

ISABEL CASTILLO

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Current

- 2022 – Assistant Professor, Department of Political Studies, Faculty of Government, Universidad de Chile
- 2025 – Adjunct researcher, Millennium Nucleus on Political Crises (CRISPOL)

Previous

- 2025 Associate researcher, Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES)
- 2020 – 2024 Adjunct researcher, Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES)
- 2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and Government, Universidad Alberto Hurtado
- 2021 – 2022 Postdoctoral researcher, School of Government, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- 2020 – 2021 Postdoctoral researcher, Center for the Study of Political History, School of Government, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Political Science, Northwestern University
- 2015 M.A. in Political Science, Northwestern University
- 2009 B.A. in Political Science, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- 2007 B.A. in History, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

- Accepted Castillo, Isabel, and Camilla Reuterswärd. “Women in Conservative Religious Mobilisation in Latin America: Chile and Mexico in Comparative Perspective.” *Journal of Latin American Studies*.
- 2025 Castillo, Isabel, and Rodrigo Medel. “Evangelicals and Support for the (Far-)Right in Chile’s Rural South.” *International Journal of Latin America Religions* 9(1), 90-112.
- 2024 Castillo, Isabel. “Democratization and Inclusion: What Women’s Enfranchisement Tells Us About the Second Wave of Democracy.” *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies* 30(2), 175-188.

- 2024 Castillo, Isabel. "Gender, Ethnicity, Class, and the Breadth of Suffrage in Chile and Peru: Perspectives Among Suffragists." *Historia y Política* 51, 228-248.
- 2023 Castillo, Isabel, Danissa Contreras, and Camila Henzi. "When Do Progressive Evangelicals Mobilize? Intra-Denominational Competition in Chile's Constitutional Process." *Politics and Religion* 16(2), 301-323.
- 2023 Castillo, Isabel. "Motivation Alignment, Historical Cleavages, and Women's Suffrage in Latin America." *Perspectives on Politics* 21(1): 78-93.
Winner of the 2024 Mary Parker Follett Prize for best article of APSA's Politics and History Section.
- 2019 Barrenechea, Rodrigo, and Isabel Castillo. "The Many Roads to Rome. Family Resemblance Concepts in the Social Sciences." *Quality & Quantity* 53(1): 107-130.

Edited book

- 2022 Castillo, Isabel, Javier González, and Aldo Madariaga (eds.). *Buscando un nuevo contrato social: Nudos, experiencias comparadas y propuestas para el debate constitucional en Chile*. Santiago: Catalonia.

Book chapters

- Forthcoming Castillo, Isabel. "Los bordes de la participación electoral: mujeres, sufragio y democracia en la primera mitad del siglo XX," in Gabriel Cid and Mariana Perry (eds.) *Historia intelectual de la democracia en Chile*. Santiago: Fondo de Cultura Económica.
- 2026 Theodore, Rachel, Isabel Castillo, and Catherine Reyes-Housholder. "Women Economic Elites as 'Insiders and Outsiders' in Chile," in María Luisa Méndez, Mike Savage, Annette Lareau (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Global Elites*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2025 Castillo, Isabel. "El cristianismo conservador y la (ultra)derecha en Chile," in Paulo Barrera, Marcos Carbonelli, and Veronique Lecaros (eds.). *Cristianismo conservador y extrema derecha en América Latina. Actores, afinidades y estrategias en contexto democrático, vol 2*. Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, 12-30.
- 2023 Castillo, Isabel, Rodolfo Disi, and Felipe Sánchez. "Brechas de género en interés político," in *Tejiendo rutas: perspectivas para un Chile con equidad de género*. Santiago: Fondo de Cultura Económica – COES, 167-178.
- 2023 Castillo, Isabel and Krystoff Kissoon. "Latin America and the Caribbean," in Malliga Och (ed.) *Women and Politics: Global Lives in Focus*. California: ABC-Clio, 33-64.
- 2022 Castillo, Isabel, and Catherine Reyes-Housholder. "Constitución, género y paridad," in Isabel Castillo, Javier González, and Aldo Madariaga (eds.) *Buscando un nuevo contrato social*. Santiago: Catalonia, 73-92.

Other publications

- 2023 Castillo, Isabel. “Taylor Boas. Evangelicals and Electoral Politics in Latin America. A Kingdom of This World”. *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública* 12(2): 245-249.
- 2016 Castillo, Isabel and Rodrigo Barrenechea. “Political Incorporation (in Latin America). The Concept, the Variations, and the Cases.” *ICSO-UDP Working paper # 26*, July.
- 2012 Varas, Augusto (main autor) and Isabel Castillo, Iván Jaksic, and Pamela Díaz-Romero (collaborators). *La democracia frente al poder. Chile 1990-2010*. Santiago: Catalonia.
- 2011 Reyes, Francisca, Carlos Frontaura, Francisco Javier Leturia, Isabel Castillo, Pablo Trigo and Francisca Vallejo. “Propuesta de mecanismos de resolución colaborativa de conflictos socioambientales.” In *Propuestas para Chile*. Santiago: PUC Public Policy Center.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Under review

“Gender and Democratization in Latin America” (book chapter).

In preparation

Paths to Women’s Suffrage in Latin America (book project).

“Feminist protest and cultural backlash: Evidence from Chile” (with Rodolfo Disi, Felipe Sánchez, and Carolina Acevedo).

“The Secular Identity: Religious Identification and Affective Polarization in Argentina and Chile” (with Andrés González and Cristian Rodríguez).

“Conflicted Identities: Embodying Powerful Elite Positions and Femininity in the UK and Chile” (with Katharina Hecht, Matt Reynolds, Elisabeth Schimpfoss, Rachel Theodore, and Jennifer Willmott).

“Institutional Activism and Gender Policies in Higher Education: The case of Chile after the 2018 ‘Feminist May’” (with Sofía Donoso, Carmen Molina, Denisse Sepúlveda, and Seidy Luan).

“Is there (Still) Anti-Communism in Chile?” (with Cristián Rodríguez).

PUBLIC WRITING

- 2025 “Elecciones 2025: los dos ejes de la política chilena.” *Latinoamerica21*, November 20.
- 2024 “Los votantes evangélicos y la ultraderecha en Chile: pragmatismo sin ideología.” *El Mostrador*, December 18 (with Rodrigo Medel).
- 2024 “Elecciones 2024: Fragmentación, participación y representación.” *Cooperativa*, November 3.
- 2023 “Golpe de Estado.” Letter *La Tercera*, September 27 (with Cecilia Osorio).
- 2023 “El Consejo Constitucional republicano y el nuevo dilema constitucional.” *Mensaje* 719: 11-13.

- 2023 “Desempeño democrático, desconfianza y polarización como amenazas para un contrato social en Chile.” *Informe Asuntos Públicos N° 1437*, Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo.
- 2022 “La primera Convención paritaria: cómo llegamos y hacia dónde vamos,” *Revista Crisálida UC* N° 2, pp. 28-24 (with Julieta Suárez-Cao).
- 2022 “La continuación del dilema constitucional en Chile,” *Latinoamérica21*, July 26 (with Nicolás Selamé). Reproduced in *El Espectador* (Colombia), *El Universo* (Ecuador), *Confidencial* (Nicaragua), *Tal Cual* (Venezuela).
- 2022 “Un nuevo marco institucional democrático,” *La Tercera*, July 2.
- 2022 “Mujeres ganando su espacio”. Book comment on Camila Sanhueza’s *De ‘apolíticas’ a militante: La incorporación de mujeres al Partido Conservador chileno (1934-1952)*. *Mensaje* 709, June.
- 2022 “Causas históricas y causas constantes en el debate sobre sistema político,” *El Mostrador*, March 29.
- 2022 “Organizaciones políticas en la nueva Constitución,” *La Tercera*, March 16 (with Rodolfo Disi).
- 2021 “Elecciones en Chile: Volatilidad y cambio de ciclo,” *Latinoamérica21*, November 5. Reproduced in *El Universal* (Mexico).
- 2020 “She Dared to be a Candidate,” *Americas Quarterly* 14(4): 76-81.
- 2020 “Tiempos de constitución y pandemia en Chile,” *Latinoamérica21*, October 16. Reproduced in *El Universal* (Mexico), *Folha de Sao Paulo* (Brazil), *Página Siete* (Bolivia).
- 2019 “Orden y progreso: historia de las profundas desigualdades en Chile,” *Foro Económico*, November 12 (with Laura García Montoya).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

External

- 2025 – 2029 Co-I Fondecyt Regular, National Agency for Research and Development (ANID) for the project “Dynamics and Political Results of Protest Campaigns in Latin America (1990-2024),” grant # 1251051 (~US\$ 97,000). With Rodrigo Medel (PI) and Rodolfo Disi.
- 2024 Mary Parker Follett Prize of APSA’s Politics and History Section for the article “Motivation Alignment, Historical Cleavages, and Women’s Suffrage in Latin America.”
- 2024 – 2027 PI Fondecyt Iniciación ANID, for the project “Religious Politicization and Accelerated Secularization: Chile in Comparative Perspective,” grant # 11240440 (~US\$ 77,000).
- 2022 APSA Travel Grant to attend Annual Meeting.
- 2021 PI APSA Women, Gender, and Politics Section Small Grant Award for the project “The Party Ladies: Women’s Representation and Political Parties in Mid-Twentieth Century Chile” (US\$ 1,000).

- 2020 PI APSA Religion and Politics Section Small Grant Award for the project “Evangelicals and the Re-politicization of Religion: Chile’s Constitutional Process in Comparative Perspective” (US\$ 2,400).
- 2020 PI Jack Shand Research Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion for the project “Evangelicals and the Re-politicization of Religion: Chile’s Constitutional Process in Comparative Perspective” (US\$ 4,810).
- 2020 PI APSA Small Research Grant for the project “Evangelicals and the Re-politicization of Religion: Chile’s Constitutional Process in Comparative Perspective” (US\$ 2,410).
- 2020 Best Dissertation Award from the Women, Gender, and Politics section of the American Political Science Association.
- 2020 – 2023 PI Fondecyt Postdoctorado ANID, for the project “Gendered Inclusion in Latin America: Suffrage and Women's Early Political Participation,” grant # 3200323 (~US\$ 95,000).
- 2016 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Travel Grant to attend annual conference.
- 2012 – 2016 Becas Chile, Fellowship for Doctoral Studies, Government of Chile.

Internal

- 2025 Facultad de Gobierno, Universidad de Chile, PEEI Internal Research Support for project “Evangelical Candidates and Political Parties in Chile” (US\$ 3,500).
- 2024 – 2025 Co-I Maxi-COES grant for the Project “Women in Academia: Origins, Advances, and Challenges in Implementing Gender Equality Policies in the Social Sciences.” With Bárbara Flores (PI), Roxana Chiappa, Sofía Donoso, Manuela Mendoza, Francisca Ortiz, Valentina Paredes, Denisse Sepúlveda, Carolina Stefoni.
- 2023 – 2024 Co-I Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE), International Inequality Institute, London School of Economics and COES for project “Conflicted identities for social justice? Exploring Female Economic and Political Elites in Chile and the UK,” with Katharina Hecht, Catherine Reyes-Housholder (PI), Chana Teeger, Rachel Theodore, Elisabeth Schimpfössl (£ 58,000).
- 2023 Facultad de Gobierno, Universidad de Chile, FIDA Internal Research Support for project “The Gender Dimension of Religious Mobilization in Latin America” (US\$ 1,500).
- 2023 Facultad de Gobierno, Universidad de Chile, PEEI Internal Research Support for project “A new religious cleavage? Chile in comparative perspective” (US\$ 2,800).
- 2023 Facultad de Gobierno, Universidad de Chile, PEEI Internal Research Support for book project *Paths to Women’s Suffrage in Latin America* (US\$ 2,250).
- 2022 COES conference funding for Religion and Politics in the Americas Workshop, co-organized with Katie Gaddini and Joanildo Burity, Santiago, May 19-20 (US\$ 2,250).
- 2021 PI Mini-COES grant for the project “Between Cultural Change and Institutional Stasis: The Effects of Feminist Protests in Contemporary Chile,” with Carolina Acevedo, Rodolfo Disi, and Felipe Sánchez (US\$ 5,500).
- 2016 – 2018 Northwestern University Fellowship.

- 2015, 2017 Buffett Institute, Summer Research Grant, Northwestern University (US\$ 2,500 & US\$ 5,000).
- 2014 The Graduate School, Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (US\$ 2,700).
- 2014 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program Summer Research Grant, Northwestern University (US\$ 700).

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND TALKS

- 2026 UCL workshop on Globalizing Christian Conservatism: Women’s Networks and Transnational Activism (scheduled), APSA (scheduled).
- 2025 Observatorio Desigualdades UDP mini conference, APSA, COES conference, Symposium on Religion and the Right at Universidade Federal Juiz de Fora.
- 2024 LASA, ISA RC22 – ACSRAL, Escuela de Gobierno UAI research seminar, ICP-UC workshop on “Feminism, antifeminism, and the far right,” ICP-UC seminar.
- 2023 COES conference, ACCP.
- 2022 Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Conference – ILAS University of London (virtual), Universidad Católica del Uruguay roundtable (virtual), LASA (virtual), COES’ Gender Agenda Seminar Series (virtual), book presentation – Carlos Meléndez’s *Populistas*, APSA, COES annual conference, Seminar Facultad de Gobierno – Universidad de Chile.
- 2021 LASA (virtual), APSA Religion & Politics Early Career Workshop (virtual), 2nd Wave of Democracy in Latin America Conference – University of Oxford (virtual), “Suffrage Now” International Conference on Gender and Democracy – University of Stockholm (virtual), APSA (virtual), IV National Congress on the Religious Phenomenon in the Contemporary World – Chile.
- 2020 Universidad Los Lagos – PhD Program (virtual), ECPR (virtual, non-presenting co-author), CISS-Universidad Mayor roundtable (virtual), UMCE roundtable (virtual).
- 2019 Empirical Gender and Politics Network (EGEN), CEHIP - Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.
- 2018 ACCP.
- 2017 LASA, Penn Historical Women’s Movements Workshop, ECPR Summer School, APSA, Redefining Political Sociology Conference.
- 2016 Instituto de Ciencia Política, PUC-Chile, LASA.
- 2015 LASA, SciencePo Summer Conference.
- 2010 LASA.

TALKS AND ROUNDTABLES FOR NON-ACADEMIC AUDIENCIES

- 2025 Panel on Bicentenario UC Survey results; Instituto de Estudios de la Sociedad (IES), “A un año del fraude electoral de Maduro: Auge y decadencia del chavismo,” Postelectoral analysis webinar CeSPI (Italy).

- 2024 Seminario 5 años del estallido – Viodemos and Centro DDHH UChile, Chile21 “¿Qué hemos aprendido del estallido social?”
- 2023 Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo “Desafíos para un nuevo contrato social,” Centro de Estudios Públicos “Quien vota en Chile,” Electoral Workshop – Chile21 and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, International IDEA – Tribunal Electoral Panamá “Chile dice otra vez NO: ¿Qué sigue y qué implica?”
- 2022 Las Mentoras (on gender and feminism), SUBDERE’s Workers Association International Women’s Day Commemoration, IDEA-Chile21 panel on social movements and parties (virtual), book presentation – Camila Sanhueza’s *De ‘apolíticas’ a militantes*, book presentation – Christopher Martinez’s *Presidencialismo. Reflexiones para el debate*, IDEA-Centro de Políticas Públicas UC-Escuela de Gobierno UC seminar “Contrato social en tiempos de descontento.”
- 2021 Tenemos que Hablar de Chile (on democracy and gender), Universidad del Rosario – Prof. Sandra Botero (invited to talk about Chilean constitutional process), Leaders’ Academy Science + Dialogue Group (on the constitutional process), San Ignacio Alonso Ovalle School (on presidential elections).
- 2020 Christian Democratic Party training for women candidates (on gender and politics).

TEACHING

Universidad de Chile

- 2025 – 2026 Research seminar (undergraduate)
- 2023 – Mixed Methods (undergraduate)
- 2023 – Comparative Politics II (undergraduate)
- 2023, 2025 Thesis Seminar (M.A.)
- 2025 Course on Case Studies (M.A.)

Universidad Alberto Hurtado

- 2022 Comparative Politics (undergraduate)
- 2022 Methods and Research Techniques II (undergraduate)

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

- 2019 – 2022 Gender policies (M.A.)
- 2020 Religion and politics (M.A.)
- 2015 – 2016 Seminar: Latin America 20th Century, History Module (undergraduate)

Other teaching

- 2024 – 2026 ICP Mixed Methods Summer School, module on Archives in Historical Research
- 2017 – 2020 Introduction to Politics in Latin America (in English), University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) – Chile

THESES DIRECTION AND COMMITTEES

- Ongoing Marina Martínez, M.A. in Gender, Society, and Policies, FLACSO-Argentina. Title: “Gaps between formal compliance and substantive transformation in gender equality policies in higher education: a case study of the implementation of Law No. 21,369 at the University of Chile (2022–2025)”. Director.
- Ongoing Milder Lara Marriaga, PhD in Social Science Research, FLACSO-México. Title: “Gender Norms in Latin America.” Co-director.
- 2026 Fabián Tobar, M.A. in Political Science, Universidad de Chile. Title: “Emerging Parties and Labor Unionism in Chile: The Insertion of the Broad Front into the CUT (1990–2025).” Director.
- 2025 Pablo Bórquez, M.A. in Political Science, Universidad de Chile. Title: “Internal Participation in Chilean Political Parties (2016-2024): Scanning of a Crisis.” Director.
- 2025 María Ignacia González, M.A. in Political Science, Universidad de Chile. Title: “Affect in Chilean Presidential Leadership. Pain in Times of Crisis.” Director.
- 2024 Anís Annun, M.A. in Political Science, Universidad de Chile. Title: “From Inclusion to Indiscriminate Expulsion. Discursive Change in Chilean Political Parties Toward the International Migration Phenomenon. 2015-2023.” Director.
- 2022 María Fernanda Hernández Garza, PhD in Political Science, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Title: “Emergence and Normative Diffusion from the Global South: Analysis of the Norm Against Femicide Violence in Latin America.” Committee member.
- 2022 Francisca Vergara Chamorro, M.A. in Latin American Social and Political Studies, Universidad Alberto Hurtado. Title: “The Figure of Women in Public Policy in Latin America: The Cases of Chile and Bolivia.” Director.
- 2021 Camila Sanhueza, M.A. in History, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Title: “From 'Apolitical' to Party Activists. The Incorporation of Women to the Chilean Conservative Party (1934-1952).” External reader.

MEDIA

- Commentary BBC (UK), Bloomberg (US), EFE, El Destape (Argentina), Página 12 (Argentina), O Globo (Brazil), EXAME (Brazil), DFMas (Chile), El Desconcierto (Chile), El Dínamo (Chile), El Mercurio de Valparaíso (Chile), El Mercurio (Chile), Emol (Chile), La Segunda (Chile), The Clinic (Chile), La Tercera (Chile), El País (Spain), TVE (Spain), Mediapart (France), Le Monde (France), Les Echos (France), Proceso (Mexico), IMER (Mexico), RPP (Peru), El Comercio (Peru), La República (Peru), La Diaria (Uruguay)

Podcast	Hablemos de Política (US), Latino Media Collective (US), Debajo del Puente (Peru), Nadie Sobra (Chile), Se dice de mí (Chile), Hay Algo Allá Afuera (Chile), La Tercera-El Café Diario (Chile)
TV	CNN-Chile, 24horas-TVN (Chile), Meganoticias, France24 Español, Al Jazeera's The Stream (US), UChileTV, TV3 (Spain).
Radio	Biobio (Chile), Infinita (Chile), Radio Guayacán (La Serena, Chile), Radio Universidad de Chile, IMER (Mexico)
Other	Agenda de género - Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional, Pauta.cl

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

2023 –	Academic and Research Director, Facultad de Gobierno – Universidad de Chile
2023 – 2027	Elected to the Council of the Department of Political Studies – Universidad de Chile
2023	Coordinator of Gender Equality, Facultad de Gobierno – Universidad de Chile

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer	Journals: <i>América Latina Hoy</i> ; <i>American Political Science Review</i> ; <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> ; <i>Ciencia Nueva – Revista de Historia y Política</i> ; <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> ; <i>Desafíos</i> ; <i>Electoral Studies</i> ; <i>European Journal of Politics and Gender</i> ; <i>Journal of Business Venturing</i> ; <i>Journal of Politics in Latin America</i> ; <i>International Feminist Journal of Politics</i> ; <i>International Journal of Latin American Religions</i> ; <i>Latin American Politics and Society</i> ; <i>Polis</i> ; <i>Political Communication</i> ; <i>Politics & Gender</i> ; <i>Politics and Religion</i> ; <i>Political Studies</i> ; <i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i> ; <i>Psyche</i> ; <i>Revista de Ciencia Política</i> ; <i>Secularism and Nonreligion</i> ; <i>Sociological Methods and Research</i> ; <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> .
	Grants: FONDECYT (Chile), National Science Foundation (US).
2025	Mary Parker Follett Prize committee member, APSA Politics & History Section.
2024	Political Institutions program committee member for 2025 LASA congress.
2022	Co-organizer of international conference “Religion and Politics in the Americas,” with Katie Gaddini and Joanildo Burity, Santiago - Chile, May 18-20.
2021	Coordinator of the Religion and Gender working group, IV National Congress on the Religious Phenomenon in the Contemporary World, Chile.
2021	Member of Best Dissertation Award Committee, APSA Women, Gender, and Politics Section.
2013 – 2014	Co-coordinator Comparative Historical Social Science Workshop, Buffett Institute, Northwestern University.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Asociación Chilena de Ciencia Política, American Political Science Association, Latin American Studies Association, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

2016 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native); English (fluent); Portuguese (intermediate); French (basic).

Last updated: March 2026