

# KATHERINE BERSCH

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science Davidson College Davidson, NC 28035 <a href="mailto:kabersch@ davidson.edu">kabersch@davidson.edu</a> <a href="http://berschkatherine.com">berschkatherine.com</a>
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<b>Davidson College</b> , Department of Political Science Frontis W. Johnston Associate Professor of Political Science (2024-present) Nancy Akers and J. Mason Wallace Assistant Professor of Political Science (2020-2024) Assistant Professor (2018-2020)  <b>University of Notre Dame</b> , Kellogg Institute for International Studies Visiting Fellow (2022-2023)  <b>McGill University</b> , Institute for the Study of International Development Postdoctoral Fellow in Global Governance (2016-2018)  <b>Stanford University</b> , Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2015-2016)
EDUCATION	<b>The University of Texas at Austin</b> , Department of Government Ph.D. Political Science, August 2015  <b>The University of Notre Dame</b> B.A., Political Science, May 2004
BOOKS	<i>When Democracies Deliver: Governance Reform in Latin America</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019. Winner of the Herbert Simon Book Award, American Political Science Association. 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 <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> , <i>Latin American Politics and Society</i> , and <i>Democratization</i>
MAJOR DATASETS	“ <a href="https://www.globalsurveyofpublicservants.org/indicators">The Global Survey of Public Servants Indicators</a> ” (with Fukuyama, F., Rogger, D., Hasnain, Z., Mistree, D., Schuster, C., Mikkelsen, K., Kay, K., and Meyer-Sahling, J.), 2022. Available at <a href="https://www.globalsurveyofpublicservants.org/indicators">https://www.globalsurveyofpublicservants.org/indicators</a>
PUBLICATIONS	“ <a href="#">Calibrating Autonomy: How Bureaucratic Autonomy Influences Government Quality in Brazil</a> .” 2024. Co-authored with Francis Fukuyama. <i>Governance</i> .  “ <a href="#">Political Control and Bureaucratic Resistance: The Case of Environmental Agencies in Brazil</a> ” 2023. Co-authored with Gabriela Lotta. <i>Latin American Politics and Society</i> .  “ <a href="#">Neoliberal Reform of Transport Institutions in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile: The Tortoise Beats the Hare</a> .” 2023. <i>State Making and Nation Making in Latin America and Spain, Volume 3: The</i>

*Neoliberal State and Beyond*, edited by Miguel Centeno and Agustin Ferraro, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“[Defining Bureaucratic Autonomy](#),” 2023. Co-authored with Francis Fukuyama. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 26:213–32.

“[The Global Survey of Public Servants: Evidence from 1,300,000 Public Servants in 1,300 Government Institutions in 23 Countries](#),” 2023. Co-authored with Christian Schuster, Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Daniel Rogger, Francis Fukuyama, Zahid Hasnain, Dinsha Mistree, Jan Meyer-Sahling, Katherine Bersch, Kerenssa Kay. *Public Administration Review*, (83)4: 982-993 (previously published as [World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 10333](#)).

“[Patronage and Presidential Coalition Formation](#),” 2022. Co-authored with Felix Lopez and Matthew Taylor. *Political Research Quarterly*, 76(2): 508–523.

“[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 Development](#),” 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.” 2023. In *Reforma do Estado e da Administração Pública (1995-2020): trajetória, tendências e desafios* edited by Pedro Cavalcante, IPEA.

“[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 “Deep State versus Deliberative State: The Case of US Environmental Protection Agency” (with Cameron Unice) *in progress*.

“Does Participation Make Up for the Democratic Deficit? Evidence from Environmental Policy making in Brazil” (with Kim Peh and Luiz Vilaça) *in progress*.

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS “Editor’s Introduction: New Democratization Research Agendas,” 2023. *American Political Science Association Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter*. Co-Guest Editor Introduction. 21(1) 4–5.

“Democracy and Governance,” 2023 *American Political Science Association Democracy and Au-*

*ocracy Newsletter* 21(1) 20–21.

“Does Democracy Deliver? Opening the Black Box of the State” Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law 20th Anniversary Working Paper Series. Stanford Jan 2023.

*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

Herbert Simon Book Award from the Public Administration Section of the American Political Science Association 2023

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

Dean Rusk Grant, 2021, 2023 (total \$8500)  
Faculty Study and Research Grant, 2018, 2019, 2023 (\$5500)  
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

2024 Washington D.C. (Environmental Protection Agency), June-July 2024  
2023 Brazil (São Paulo and Brasília), May-July  
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

"Deep State versus Deliberative State: The Case of US Environmental Protection Agency" Invited Presentation for International SOG Workshop 2024 Research Committee 27 of the International Political Science Association "Structure and Organization of Government," Münster, Germany, October 17-18, 2024.

"Valuing Public Servants: What we can learn about Brazil from Administrative Democracy in Comparative Perspective" Invited Keynote for *Movimento Pessoas a Frente*, Brasília, Brazil, June 14, 2023.

"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

“Does Participation Make Up for the Democratic Deficit? Evidence from Environmental Policy making in Brazil.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Philadelphia, September 6, 2024.

“Does Participation Make Up for the Democratic Deficit? Evidence from Environmental Policy making in Brazil.” Presented at the Inaugural Conference of International Association on Regulation & Governance: Regulatory Governance in a Changing World. University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, June 18, 2024.

“Who Governs? Executive Power and Policy making in Brazil.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Vancouver, May 26, 2023.

“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**                    Coordinator of Levine Memorial Book Prize, Sponsored by the journal *Governance* and IPSA research committee 27 on the Structure of Government (2023-present).

Co-Chair, Building Public Good Working Group (One of four working groups for Strategic Planning, 2023, Davidson College.

Board Member, International Political Science Association's RC27 Structure and Organization of Government, sponsor of the journal *Governance* (2023-present)

Member of editorial board *Latin American Politics and Society* (2022-present)

Book Award Committee Organizer for RC27, Levine Memorial Book Prize, International Political Science Association (2024-present).

Book Award Committee Chair, Levine Memorial Book Prize, International Political Science Association (2023).

Book Award Committee Member, Levine Memorial Book Prize, International Political Science Association (2023).

Book Award Committee Member, Donna Lee Van Cott Best Book Prize, Latin American Studies Association (2022).

Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Public Administration Review*, *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Regulation & Governance*, 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 September 25, 2024