratisation.” London, January 27-28, 2016.

“When Democracies Deliver: Governance Reform in Latin America.” Presented at Institute for International Development, McGill University, Montreal, October 29, 2015.

“Brazilian State Reform: Unprecedented Advances and Persistent Challenges.” Presented at Catching Up to the Future? Advances and Challenges in the Politics, Society, and Social Policies of Contemporary Brazil Conference, The Watson Institute, Brown University, November 14-15, 2014.

PRESENTATIONS

“Bureaucrats as Experts: A Latent Variable Model of Bureaucrat Autonomy in Brazil” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, August 30 - September 2, 2018.

“Bureaucratic Autonomy in Brazilian Federal Agencies: Development and Decay (2011-2017)” Presented at the Institute for International Development, McGill University, Montreal, January 25, 2015.

“Making Inroads: Infrastructure, State Capacity, and Chinese Dominance in Latin American Development.” Presented at “Contemporary Challenges to Inclusion and Representation in Latin America,” Stanford University, May 16, 2016.

“When Democracies Deliver: Governance Reform in Latin America.” Presented at Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law Research Seminar, October 22, 2015.

“The Politics of Partisanship in the Brazilian Civil Service.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., August 2014.

“Political Appointments, State Capacity, and Bureaucratic Virtue in the Brazilian State.” Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, May 2014.

“The Merits of Puzzling over Powering: Governance Reform in Brazil and Argentina.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, August 29-September 1, 2013.

“State Capacity, Bureaucratic Politicization, and Governance Outcomes” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, Aug 29-Sept 1, 2013.

“State Capacity and Bureaucratic Autonomy within National States: Mapping the Archipelago of Excellence in Brazil” Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., May 2013.

“An Archipelago of Excellence? Autonomous State Capacity among Brazilian Federal Agencies” Paper presented at the Brazilian Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada), Brasília, Brazil, May 2012.

“Measuring Governance: A Defense of Disaggregation” Paper presented at Annual Meeting, American Political Science Association, Seattle, September 2011.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Davidson College

Comparative Public Policy (Planned Spring 2020)
Corruption and Development (Spring 2019)
The Governance Lab: Governance, Accountability, and Reform (Fall 2019)
Comparative Politics (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)
Research Methods (Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

McGill University

International Development Seminar: Corruption and Development (Winter 2017)

University of Texas at Austin

Graduate Level Teaching Assistant
Statistical Analysis I (Fall 2009)

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

U.S.-Russian Relations (Spring 2013)
Research Methods in Government (Fall 2010)
International Politics of Latin America (Spring 2010)
The U.S. in Comparative Perspective (Fall 2008)
Law and Social Change in Comparative Perspective (Spring 2009)
American Government (Summer 2009)

SKILLS

Languages: Advanced Portuguese (ACTFL-certified), advanced Spanish, basic French

Computer: R, BUGS, STATA, SPSS, LaTeX, SQL

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Latin American Studies Association

SERVICE

Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, and *Governance*.

Academic Conference Panel Organizer: Governance and State Capacity in the Age of Innovation for the International Conference on Public Policy, 26th-28th June 2019 - Montreal 2019

OTHER
PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

CACI, Arlington, VA, Lead Business Analyst 2004-07; Consultant 2008-09
Coordinator for e-Procurement Projects at the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

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