

CARLOS A. RIVERA-GARCÍA, PHD

University of California, Berkeley. School of Information
102 South Hall # 4600,
Berkeley, CA 94720-4600
+1 (512) 712-0183
carlosrivera@berkeley.edu
www.carlosarivera.com

EDUCATION

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

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Psychology; Political Behaviour; Political Participation; Political Cognition; Experimental Social Psychology; Personality Traits; Emotion; Ideology; Identity; Motivated Social Cognition; Research Design; Survey design and analysis.

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 PROJECTS

1. The psychological underpinning of political participation among Latinos in the USA.
2. Personality traits; the need for cognitive closure and political participation in a local election. Evidence from Mexico.
3. Biosecurity or protection? Health and the international security agenda in the 21st century (collaboration with Dra. María Rosas at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, UNAM).
4. Engaging the Youth: An Experiment on Non-Partisan Electoral Participation (with German Petersen).

NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Rivera, C. A. (2020, April 17). La Psicología Política de la Pandemia COVID-19 [The Political Psychology of the COVID-19 Pandemic]. *Misión Política*. Retrieved April 17, 2020, from <https://misionpolitica.com/2020/04/17/la-psicologia-politica-de-la-pandemia-covid-19/>
2. Rivera, C. A. (2016). La rebelión de las emociones. *NEXOS*, XIII, 71-74.
3. Rivera, C. A. (2011, December 5). 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

1. Research Design and Applications for Data and Analysis (Master of Information and Data Science programme, University of California, Berkeley) **2019-to date**
2. Plan II Honours Program advisor (Undergraduate. The University of Texas at Austin) **2018-2019**
3. Political Psychology (Postgraduate. Universidad Iberoamericana) **2018**
4. Social Psychology (Undergraduate. Universidad Iberoamericana) **2016-2017**
5. 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 centre: 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, Mexico City.
2. Rivera, C. A. (2012). *Aterradoramente Cercano al Centro*. Invited talk at the College of Veracruz, Jalapa, Mexico.
3. Rivera, C. A. (2011). *Political Psychology: Experimental Discoveries and Policy Applications*. Invited talk at the CGALMA Research Institute, Mexico 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 Centre*. (July 2018). Symposium held at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

HONOURS AND GRANTS

- The American Political Science Association (APSA) Fund for Latino Scholarship award (\$450) **2020**
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Political Psychology Standing Group (£200) **2020**
- 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 (\$143,384) **2017-2019**
- International Society of Political Psychology. Small Grants Programme (\$5,000) to organise the first Political Psychology Conference in Mexico. **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**
- The University of Essex. Conference Travel Grant (£500) **2009**
- The University of Essex. Conference Travel Grant (£500) **2008**
- Universidad Iberoamericana. Vice-chancellor's honour scholarship for undergraduate studies **1999-2003**

EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley **2019 – to date**

Postdoctoral Scholar Lecturer.

- Teach the postgraduate course: *Research Design and Applications for Data and Analysis* in the Master of Information and Data Science programme.
- I focus on qualitative and quantitative methods, Survey design and analysis, and Ethics and Data Science.
- I conduct research on the psychological underpinnings of political behaviour of minorities.

The University of Texas at Austin **2017 – 2019**

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

- Developed practical 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 Mexico.
- Plan II Honours Program thesis advisor for undergraduate students.

Universidad Iberoamericana **2016-2017**

Lecturer. Social Psychology. My course examined the theories, research, and applications of social psychology with a focus on experimental social research, personality, and social psychology.

Political Psychology and Emotions. Postgraduate Diploma in Electoral Campaigning. The purpose of this postgraduate course was to introduce students to historical and contemporary perspectives in political psychology.

Additionally, I was responsible for organising the faculty research luncheons and crafted the first undergraduate research group in Social Psychology.

El Financiero Bloomberg TV Mexico **2016-2017**

Political Analyst. Weekly broadcast interviews on political psychology as related to political events in Mexico and the world.

Executive Office of the President of Mexico **2013-2015**

Special Adviser in Political Psychology. As a part of President Peña-Nieto's administration, I applied behavioural science 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. I met with professors to discuss students' marks and assignments. Planned and conducted classes. Invigilate and marked exams. Assisted with general teaching responsibilities.

Executive Office of the President of Mexico **2002-2005**

Junior speechwriter. As part of the speechwriting team, I wrote speeches for the President of Mexico, provided strategic advice on political communication strategies, mass political participation, public opinion, and political persuasion.

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 as part of a merger and acquisition process.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY EXPERIENCE

"Fray Bernardino Álvarez" Psychiatric Hospital (Mexico City) **2002-2003**

Psychological and psychopathological diagnosis in the adults ward.

"Tacubaya", Paediatric Hospital. Burned Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (B-PICU) **2001-2002**

I was part of the *Crisis Intervention and Psychotherapy* team for burned children in the Intensive Care Unit.

National Foster Home for Boys (Mexico City) **2000- 2002**

Psychology Counsellor Assistant.

WORKSHOPS AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

STATA Fundamentals (University of California, Berkeley)	2020
Introduction to Qualtrics (University of California, Berkeley)	2020
Statistical Analysis in Political Science II (the University of Texas at Austin)	2017-2018

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Quantitative methods, experimental design, survey design, psychometrics, Statistical methods
 Statistical software: SPSS, STATA, JAMOVI
 Survey management: Qualtrics, Amazon Mechanical Turk

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for:

Journal of Social and Political Psychology

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.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Postgraduate liaison committee (2009-2011)

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

PRESS

Telemundo Austin (Contributor),

Austin American-Statesman,

Mexico City's Legislature TV,

WFM Radio (Mexico City),

El Financiero-Bloomberg TV (Mexico City),

NEXOS Magazine (Mexico City),

University of Chihuahua Radio (Mexico).

LANGUAGES

Spanish – native language.

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

Update: November 20