

Camila Blanes Garcia Cors

Ph.D. Candidate | Stanford Graduate School of Business, Political Economy

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Education

Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford, CA, USA 2022–Present
Ph.D. Candidate, Political Economics

Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico 2020
B.A., *Honors*, Economics
B.A., *Honors*, Political Science

Fields of Interest

Political Economy; Economics of Media; Comparative Political Economy

Work in Progress

“Allocating Influence: Government Advertising in Mexico’s News Market”

Abstract. In many countries, governments are among the largest media advertisers. Do they use that market power for political ends, and if so, how? Using novel data on federal advertising contracts and the print editions of Mexico’s national dailies, I document political favoritism. Exploiting the 2018 transition from a right-wing to a left-wing administration, I find that aligned outlets are allocated more advertising contracts both in the intensive and extensive margin. Benchmarked against what a government that targets its own voters would choose, the observed allocation overpays outlets on ideology. That revenue lets aligned outlets expand their newsrooms and news production, which then raises their circulation. Capture operates through market share rather than content, requiring neither censorship nor an exchange of coverage for revenue.

“Party Discipline across Electoral Mandates and Career Concerns: Theory and Evidence from Votes and Speech in the Mexican Congress” (with Gabriel Lopez Moctezuma, California Institute of Technology)

Abstract. Does letting voters reelect legislators make them more responsive to their districts? We show it can do the opposite where parties control legislative careers. We model party discipline under contestable leadership, where a leader’s promised benefits bind only insofar as she is expected to survive to deliver them. Reelection then raises discipline in both tracks, directly for district legislators, who convert party resources into votes, and indirectly for list legislators, through the leader’s credibility. Using original data on every deputy in Mexico’s mixed-member Chamber of Deputies (2006–2024), we measure disagreement with party leaders in votes and in speech. After the 2014 reform, disagreement falls in both tracks and further among district legislators, and leaders deny renomination, campaign funds, and safe list positions to dissenters.

“The More the Merrier? The Effects of Council Size on Representation and Local Governance”

Abstract. Does broader political representation improve local governance? I use population thresholds in Mexican state law that fix the size of a municipal council, comparing municipalities just above a threshold with those just below. I link novel data on the characteristics of every council member to the output that council produces in office. Crossing a threshold seats more representatives, but they are negatively selected. Councils gain members with a basic level of education and with no prior political experience, while parity rules hold the share of women fixed. Governance does not improve. Larger councils produce and approve about half as many initiatives, a third fewer per member, across a narrower agenda, and their alignment with the priorities of citizens falls, while spending is unchanged in level and composition.

Presentations

2026: LACEA Ridge Political Economy Workshop (The University of the West Indies, Barbados); 9th Workshop on the Economics of Media Bias (Hertie School, Berlin); 5th ACES Political Economy Summer School (Kathmandu, Nepal)

2025: Development and Political Economics Ph.D. Student Conference (Berkeley)

Awards and Grants

Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Fellowship Stanford University (\$12,800 USD)	2022
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Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship California Institute of Technology (Caltech) (\$6,620 USD)	2021
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Service

Organizer of the Development and Political Economics Ph.D. Student Conference (DevPEC)	2026
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Affiliations

Poverty, Violence, and Governance Lab, Stanford, Political Science	2024–Present
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Research and Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Strategy Beyond Markets (MBA), Katherine Casey	2026
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Teaching Assistant, Strategy Beyond Markets (MBA), Greg J. Martin	2025
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Research Assistant, Prof. Gabriel Lopez Moctezuma (Caltech)	2019–2022
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Research Assistant, Prof. Matias Iaryczower (Princeton)	2022
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Research Assistant, Prof. Horacio Larreguy (ITAM)	2020–2022
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Other

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent)

Citizenship: Mexico, Spain

References

Gregory J. Martin

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Beatriz Magaloni

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