RODRIGO CASTRO CORNEJO

Department of Political Science / Center for Public Opinion
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Dugan Hall 103b, 883 Broadway St., Lowell, MA 01854
Email: rodrigo_castrocornejo@uml.edu Phone: 978-934-2551

Employment

Fall 2026-	Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science, **University of Massachusetts Lowell**.
2023-2026	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, **University of Massachusetts Lowell**.
Fall 2023-	Associate Director, Center for Public Opinion, **University of Massachusetts Lowell**.
2017-	Co-Principal Investigator, Mexican Election Study.
2019-2024	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, **CIDE**. Mexico City.
Spring 2023	Visiting Lecturer in Political Behavior, Department of Political Science, **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**.
2017-2019	Post-Doctoral Fellow. Department of Politics, **University of Virginia**.

Education

2017	PhD in Political Science, **University of Notre Dame**, IN.
2013	MA in Political Science, **University of Notre Dame**, IN.
2008	BA in Political Science, **CIDE**, Mexico City, Mexico.

Research Interests

Survey Research Methods, Public Opinion Formation, and Political Behavior. Partisanship, Campaigns, and Motivated Reasoning. Polarization, Democratic Erosion, and Vote Buying.

Academic Articles

Partisanship and Democratic Erosion

1. Aguiar, Azul, **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**, and Alejandro Monsiváis-Carrillo. 2025. "Is Mexico at the Gates of Authoritarianism?," *Journal of Democracy.* 36(1):50-64.
2. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2024. "Who Believes in Fraud in the 2006 Mexican Presidential Election? Election Denialism, Partisan Bias, and Affective Polarization," *Latin American Research Review.*
3. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo** and Joy Langston. 2024. "Anti-Democratic Attitudes, the Winner-Loser Gap, and the Rise of the Left in Mexico," *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública.*
4. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**, Sandra Ley, and Ulises Beltrán. 2020. "Anger, Partisanship, and the Activation of Populist Attitudes in Mexico," *Política y Gobierno.* 27(2):1-37.

Partisanship, Partisan Bias, and Affective Polarization

1. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2026. "'You have to hug, nothing is going to happen:' Partisan Retrospection, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the Politics of Death in Mexico," *Latin American Politics and Society.*
2. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2024. "Partisan Bias in Public Perception of Elections Polls: Experimental Evidence from Mexico," *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties.*
3. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2023. "The AMLO Voter. Affective Polarization and the Rise of the Left in Mexico," *Journal of Politics in Latin America.* 5(1):96–112.
4. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2023. "Same Scandal, Different Interpretations. Politics of Corruption, Anger, and Partisan Bias," *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties.* 33(3):497-518.

5. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2023. "Do (Perceptions of) Electoral Polling Affect Voters' Behavior? Campaign Effects, Partisan Bias, and Strategic Voting in Mexico," *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública.* 11(2):73–108.
6. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**, Ulises Beltrán, Sandra Ley, and René Galicia.[1] 2022. "From Election Day to Presidential Approval: Partisanship and the Honeymoon Period in Mexico," *Electoral Studies.* 75(February):102438.

Partisanship and (the Lack of) Democratic Accountability

1. Langston, Joy and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2023. "Why Do Clientelist Brokers Go Rogue? Parties, Politicians, and Intermediaries in Mexico," *Perspectives on Politics.* 21(1):43-58.
2. Botero, Sandra, **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**, Laura Gamboa, Nara Pavão and David Nickerson. 2019. "Are All Types of Wrongdoing Created Equal in the Eyes of Voters?" *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties.* 31(2):141-158.
3. Botero, Sandra, **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**, Laura Gamboa, Nara Pavão and David Nickerson. 2019. "Under Friendly Fire: An Experiment on Partisan Press and Voting Behavior," *Electoral Studies.* 60(August):102044.
4. Beltrán, Ulises and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2019. "Clientelistic Activation of Mexican Voters: Between Vote Buying and Political Communication," *Política y Gobierno.* 26(2):171-206.
5. Botero, Sandra, **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**, Laura Gamboa, Nara Pavão and David Nickerson. 2015. "Says Who? An Experiment on Allegations of Corruption and Credibility of Sources," *Political Research Quarterly.* 68(3):493-504.

Partisanship, Campaigns and Survey Research Methods

1. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo** and Ulises Beltrán. 2022. "Who Receives Electoral Gifts? It Depends on Question Wording: Experimental Evidence from Mexico," *Political Behavior.* 44(1):227–255.
2. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2021. "How Do Campaigns Matter? Independents, Political Information, and the Enlightening Role of Campaigns in Mexico," *International Journal of Public Opinion Research.* 33(4):779-98.
3. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2021. "Short- and Long-term Partisanship: Campaign Effects and the Stability of Party Identification in Latin America," *Latin American Research Review.* 56(2).
4. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo** and Ulises Beltrán. 2020. "List Experiments, Political Sophistication, and Vote Buying. Experimental Evidence from Mexico," *Journal of Politics in Latin America.* 12(2):219-234.
5. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2019. "Partisanship and Question-Wording Effects: Experimental Evidence from Latin America," *Public Opinion Quarterly.* 83(1):26–45.
6. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2019. "Do Campaigns Matter (in New Democracies)? Campaign Interest, Vote Choice, and Survey Satisficing," *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública.* 8(1):83-126.

Partisanship and the "Culture Wars"

1. Cella, Lautaro[2] and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2026. "Do Voters Reject Gay Candidates? Partisanship, the Far-Right, and the Electoral Effect of Candidate Sexual Orientation in Latin America," *Journal of Politics in Latin America.*

[1] Undergraduate student co-author
[2] Graduate student co-author

2. Audette, Andre, Mark Brockway, and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2019. "Religious Engagement, Civic Skills, and Political Participation in Latin America," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.* 59(1):101-118.

3. Javeline, Debra, Jessica J. Hellmann, Jason S. McLachlan, Dov F. Sax, and Mark W. Schwartz and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2015. "Expert Opinion on Extinction Risk and Climate Change Adaptation," *Elementa. Science of the Anthroposcene.* 3(57).

4. Javeline, Debra, Jessica Hellmann, **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**, and Gregory Schufeldt. 2014. "Expert Opinion on Climate Change and Threats to Biodiversity," *BioScience.* 63(8):666-673.

Book Chapters

1. **Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo**. 2026. "Mexico: The Absence of the Far Right and AMLO's Leftism without Progressivism," in Rovira Kaltwasser, Cristóbal, Carlos Meléndez, Talita Tanscheit, and Lisa Zannotti (eds.) *The Far Right In Latin America.* Cambridge University Press.

Academic Articles in Spanish

1. Konzevik, Natasha[3] and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2025. "A Backlash Against Gender Partiy in Candidacies? Sexist Attitudes among the Mexican Electorate in the 2021 Gubernatorial and 2024 Presidential Elections," *Revista Mexicana de Opinión Pública.* 38(1).

2. Pérez, Daniel[4] and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2024. "Estimated Voting Intention at the Municipal Level: MRP Model in the State of Mexico's 2023 Elections," *Revista Mexicana de Opinión Pública.* 37(2).

3. Álvarez, José[5] and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**. 2023. "Who Approves of Marriage Equality in Mexico? Generational Gaps, Education, and the Lack of Partisan Differences," *Revista Mexicana de Opinión Pública.* 34(1).

Special Issues

Aparicio, Javier and **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**, editors. 2020. "2018 Election. A Historical Juncture in Mexico," Special issue of *Política y Gobierno.* 27(2).

Under Review

Who Supports Eroding Democracy? Anti-Democratic Attitudes and Partisanship in Mexico.

From Sore Losers to (Sore) Winners: Affective Polarization, Winners' Consent, Democratic Norms in Mexico.

Why Do Voters Comply During Clientelist Exchanges? A Theory of Affective Commitment, Political Affects, and Expressive Partisanship in Mexico (with Nicolás de la Cerda). (R&R).

The Left Turn of Conservative Voters in Mexico: Populist Realignment, Conservative Leftism, and the Absence of the Far Right (with Alejandro Monsiváis-Carrillo).

Affective Polarization and Democratic Backsliding in Mexico (with Lucas Calegari)

"El Narco es Pueblo:" Elite Rhetoric, Partisan Bias, and the Legitimacy of Criminal Assistance in Mexico (with Camila Angulo and Pablo Scuticchio).

Presidential Approval as Majoritarian Legitimacy: How Populists Undermine Democracy with the People's Support. (with Azul Aguiar and Alejandro Monsiváis-Carrillo).

Autocratization in the Name of Democracy: Populism, Affective Polarization and Support for Democratic Backsliding in Mexico (with Azul Aguiar y Alejandro Monsiváis-Carrillo).

[3] Undergraduate student co-author
[4] Undergraduate student co-author
[5] Undergraduate student co-author

The Normalization of Military Presence in Civil Affairs: Implications for Democratic Values and Processes in Mexico (with Tesalia Rizzo, Victor Hernández Huerta, and Abby Córdova).

Work In Preparation

Inclusionary Populism: Redistribution, Affective Polarization and Anti-Democratic Attitudes in Mexico (with Melina Altamirano).

Populist or Socialist Voters? Understanding the Mamdani Moment in New York City (with Jack Santucci and Josh Dyck).

Business as Usual or Crossing a Red Line? Voter Responses to Co-Partisan Corruption and Criminal Collusion (with Camila Angulo and Pablo Scuticchio).

Who Leads When Leaders Disagree? Opinion Formation and Elite Cues in Mexico (with Sergio Ascencio and Nicolás de la Cerda).

Book Project

"The Changing Mexican Voter: Election, Polarization, and Democracyin Mexico," co-edited book manuscript in progress (with Melina Altamirano, Matt Singer, and Ulises Beltrán)

Academic Reports

Castro Cornejo, Rodrigo La Ultraderecha en México: Ausencia de Backlash por el Izquierdismo (No Progresista) de AMLO. Santiago, Chile. Fundación Friedrich Ebert.

Aziz, Alberto, **Rodrigo Castro Cornejo**, Karolina Gilas, Ernesto Isunza, Ricardo de la Peña, and Fernanda Somuano. Informe País 2020. El Curso de la Democracia en México. Mexico City: Instituto Nacional Electoral.

Survey Studies

2026 Mexican Election Study (UMASS) (with Ulises Beltrán, Melina Altamirano, and Matthew Singer).

2024 Mexican Election Study (UMASS-CSES) (with Ulises Beltrán and Melina Altamirano).

2021 Mexican Election Study (CIDE-CSES) (with Ulises Beltrán and Sandra Ley).

2018 Mexican Election Study (CIDE-CSES) (with Ulises Beltrán and Sandra Ley).

2018-19 Mexican Panel Election Study (CIDE) (with Ulises Beltrán and Sandra Ley).

Academic Service

Editorial Board: *Political Behavior*, *Advances in Political Psychology*, *Política y Gobierno*, and *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública*.

Board Member: Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section (EPOVB), APSA.

Journal Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Political Behavior*, *Journal of Comparative Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Democratization*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Political Studies*, *Research & Politics*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *The International Journal of Human Rights*, *Journal of Political & Military Sociology*, *Política y Gobierno*, *Revista de Ciencia Política*, *Revista SAAP*, *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales*, *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, *Estudios Sociológicos*, *Secuencia: Revista de Historia y Ciencias Sociales*, *Perfiles Latinoamericanos*, and *Cultura y Representaciones Sociales*.

Membership: APSA, SPSA, MPSA, AAPOR, and LASA.

Grants and Awards

Researchers and Scholars Investment (RSI) Grant, University of Massachusetts, Lowell. 2025. $3,000

British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (co-recipient) $10,000.

Researchers and Scholars Investment (RSI) Grant, University of Massachusetts, Lowell. 2024. $3,000

National Electoral Institute Grant to fund the "2021 Mexican Election Study (CIDE-CSES)." 2021. (with Ulises Beltrán and Sandra Ley).

National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT, Candidato SNI) Fellowship, 2021–2023.

Research Grant, CIDE. 2020. $7,000

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis, 2019-2020, Declined.

Research Grant, Religion Lab, Democracy Initiative, University of Virginia. 2019. $5,000

National Electoral Institute Grant to fund the "2018 Mexican Election Study (CIDE-CSES)." 2018. (with Ulises Beltrán and Sandra Ley).

Research Grant, University of Virginia. 2018. $7,000

Research Grant, Kellogg Institute. Spring 2016. $7,000

Conference Travel Grant, Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Fall 2015. $1,200

Dissertation Year Fellowship, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame. 2016.

Research Grant, Kellogg Institute. Spring 2015. $7,000

Loescher Teaching Fellowship, University of Notre Dame. Spring 2015.

Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of Notre Dame. Fall 2014/ Fall 2015.

Kellogg Grant to fund a Working Group on Public Opinion and Elections. 2013-2014. $6,000

Mellon–ISLA Interdisciplinary Workshop Grant, University of Notre Dame. 2013-2014. $9,000

Graduate Student Professionalization Grant, Kellogg Institute, 2012 and 2013. $3,000

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Summer Fellowship, 2012. $6,000

Professional Development Grant (ISLA), University of Notre Dame, 2011 and 2012. $1,600

Downes J. Memorial Fund, The Graduate School, University of Notre Dame, 2011. $1,500

Notebaert Professional Development Fund, University of Notre Dame, 2011. $1,000

Kellogg Institute PhD Fellowship, Garza Fellow, Kellogg Institute, 2010-2015. $5,000

Teaching Experience

University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Intro to American Politics: Fall 2026.
Populism and Elections in Latin America and Europe: Spring 2025, 2026.
Political Psychology: Fall 2023, 2024, 2025. Summer 2024, 2025, 20026.
Public Opinion and Political Polling: Spring 2024.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Comparative Elections and Political Behavior: Spring 2023.

CIDE
Public Opinion and Political Behavior: Fall 2019-22.
Political Behavior Seminar: Spring 2022.
Undergraduate Thesis Seminar: Spring, 2021.

University of Virginia

Populism in the U.S., Europe, and Latin America (AP/CP): Spring 2019.
Latin American and Latino Politics (AP/CP): Fall 2018.
Political Behavior (AP/CP): Spring 2018.
Campaigns and Elections (AP/CP): Fall 2017.

University of Notre Dame

Voting Behavior, Campaigns and Elections Around the World (CP): Spring 2015.

Invited Presentations

"Why Democratic Guardrails Failed in Mexico's Autocratization," Gary Wynia lecture in Latin American politics, Carleton College (scheduled)

"The Left Turn of Conservative Voters in Mexico. Populist Realignment, Conservative Leftism, and the Absence of the Far-Right," at The Far-Right in Latin America Workshop, Universidad Católica de Chile. March, 2026.

"Inclusionary Populism: Polarization, Redistributive Preferences and Anti-Democratic Attitudes in Mexico," Catedra Sartori-ITESO, Sept, 2025.

"Presidential Approval as Majoritarian Legitimacy: How Populists Undermine Democracy with the People's Support," Duke/UNC Latin American Politics Working Group, May, 2025.

"Is Mexico at the Gates of Authoritarianism?," Yale Law School, The Latin American Series (April, 2025), IIS-UNAM (Feb, 2025), and Center for US-Mexican Studies-UCSD (Jan, 2025).

"AMLO's Leftism (without Progressivism) and the Lack of a Far-Right in Mexico" at The Latin American Far-Right Workshop, Universidad Católica de Chile. August, 2023.

"Who Supports Eroding Democracy? Anti-democratic Attitudes and Partisanship in Mexico," Research Seminar in Politics (RSP), University of Florida (UF). October, 2021.

"2018: Mexican Election Study" at the Latin American Panel Studies Workshop, Fundación FundaUngo (online). November, 2020.

"The New Conservative Moblization in Mexico" at The Latin American Right Workshop, Universidad Diego Portales. October, 2018.

Presentations

"The Fourth Transformation vs the 'Morally Defeated' Opposition: Populist Affective Polarization, Cleavage Formation, and Democratic Backsliding in Mexico," MPSA (April, 2026), WAPOR (Oct 2026)

"Inclusionary Populism: Polarization, Redistributive Preferences and Anti-Democratic Attitudes in Mexico," LASA (May 2025).

"Presidential Approval as Majoritarian Legitimacy: How Populists Undermine Democracy with the People's Support," MPSA (April, 2025), LASA (May 2025)

"Does Candidate's Sexual Orientation Affect Vote Choice? Experimental Evidence from Latin America." MPSA. April, 2025.

"Why Do Voters Comply During Clientelist Exchanges? A Theory of Affective Commitment, Political Affects, and Expressive Partisanship in Mexico." NPSA (Nov, 2024), APSA (Sept 2024), MPSA (April 2024).

"From Sore Losers to (Sore) Winners: Satisfaction with Democracy, Anti-Democratic Attitudes, and the Winners' Consent in Mexico," NPSA (Nov, 2023) and MPSA (April 2024).

"Who Supports Eroding Democracy? Antidemocratic Attitudes, Partisanship and Political Informaton in Mexico," MPSA. April, 2022.

"Politics of Corruption and Partisan Motivated Reasoning," SPSA. January, 2019.

"2018-19 Mexican Election Study," CSES Plenary-APSA. September, 2018.

"Who Receive Electoral Gifts? It Depends on Question Wording. Experimental Evidence from Mexico," Quantitative Collaborative, University of Virginia (Sept, 2017) and Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Notre Dame (Oct, 2017). -

"Do Campaigns Matter? Survey Satisficing, Campaign Effects, and Party System Institutionalization," Work-In-Progress Session, Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame. October, 2016

"Who's Right? Support for Conservative Parties in Latin America," LASA (May 2014) and MPSA (April 2014).

"Says Who? The Impact of Sources of Corruption Accusations," MPSA. Chicago, IL. April, 2013.

Departamental Service

Member of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (FAHSS) Research Council, UMASS-Lowell (2023-).

Internal Review Board (IRB) Member at CIDE (2020-2022).

Co-chair of the Política y Gobierno Workshop, CIDE (2020-2022).

Member of the Political Science Search Committee (tenure-track position) (2020).

Coordinator of the Mexico Working Group, Kellogg Institute (Fall 2012-Fall 2015).

Co-chair of the Public Opinion and Elections Working Group, Kellogg Institute (AY 2013-2014).

Coordinator of the Latino Politics Workshop, Institute for Latino Studies (AY 2013-2014).

Coordinator of the Democracy Working Group, Kellogg Institute (2013).

Coordinator of the Comparative Politics Workshop, Kellogg Institute (AY 2012-2013).

Member of the Comparative Politics Search Committee (2013).

Specialized Training

Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Summer Program. 2011/2012.

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Summer Program. 2013.