

# Curriculum Vitae

## Laura Mendez

### Education

#### Ph.D. Political Science (2024)

Kent State University, Kent, OH, United States

Areas of emphasis: transnational comparative politics and conflict management and analysis

Dissertation title: Phantom Bootstraps: Self-Help Discourse in Development Aid

Committee Chair: Julie Mazzei, Kent State University

#### Master of Public Administration (2016)

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, United States

Minor in Government.

Thesis title: Does Foreign Aid Influence Trade? An Examination of the Relationship between the U.S. Aid and Trade, Using a Panel Data Approach

Committee Chair: Daniel Chand, New Mexico State University

#### Visiting Postgraduate Student, University of Birmingham (2015)

Department of Political Science and International Studies

Birmingham, United Kingdom

#### B.S in Economics (2013)

Universidad de La Salle, Bogota, Colombia

Thesis title: Analysis of the impact of the presence of people with disabilities on the labor participation of the family using the perspective of the New Economics of the Family. Case study 2007 – 2010

Committee Chair: Adriana Otalora, Universidad de La Salle

### Teaching and Research Experience

#### Assistant Professor

August 2024

School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida

#### Visiting Assistant Professor

August 2023 – present

Political Science Department, Valparaiso University

Valparaiso, IN

- Undergraduate course: Comparative Politics –Fall 2023 (face-to-face)
- Undergraduate course: Research Methods – Fall 2023 (face-to-face)
- Undergraduate course: International Political Economy – Fall 2023 (face-to-face)
- Graduate course: International Political Economy – Fall 2023 (face-to-face)
- Undergraduate course: Politics of Latin America – Spring (2024) (face-to-face)
- Graduate course: Politics of Latin America – Spring (2024) (face-to-face)
- Undergraduate course: Comparative Public Policy – Spring (2024) (face-to-face)

**Adjunct professor**

June 2022 – June 2023

Political Science Department, Kent State University

Kent, OH

- Undergraduate course: Latin American Politics –Spring 2023 (face-to-face)
- Undergraduate course: Introduction to Public Administration – Spring 2023 (online)
- Undergraduate course: Political Economy – Fall 2022 (face-to-face)

**International appointment**

October, 2022

**Adjunct professor**

Curitiba, Brazil

American Academy, Kent State University &amp; Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná

- Undergraduate course: Comparative Politics – intensive course (3 weeks) (face-to-face)

**Invited guest lecturer**

Political Science Department, Kent State University

- Graduate course: Quantitative Methods II, professor Casey Boyd-Swan. Session taught: Instrumental Variable Regression

**Instructor**

Jan 2021 – May 2022

Political Science Department, Kent State University

Kent, OH

- Undergraduate course: Comparative Politics – Spring 2022 (online)
- Undergraduate course: Political Economy – Fall 2021 (Hybrid)
- Undergraduate course: Latin American Politics – Spring 2021 (Online synchronous)

**Awards, Fellowships and Grants**

- United States Institute for Peace (USIP), Peace Scholar Fellowship 2023-24 – \$20,000  
Research funds in support for dissertation work. Research examines the relationship between foreign aid policies and decision-making of aid beneficiaries
- Erik D. Heidemann Scholarship in support for conference travel, 2023 – \$750
- International Studies Association (ISA), Travel Grant, ISA Conference 2023 – \$500
- Kent State Graduate Student Senate, Travel Grant, MPSA Conference 2023 – \$500
- Kent State University, Travel Grant to attend the Kosovo Summer Academy, Kosovo, 2022 \$2000
- Invited to participate in the pre-conference workshop for IPE scholars, ISA conference, IPE and *Review of International Political Economy* Section, 2022 – Travel Grant \$750
- Laura Bassi Scholarship for editorial assistance, Winter 2022 – \$500
- Kent State Graduate Student Senate Research Award for dissertation work, 2021 – \$2,000  
Research funds in support for dissertation work in Colombia. Research examines the relationship between foreign aid policies and decision-making of aid beneficiaries
- Northeast Ohio Scholars Strategy Network Amplify & Apply Grant Program, Grant in support of Dissertation Research, 2021 – \$750  
Research funds in support for dissertation work in Colombia. Research examines the relationship between foreign aid policies and decision-making of aid beneficiaries
- Erik D. Heidemann Scholarship in support for graduate student research, 2020 – \$750  
Research funds in support for dissertation work. Research examines the relationship between foreign aid policies and decision-making of aid beneficiaries
- P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship award in support for graduate research, 2020 – \$3,000

Research funds in support for dissertation work. Research examines the relationship between foreign aid policies and decision-making of aid beneficiaries

- SAGE award class of 2020. This award recognizes women and women-identifying students who have demonstrated innovation, creativity, risk-taking and leadership skills in their academic and personal life
- Roque Lujan Scholarship in recognition of outstanding academic performance and commitment to public service, 2015 and 2016 – \$1,000
- Nick Franklin Scholarship in support for the participation in the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2016 – \$500

### **Manuscripts in progress**

- Marketization of foreign aid: A rationale for U.S. foreign aid policy. (In revision for resubmission to *Public Administration and Development* journal)
- Empowerment amidst foreign aid policies to post-conflict societies – a critical analysis to gender inclusion

### **Conference Papers**

Mendez, Laura. 2024. “Phantom bootstraps: self-help discourse in development aid” For the International Studies Association (ISA) conference; San Francisco, April.

Mendez, Laura. 2024. “The goodwill effect of donor’s marketization of foreign aid: A rationale for U.S. foreign aid policy.” For the Midwest Political Science Association; Chicago, IL April

Mendez, Laura., & Perez, Sofia. 2024. “Revisiting empowerment: how neoliberal discourses in foreign aid and peacebuilding initiatives for Colombia promote gendered stereotypes and hierarchies” For the Midwest Political Science Association; Chicago, IL April

Mendez, Laura. 2023. “Marketization of foreign aid: A rationale for U.S. foreign aid policy.” for the Midwest Political Science Association; Chicago, IL April

Mendez, Laura. 2023. “Empowerment amidst foreign aid policies to post-conflict societies – a critical analysis to gender inclusion” for the International Studies Association (ISA) conference; Montreal, Canada

Mendez, Laura. 2020. “An Intersectional Approach to Foreign Aid and Conflict: A Gendered Analysis of U.S. Aid to Colombia” for the World Conference of Women’s Studies; Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup>.

Mendez, Laura. 2019. “Colombia’s security initiative as a “constitutive archipelago”: state violence and accountability” for the International Studies Association Peace Conference; Kent, OH, October.

Mendez, Laura. 2016. “Does Foreign Aid Influence Trade? An Examination of the Relationship between the U.S. Aid and Trade, Using a Panel Data Approach, from 1978-2012” for the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association; Chicago, IL April.

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<sup>1</sup> This paper was accepted for this conference. But given the pandemic the conference did not take place in person

Mendez, Laura. 2013. "Analysis of the impact of the presence of people with disabilities on the labor participation of the family, from the perspective of the New Economics of the Family: case study 2007 – 2010" for the fifth International Symposium in Labor Studies, Bogota, Colombia, April.

### **Academic Service**

- 2024 ISA conference panel organizer. The politics of inequality and development: colonial and contemporary contexts.
- Reviewer – International Journal of Transitional Justice
- Reviewer – Journal of Peace Research
- Committee member for the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) program – School of Peace and Conflict Studies, Kent State University
- Political science senator in the Kent State Graduate Student Senate, academic year 2020-2021
- Graduate student representative in the Graduate Student Council in the Political Science Department, Kent State University, 2019-2020

### **Assistantships**

- Graduate Teaching assistant, Political Science department, Kent State University 2018 – Spring 2022
- Graduate research and teaching assistant, Economics, Applied Statistics and International Business Department, NMSU 2017 – 2018
- Graduate research assistant, Government Department, NMSU 2015 – 2016

### **Honor Societies**

Pi Alpha Alpha. Inducted spring 2016

### **Community Service and extracurricular activities**

- Served as an interpreter Spanish/English for immigrant families in Akron, Ohio, 2018-19
- Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability, Bethlehem, July-August 2018  
Worked as a volunteer on sustainable projects for water consumption and conservation
- Attended a talk of Palestinian students' experience, University of Bethlehem, Palestine, September 2015
- International Volunteer HQ -IVHQ, Green Lion Bali, Indonesia, December 2014  
Kindergarten Program, teaching Basic English

### **Language and Skills**

- Spanish – native
- English – bilingual
- Statistical software: STATA
- Qualitative data analysis software: Nvivo