Carlos A. Rivera-Garca, Ph.D.

University of California, Berkeley. School of Information

102 South Hall # 4600,

Berkeley, CA 94720-4600

+1 (512) 712-0183

[carlosrivera@berkeley.edu](mailto:carlosrivera@berkeley.edu)

[www.carlosarivera.com](http://www.carlosarivera.com)

**EDUCATION**

University of California, Berkeley 2019 - Present

Postdoctoral Scholar Lecturer

The University of Texas at Austin 2017 - 2019

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University of Essex

PhD, Psychology 2014

M.A., Political Behaviour 2006

**Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (Mexico)** **2005**

Postgraduate Diploma, Strategic Political Analysis

Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico) 2003

B.Sc., Psychology (Hons)

**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 of Latinos in the United States.
2. Personality Traits, 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 (with Dra. María Rosas; 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 (Undergraduate and Graduate Laboratory. University of Essex) **2009-2012**

**research and teaching interests**

Political Psychology; Political Behaviour; Latino Politics; Experimental Social Psychology; Personality Traits; Emotion.

**Professional activities**

Reviewer for:

* Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
* Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences,
* Journal of Social and Political Psychology,
* Policy Studies Journal,
* Politics and Governance,
* PVS Politische Vierteljahresschrift.

**Presentations**

1. Rivera, C. A. (2022). *Political participation among Latinx in the USA*. 79th Annual Midwest Political Science Conference; Chicago, IL. April 7-10, 2022.
2. 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 Behavioural Models of Politics conference; Penn State University. May 23-24, 2019.
3. Rivera, C. A. (2019a). *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.
4. Rivera, C. A. (2019b). *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.
5. 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. Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology.
6. 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.
7. Rivera, C. A. (2009). What is Political Psychology? Paper presented at the PhD Colloquium, University of Essex.
8. Rivera, C. A. (2008). *How existential and epistemic motives influence reactions to perceived threatened 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.
9. 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. (2023). *Persuasion and Campaigns: the value of Emotions*. Invited talk at the Centre for Political Studies, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
2. Rivera, C. A. (2021). [*Political participation among Latinx in the USA*](https://cess-nuffield.nuff.ox.ac.uk/events/colloquium/carlos-rivera-university-of-california-berkeley/). Invited talk at the Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS), Nuffield College, University of Oxford.
3. Rivera, C. A. (2018). *Political Psychology in International Relations*. Invited talk at the College of Mexico, Mexico City.
4. Rivera, C. A. (2012). *Aterradoramente Cercano al Centro*. Invited talk at the College of Veracruz, Jalapa, Mexico.
5. Rivera, C. A. (2011). *Political Psychology: Experimental Discoveries and Policy Applications*. Invited talk at the CGALMA Research Institute, Mexico City.
6. 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 International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

**SELECTED Honours and grants**

* University of California, Berkeley Professional Development Grant **2021**
* The American Political Science Association (APSA) Fund for Latino Scholarship Award **2020**
* European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Political Psychology Standing Group **2020**
* Society for Personality and Social Psychology funding to attend the Big Data in Personality and Social Psychology Meeting **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 Mexico’s first Political Psychology Conference. **2015**
* CONACYT Doctoral studies grant (£97,000) **2007 – 2013**
* CONACYT Postgraduate studies grant (£47,000) **2005 – 2006**
* Experimental Psychology Society (U.K.). Grindley Grant for Conference Attendance **2010**
* The University of Essex. Conference Travel Grant **2009**
* The University of Essex. Conference Travel Grant **2008**
* Universidad Iberoamericana. Vice-chancellor’s honour scholarship for undergraduate studies ($200,000) **1999-2003**

**EXPERIENCE**

**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

University of California, Berkeley 2019 – to date

*Postdoctoral Scholar Lecturer*.

* I 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, experimental survey design, data analysis and interpretation, and ethics in data science.
* My research focuses on the psychological underpinnings of the political behaviour of historically underrepresented groups.

The University of Texas at Austin 2017 – 2019

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Department of Government.*

* I was the inaugural CONTEX-CONACYT Binational (Mexico-USA) postdoctoral fellow in Experimental Political Psychology,
* My research focuses on the intersection of personality traits and civic engagement. I designed and managed comparative research projects in Texas and Mexico, coordinating teams of researchers and simultaneously overseeing all aspects of the research process, from data collection to analysis and interpretation to publication of results, in both countries.
* Besides my research work, I served as an advisor for undergraduate students in the Plan II Honours Program, ranked as a top public honours program by Public University Honours. Plan II students are highly competitive for major national scholarships like the Truman, Marshall, and Rhodes Scholarships. Through this role, I share my research design and methodology expertise with the next generation of scholars and leaders, helping them develop the skills and knowledge they need to impact their communities positively and beyond.

Universidad Iberoamericana 2016-2017

*Lecturer*.

*Social Psychology*. My course is designed to review theory and research in social psychology. This course explains how others influence our ideas, feelings, and behaviours. The topics studied are identity, social perception, social cognition and information processing, attitudes and persuasion, prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination, and political behaviours.

*Political Psychology and Emotions*. This postgraduate course introduces students to historical and contemporary perspectives in political psychology.

Additionally, I established and led the faculty research luncheons and the first undergraduate research group on social psychology.

University of Essex 2008-2011

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*.

As a teaching assistant, I supported students' learning and development. I collaborated closely with professors, meeting with them regularly to discuss student marks and assignments and providing feedback on student progress. I also actively participated in class planning and delivery, designing engaging and effective lessons catering to diverse learners' needs and interests.

In addition to these teaching responsibilities, I also took on invigilation and marking duties for exams, ensuring that students had a fair and secure testing environment and that their work was evaluated consistently and accurately.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Executive Office of the President of Mexico 2013-2015

*Special Adviser in Political Psychology*.

* As a part of President Enrique Peña-Nieto’s administration, I provided expert advice on political psychology concepts and principles to the Chief of Staff and senior government officials on political behaviour, attitudes, and decision-making matters,
* I researched and analysed various political issues, such as voting behaviour, public opinion, political leadership, and social movements using surveys, polls, and focus groups, to identify trends and patterns in political behaviour,
* I developed and implemented political communication strategies to effectively engage citizens and stakeholders on political issues,
* I wrote reports, memos, and briefings on political psychology topics for the Chief of Staff and other stakeholders.

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, advised on political communication strategies, helped design political participation campaigns, analysed public opinion polls, and helped plan political persuasion strategies.

El Financiero Bloomberg TV Mexico 2016-2017

*Political Analyst*. Weekly interviews on political psychology related to political events in Mexico and the world. I collected data from public opinion surveys and election results. I presented these findings with advanced statistical techniques and a political psychology framework in an accessible style to inform the viewer.

Political Psychology 2013-2017

*Consultant*. Using qualitative, quantitative, and experimental methods, I examined the emotional mechanisms behind political and consumer behaviours (including but not limited to voting, government approval, and product development) to foster effective communication and engagement strategies for consumer goods companies, political candidates, and other industries.

Electoral Commission 2011-2012

*Commissioner*. I was part of a team that conducted elections in Mexico fairly and lawfully; my responsibilities included registering candidates, organising the electoral tally, certifying the election results and supervising the activities of the Executive Board. Additionally, I handled the number and locations of the polling stations and managed the polling officials to ensure their work compliance.

Burson-Marsteller 2002

*Project Leader*.I designed, administered, and analysed surveys for a multinational communications company to understand employee feelings about management and the company. The results of my research helped frame 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 clinical diagnosis in the adult department.

“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 Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

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

*Assistant Psychology Counsellor*.

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Mediation Models with the PROCESS macro in SPSS **2022**

Stata Data Management (University of California, Los Angeles) **2022**

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.

**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 (for Concerns of Hispanic Women/Latinas),
* Association for Psychological Science,
* 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 on the Department’s Advisory Board (2000-2002).

**Press**

* Telemundo Austin, Texas (political commentator),
* KVDA/Telemundo San Antonio, Texas (political commentator)
* Austin American-Statesman,
* Mexico City Legislature TV (political commentator),
* WFM Radio Mexico City (political commentator),
* El Financiero-Bloomberg TV (political commentator),
* NEXOS Magazine (Mexico City),
* University of Chihuahua Radio (Mexico).

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish – native language.

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

**Academic References**

**Prof. Christopher Federico**

**Professor of Political Science and Psychology and Beverly and Richard Fink Professor in Liberal Arts**

**University of Minnesota**

+1 (612) 624-5847

[federico@umn.edu](mailto:federico@umn.edu)

1414 Social Sciences Building, 267 19th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455

USA

**Prof. Bethany L. Albertson**

Associate Professor

The University of Texas at Austin

+1 (512) 232-7276

[balberts@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:balberts@austin.utexas.edu)

158 W 21st St

Austin, TX 78705

USA

**Prof. Michael Rivera (no relation)**

**University of California, Berkeley**

**School of Information**

+1 (510) 642-1464

[michaelrivera@ischool.berkeley.edu](mailto:michaelrivera@ischool.berkeley.edu)

102 South Hall # 4600

Berkeley, CA 94720-4600

USA

*Update: July 23*