

# KATHERINE BERSCH

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Kellogg Institute for International Studies  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**University of Notre Dame**, Kellogg Institute for International Studies  
Visiting Fellow (2022-2023)

**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*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, and *Democratization*

## PUBLICATIONS

“[Defining Bureaucratic Autonomy](#),” 2023. Co-authored with Francis Fukuyama. *Annual Review of Political Science*, In press.

“[Patronage and Presidential Coalition Formation](#),” 2022. Co-authored with Felix Lopez and Matthew Taylor. *Political Research Quarterly*, First published online May 18, 2022.

“[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](#),” Co-authored 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 Devel-](#)

opment,” Co-authored 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*.

“Political Control and the Deep State: The Case of Brazil” (with Gabriela Lotta). *Under Review*.

“The Global Survey of Public Servants Indicators: Evidence from 1,300,000 Public Servants in 1,300 Government Institutions in 23 Countries” (with Schuster, Sass Mikkelsen, Rogger, Fukuyama, Hasnain, Mistree, Meyer-Sahling, and Kay) *Under Review*.

#### 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

Fulbright Scholar Award (Brazil), U.S. Department of State, 2023

Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS) Visiting Fellowship, Princeton University, Fall 2022 (declined)

Kellogg Institute for International Studies Visiting Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2022-23

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

“Making Democracy Deliver: Improving Public Administration with Administrative Data and Surveys” Brazilian National School of Public Administration (ENAP), November 10, 2022.

“Does Democracy Deliver? Opening the Black Box of the State” Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law 20th Anniversary Workshop "The Challenge of Modern Authoritarianism and the Future of Global Development", Stanford University, November 4, 2022.

“Defining Bureaucratic Autonomy” Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, November 1, 2022.

“Political Control of the Bureaucracy: Brazil Under Bolsonaro” David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, October 26, 2021.

“Expanding State Capacity in Latin America” Zoom presentation for Charlemos Series: The Story Behind Critical Research in Latin America, LASA Pre-Conference Program May 25, 2021.

“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

“Who Governs? Executive Power and Policy making in Latin America” Presented at the Annual

Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, September 15, 2022.

“Bureaucratic Autonomy and Government Quality: Evidence from Brazil” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, September 30 - October 3, 2021.

“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

Corruption and Development

The Governance Lab: Governance, Accountability, and Reform

Comparative Politics

Research Methods

***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*, *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, *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

Discussant/Chair, "Doing one's job versus keeping one's job: strategies or dissent," Brazilian Studies Program, Oxford University, May 12, 2021.

**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.

Updated November 28, 2022