

CARLOS A. RIVERA-GARCÍA, PHD

The University of Texas at Austin. Department of Government | 158 W 21st St, STOP A1800; Austin, TX; 78712 | +1 (512) 232-1445
carlosrivera@utexas.edu

EDUCATION

University of Essex (United Kingdom).	
Ph.D., Psychology	2014
M.A., Political Behaviour	2006
Centre for Economic Research and Teaching (México).	
Diploma, Strategic Political Analysis	2005
Iberoamerican University (México).	
B.Sc., Psychology	2003

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Psychology; Political Behaviour; Political Participation; Political Cognition; Experimental Social Psychology; Personality Traits; Emotion; Ideology; Identity; Motivated Social Cognition.

MARKET PUBLICATION

1. A Terrifying Journey to the Centre of Politics: political centrism as an effect of mortality salience and a need for closure [under review].

WORKING PAPERS

1. Personality traits; need for cognitive closure, and political participation in a local election.
2. Engaging the Youth: An Experiment on Non-Partisan Electoral Participation (with German Petersen).

NON-PEER-REVIWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Rivera, C. A. (2016). La rebelión de las emociones. *NEXOS*, XIII, 71-74.
2. Rivera, C. A. (2011, 5 Dec). El efecto electoral de la pifia de Peña Nieto [The electoral effect of Peña Nieto's blunder]. *NEXOS* Weblog post. Retrieved from: <https://redaccion.nexos.com.mx/?p=3661>

COURSES TAUGHT

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Plan II Honours Program advisor (Undergraduate. The University of Texas at Austin) | 2018-2019 |
| 2. Political Psychology (Postgraduate. Iberoamerican University) | 2018 |
| 3. Social Psychology (Undergraduate. Iberoamerican University) | 2016-2017 |
| 4. Research Methods in Psychology (Graduate Laboratory; Undergraduate. University of Essex) | 2009-2012 |

PRESENTATIONS

1. Rivera, C. A. (2019). *A Terrifying Journey to the Centre of Politics: political centrism as an effect of mortality salience and a need for closure*. 2019 Behavioral Models of Politics conference; Penn State University. May 23-24, 2019.
2. Rivera, C. A. (2019). *Scarily Coming to the Centre: Political Centrism as an Effect of Mortality Salience and a Need for Closure*. Poster presented at the 2019 Annual Convention, Portland, Oregon. Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
3. Rivera, C. A. (2019). *Scarily Coming to the Centre: Political Centrism as an Effect of Mortality Salience and a Need for Closure*. Paper presented at the 90th Annual Conference, Austin, Texas. Southern Political Science Association.
4. Rivera, C. A. (2018). *Scarily Coming to the Centre: Political Centrism as an Effect of Mortality Salience and a Need for Closure*. Paper presented at the Beyond Borders and Boundaries: Perspectives from Political Psychology, San Antonio, Texas. International Society of Political Psychology Annual Scientific Meeting.
5. Rivera, C. A., & Cozzolino, P. J. (2010). *Scarily coming to the center: Political centrism as an effect of mortality salience and a need for closure*. Poster presented at the SPSP Political Psychology Pre-Conference 2010, Las Vegas.
6. Rivera, C. A. (2009). What is Political Psychology? Paper presented at the PhD Colloquium, University of Essex.
7. Rivera, C. A. (2008). *How existential and epistemic motives influences reactions to perceived threaten personal liberty*. Poster presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting. "Building Bridges: Political Psychology and Other Disciplines, Political Psychology and the World", International Society of Political Psychology, Paris, France.
8. Rivera, C. A. (2008). Does party identification in Great Britain really exist? Paper presented at the Postgraduate Conference, Colchester, Essex.

INVITED TALKS, COLLOQUIA, AND GUEST LECTURES

1. Rivera, C. A. (2018). *Political Psychology in International Relations*. Invited talk at the College of Mexico, México City.

2. Rivera, C. A. (2012). *Aterradoramente Cercano al Centro*. Invited talk at the College of Veracruz, Jalapa, México.
3. Rivera, C. A. (2011). *Political Psychology: Experimental Discoveries and Policy Applications*. Invited talk at the CGALMA Research Institute, México City.
4. Rivera, C. A. (2009a). *From Political Behaviour to Political Psychology*. Invited talk presented at the PhD Colloquium, University of Hamburg, Germany.

CHAired SYMPOSIA AND ROUNDTABLES

1. *The Political Psychologies of Left, Right and Center*. (July, 2018). Symposium held at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

HONOURS AND GRANTS

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology funding to attend the Big Data in Personality and Social Psychology (\$200USD) **2019**
- First recipient of the CONTEX Binational (USA-MEXICO) Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$143,384USD) **2017-2019**
- International Society of Political Psychology. Small Grants Programme (\$5,000) to organise the first Political Psychology Conference in México. **2015**
- CONACYT Doctoral studies grant (£97,000) **2007 – 2013**
- CONACYT Postgraduate studies grant (£47,000) **2005 – 2006**
- Experimental Psychology Society (UK). Grindley Grant for Conference Attendance (£1000) **2010**
- University of Essex. Conference Travel Grant (£500) **2009**
- University of Essex. Conference Travel Grant (£500) **2008**
- Iberoamerican University. Vice-chancellor's honour scholarship for undergraduate studies **1999-2003**

EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Austin

2017 – to date

Postdoctoral Research Fellow. First-ever recipient of the CONTEX-CONACYT Binational (Mexico-USA) Fellowship.

- Developed applicable solutions for poverty reduction as a function of personality traits and civic engagement.
- Research design and operational management. Coordinated research teams in both Texas and México,
- Plan II Honours Program thesis advisor for undergraduate students.

Iberoamerican University

2016-2017

Lecturer. Taught undergraduate courses in Social Psychology. My course examined the theories, research, and applications of social psychology with a focus on experimental social research, personality, and social psychology. I introduced the faculty research luncheons, and the first undergraduate research group.

Lecturer. Postgraduate Diploma in Electoral Campaigning. Course: *Political Psychology and Emotions*. **2017**

El Financiero Bloomberg TV México

2016-2017

Guest analyst. Gave weekly broadcast interviews on political psychology as related to political events in Mexico and the world.

Executive Office of the President of México

2013-2015

Special Adviser in Political Psychology. As a part of President Peña-Nieto's administration, I applied behavioural sciences and political psychology research to develop effective communication strategies in a complex political environment. I designed surveys, performed complex statistical analysis of public opinion, and transformed findings into clear, insightful, and actionable policies.

Political Psychology

2013-2017

Private consultant. Using qualitative and survey-based methods, I examined the psychological mechanisms behind political and consumer behaviours—including but not limited to voting, government approval, and product development—to foster effective communication and engagement strategies.

Electoral Commission

2011-2012

Commissioner. As part of a team of electoral commissioners, I was responsible for helping carry out elections in Mexico, including registering candidates, organising the electoral tally, certifying federal elections, and supervising the activities of the Executive Board. Additionally, I was responsible for determining the number and location of polling stations, selecting polling officials, and monitoring their work compliance.

University of Essex

2008-2010

Graduate Teaching Assistant. Meet with professors to discuss students' marks and assignments. Ordered materials needed for classes. Invigilate exams.

Executive Office of the President of México

2002-2005

Junior speechwriter. As part of speechwriting team, I wrote speeches for the President, provided strategic advice in relation to policy priorities, political communication strategy, and issue positioning.

Burson-Marsteller

2002

Project Leader. Designed, administered, and analysed surveys for a multinational communications company to understand employee perceptions about management and the company at large. This research helped identify areas for improvement in the company's internal communication and corporate strategies.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**“Fray Bernardino Álvarez” Psychiatric Hospital (México City)**

2003

Psychological and psychopathological diagnosis of adults.

“Tacubaya”, Pediatric Hospital. Burned Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (B-PICU)

2002

Psychological crisis intervention and psychotherapy with burned children in the Intensive Care Unit.

National Foster Home for Boys (México City)

2002

Foster Care Psychology Counsellor Assistant.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for:

Journal of Social and Political Psychology (3)

Policy Studies Journal

Politics and Governance

MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association,

American Psychological Association [Divisions: 5 (for Quantitative and Qualitative Methods), 8 (for Personality and Social Psychology), 21 (Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology), 35 (for Women; 353: Concerns of Hispanic Women/Latinas)],

European Consortium for Political Research: Latin American Politics Standing Group,

International Society of Political Psychology,

Midwest Political Science Association,

National Postdoctoral Association,

Society for Personality and Social Psychology,

Southern Political Science Association,

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

DEPARTAMENTAL SERVICE

Postgraduate liaison committee (2009-2011)

Undergraduate representative to the Department's Advisory Board (2000-2002)

PRESS

Telemundo Austin (Contributor).

Austin American-Statesman.

México City's Legislature TV.

WFM Radio (México City).

El Financiero-Bloomberg TV (México City).

NEXOS Magazine (México City).

University of Chihuahua Radio (México).

LANGUAGES

Spanish – native language.

English – speak, read, and write with very high competence.

