

CATHERINE REYES-HOUSHOLDER

cgr46@cornell.edu
(55) 021 999 46 7399

EDUCATION

PhD, Government , Cornell University, Ithaca, New York Major Field: Comparative Politics Minor Field: International Relations Dissertation Committee: Kenneth Roberts (chair), Michael Jones-Correa, Peter Enns, and Leslie Schwindt-Bayer	Expected 2016
Visiting Scholar , Universidad Católica, Santiago, Chile	November 2015-February 2016
Visiting Scholar , Fundação Getulio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	February-November 2015
Visiting Scholar , Rice University, Houston, Texas	August 2013-December 2014
MA, Government , Cornell University, Ithaca, New York	January 2014
BA, Latin American Studies , Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts Magna Cum Laude Phi Beta Kappa (Junior) Highest Honors	May 2007

DISSERTATION

“*Presidentas*, Power and Pro-Women Change in Latin America”

In a region known for *machismo*, Latin American women have won the presidency eight times since 1999. Presidents in Latin America possess strong legislative powers, and single case studies suggest that some – but not all – *presidentas* are using these prerogatives to promote women’s status in society. This puzzle drives my research: Why would some *presidentas* deploy their power to push for PWC (pro-women change) more than other *presidentas*?

I first develop a novel three-tier conceptualization of PWC that simultaneously avoids the problem of essentializing women’s interests and permits cross-cultural comparison. I then argue that any president is more likely to use his/her powers to promote PWC under two conditions: (1) when he/she has a politically significant constituency demanding PWC (“constituency” hypothesis); and (2) when he/she has access to expertise on PWC policies in the form of linkages to women’s organizations and elite feminists (“expertise” hypothesis). Presidential gender matters because *presidentas* are more likely than their male counterparts to meet each of these conditions. Yet, presidential gender is not destiny. Variations in incentives and expertise account for divergence in the extent to which *presidentas* advance PWC as well as the kinds of PWC *presidentas* pursue.

To probe this argument, I first identified *presidentas* with divergent outcomes using female cabinet nominations as a proxy for the use of presidential power to promote PWC. From the small group of *presidentas* who displayed significant variation, I selected “most similar” *presidentas* (Michelle Bachelet of Chile and Dilma Rousseff of Brazil) and matched them with their immediate male predecessors who were from the same political party (Ricardo Lagos of Chile and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil). Case selection thus controls for confounders such as party, country, institutions and presidential gender.

Two original databases, one Chilean and the other Brazilian, with approximately 400 legislative bills and executive decrees provide fine-grained measures of the use of legislative powers to promote PWC by these four presidents. National media archives, approximately 80 personal interviews and public opinion data collected in both countries test observable implications derived from the “constituency” and “expertise” hypotheses.

PUBLICATIONS

“Presidential Power, Partisan Continuity and Pro-Women Change in Chile: 2000-10”

Book chapter. Edited by Janet Martin and MaryAnne Borelli. *The Gendered Executive*. Temple University Press.

“The Impact of *Presidentas* on Women’s Political Activity.”

Book chapter with Leslie Schwindt-Bayer. Edited by Janet Martin and MaryAnne Borelli. *The Gendered Executive*. Temple University Press.

“*Presidentas* Rise: Consequences for Women in Cabinets?”

Latin American Politics and Society. Forthcoming Fall 2016.

“Gender, Institutions and Representation in Post-Transition Executives.”

Book chapter under contract with Leslie Schwindt-Bayer. Edited by Verónica Montecinos. *Women Presidents and Prime Ministers in Post-Transition Democracies*. Palgrave MacMillian.

WORKING PAPERS

“Latin America’s *Presidentas*: Challenging Old Patterns, Forging New Pathways.”

Book chapter under review. With Gwynn Thomas. In *Women, Representation, and Politics in Latin America*, ed. Leslie Schwindt-Bayer.

“Citizen Responses to Female Executives: Is It Sex, Novelty or Both?”

With Leslie Schwindt-Bayer.

“*Presidentas*, Power and Pro-Women Change in Chile and Brazil 2000-2014.”

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Presence of *Presidentas*: Impact on Women’s Political Activity?”

Presented at the Analyzing Latin American Politics Conference. Houston, Texas.

November 2014

“The Presence of *Presidentas*: Impact on Women’s Political Activity.”

Presented at the American Political Science Association. Chicago, Illinois

August 2014

“Presidential Gender and Women’s Representation in Cabinets.”

Presented at the American Political Science Association. Chicago, Illinois

August 2013

“Critical Junctures and Economic Multilateralism: The Case of Brazil.”

Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

April 2013

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Ascensão das *Presidentas*: Poder Presidencial e as Reformas Pró-Mulher na América Latina.”

Presented at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

October 2015

“Latin America’s *Presidentas*: Challenging Old Patterns, Forging New Pathways.”

Presented at the Women Latin America Lead Conference at Rice University. Houston, Texas.

April 2015

“*Presidentas* Rise: Consequences for Women in Cabinets?”

Presented at the Instituto de Ciencia Política. Universidad Católica. Santiago, Chile.

October 2014

“¿Por qué y Cómo Ganó el Frente Amplio en 2004?”

Fulbright Research presented at the U.S. Ambassador’s residence. Montevideo, Uruguay.

November 2008

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Fulbright-Hays Fellowship.** U.S. Department of Education. February 2015-February 2016
Approximately US\$55,000 for dissertation fieldwork in Brazil and Chile.
- Research Travel Grant.** Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies. October 2014
US\$1,000 for qualitative interviews and lab-in-the-field experiments in Santiago, Chile.
- Research Travel Grant.** Cornell University Graduate School. December 2013
US\$2,000 for interviews and experiments conducted during presidential elections in Santiago, Chile.
- Conference Travel Grants.** Cornell University Graduate School. August 2013 and August 2014
Funding to present papers at American Political Science Association conferences.
- Conference Travel Grants.** Cornell University Graduate School. April 2013 and April 2014
Funding to present papers at Midwest Political Science Association conferences.
- National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship.** March 2012
Honorable Mention.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS CONTINUED

- Sage Fellowship.** Cornell University Graduate School. August 2011-August 2012
- Fulbright Fellowship.** March 2008-November 2008
Funding to research the rise of the Frente Amplio in Uruguay and to teach in the public education system.
- Tomlinson Grant.** January 2007
US\$2,500 to conduct three weeks of fieldwork in Santiago, Chile for undergraduate thesis.

ADDITIONAL METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

- Advanced Topics in Political Methodology I and II.** Rice University, Houston, Texas. August 2013-May 2014
- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR).** Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.
June 2014-August 2014
Relevant Courses: Elite Interviewing. Archival Research. Discourse Analysis. Natural Experiments.
- Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
June 2013-August 2013 and June 2012-August 2012.
Relevant Courses: Advanced Regression Analysis. Maximum Likelihood Estimation. Network Analysis.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Comparative Politics of Latin America.** Cornell University, Ithaca, New York January 2013-May 2013
Professor Gustavo Flores-Macías.
- Introduction to International Relations.** Cornell University, Ithaca, New York August 2012-December 2012
Professor Peter Katzenstein

LANGUAGES

English. Native.

Spanish. Fluent.

Brazilian Portuguese. Advanced.

French. Advanced.

SOFTWARE

Stata 13.

REVIEWER

Journal of Politics.

2015

Politics and Gender.

2014, 2015

Politics, Groups and Identities.

2014