

Katherine M. McKiernan

CONTACT

INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC

APPOINTMENTS

Tulane University

2020- Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Inter-American Policy and Research

EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA

Ph.D., Political Science, 2020

- Concentrations: *Comparative Politics* and *Methodology*
- Dissertation Title: “Club Goods Provision: The Effect of Weak Parties on Allocation Strategies”
- Dissertation Summary: In this three article dissertation, I analyze the use of club goods as a clientelist benefit in weak party contexts. In these articles, I ask: (1) Under what conditions will mayors serve as reliable brokers for legislators who provide club goods, (2) How can we estimate the use of clientelism at the local level, and (3) Where are legislators most likely to provide club goods as clientelist benefits? Each of these articles is described in detail below.
- Committee: Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo (Chair), Anna Bassi, Jonathan Hartlyn, Lucy Martin, Santiago Olivella

M.A., Political Science, 2016

- Thesis Title: “Municipal Governance and Democratic Perceptions: The Role of Party Competition and Municipal Governance on Evaluations of Democracy”

Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania USA

B.A., *Government* and *Hispanic Cultures*, May 2013

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

EITM: Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Summer Workshop, June 26-July 14, 2017, University of California- Berkeley.

UNDER REVIEW

McNulty, Stephanie and Katherine McKiernan. “Testing the Effect of Nationally-Mandated Participatory Reforms on Democracy and Governance”, presented at MPSA April 2018.

- In this paper, we consider to what extent the promises of nationally-mandated participatory reforms, such as participatory budgeting, have

been realized since their implementation. Using a novel dataset on the presence of participatory and decentralization reforms in 125 countries, we test whether nationally mandated participatory reforms improve participation and accountability and decrease clientelism over time. Further, we consider how these effects change at different levels of decentralization. We find that nationally mandated participatory reforms improve participation overtime. Furthermore, we find that these reforms improve accountability at most levels of decentralization and can actually increase the use of clientelism in weakly decentralized contexts.

McKiernan, Katherine. “Who Gets the Goods: Club Goods Provision in Weak Party Systems”, presented at APSA August 2019.

- In this paper, I argue that national legislators are more likely to provide club goods to municipalities where mayors have strong clientelist networks. I test this argument in Colombia and find that clientelist municipalities are more likely to receive club goods for their municipalities.

McKiernan, Katherine. “When do Club Goods Buy Votes? Broker Cooperation in Clientelist Exchanges”, presented at SPSA January 2021.

- In this paper, I use a formal model to predict under what conditions brokers will reliably attribute credit to legislators for club goods. I find that, in order to avoid credit hijacking by unreliable brokers, national politicians are likely to minimize the resources they provide to local governments. I test this formal model with interview data of local and national level politicians in Colombia.

PAPERS IN
PREPARATION

McKiernan, Katherine. “Measuring Local-Level Clientelism: A Mixed-Membership Approach”, presented at PolMeth July 2019, expected submission January 2021

- In this paper, I estimate the use of clientelism at the subnational level using a Bayesian Mixed-Membership model. I apply this estimation strategy to the case of Colombia and show that this estimation strategy provides reliable estimates and can be used to open new venues for clientelism research.

McKiernan, Katherine. “Who Gets Credit? Citizen Responses to Local Public Goods”, expected submission May 2021.

- In this paper, I test whether citizens are more likely to vote for legislators when they receive club goods. I argue that citizens require signals from local politicians about who is responsible for local goods in order to properly attribute credit or for legislators to receive electoral returns for providing club goods. I run a vignette survey experiment on over 2000 citizens in Colombia and find that citizens who receive signals about national-legislators roles in providing local goods are more likely to see

the legislator is responsible and believe the legislators vote-share will improve.

RECENT
CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

McKiernan, Katherine. "Measuring Local-Level Clientelism: A Mixed-Membership Approach" Visions in Methodology, Claremont, CA, May 2021.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Who Gets Credit? Citizen Responses to Local Public Goods" Latin American Studies Association, Virtual, May 26-29 2021.

McKiernan, Katherine. "When do Club Goods Buy Votes? Mayoral Cooperation in Clientelist Exchanges" Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, January 6- January 9 2021.

McKiernan, Katherine. "When do Club Goods buy Votes? Mayoral Cooperation in Clientelist Exchanges" Duke Frontiers in Political Science: Clientelism as Electoral Linkage Mechanism, Virtual, December 8-10 2020.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Club Goods Provision: The Effect of Weak Parties on Allocation Strategies" American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 29-September 1 2019.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Measuring Local-Level Clientelism: A Mixed-Membership Approach" Presented Poster, Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, Boston, MA, July 18- July 20 2019.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Club Goods Provision: The Effect of Weak Parties on Allocation Strategies " Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, May 24-May 27 2019.

McKiernan, Katherine. "When do Club Goods Buy Votes? Mayoral Cooperation in Clientelist Exchanges" North Carolina Conference on Latin American Studies, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, February 22-23, 2019.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Mechanisms for Cooperation: Development Contracts and Clientelist Exchanges" Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 5-8, 2018.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Testing the Effect of Nationally-Mandated Participatory Reforms on Democracy and Governance" Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 5-8, 2018.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Municipal Governance and Democratic Perceptions: The Role of Party Competition and Municipal Governance on Evaluations of Democracy." Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting, New York, New York, May 27-30, 2016.

McKiernan, Katherine. "Youth Activism in Argentina and Ecuador: How the Youth are Supporting the State." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 11-14, 2013.

McKiernan, Katherine. "La Cámpora en la Última Campaña Presidencial: Para Entender las Relaciones Entre Movimientos Sociales y Kirchnerismo (La Cámpora in the Last Presidential Campaign: Understanding the Relationships between Social Movements and Kirchnerism)" International Sociological Association Second Forum of Sociology, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4, 2012.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2020- Visions in Methodology Travel Award
2019- Society for Political Methodology Travel Award
2019- Institute for the Study of the Americas Travel Award
2018- University of North Carolina Graduate School Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship \$10000
2018- University of North Carolina Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship \$5000
2018- Myrtle H. Lewin and Jonathan W. Lewin Student Award in Political Science \$3500
2016- Tinker Field Research Grant, UNC Institute for the Studies of the Americas \$2500
2009-2013- Franklin and Marshall College Marshall Scholar, merit scholarship with research grant \$3000

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Politics; Latin American Politics; Subnational Politics; Decentralization; Clientelism, Corruption
Formal Theory; Measurement; Bayesian Analysis

TEACHING INTERESTS

Comparative Politics: Comparative Politics, Latin American Politics, Decentralization, Development, Distributive Politics
Methodology: Game Theory, Probability Theory, Regression Analysis, Bayesian Analysis

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
• *Research Assistant*: Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo 2019
• *Research Assistant*: Evelyne Huber and John Stephens 2015
Franklin and Marshall College
• *Research Assistant, Hackman Fellow*: Stephanie McNulty 2011-2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Introduction to Comparative Politics

- **Instructor:** Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2019, Fall 2019)
- **Teaching Assistant:** Comparative Politics under Andrew Reynolds (Fall 2016)
- **Teaching Assistant:** Comparative Politics under Rahsaan Maxwell (Fall 2015)

Latin American Politics

- **Teaching Assistant:** Latin American Politics under Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo (Spring 2016, Fall 2017)
- **Grader:** Latin American Politics under Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo (Fall 2014 and Spring 2015) .

Designing Democracy

- **Graduate Research Coordinator:** Designing Democracy (Fall 2019)

Game Theory

- **Teaching Assistant:** Graduate Game Theory 1 under Anna Bassi (Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2020)

SERVICE

Discipline

- **Referee,** American Journal of Political Science
- **Referee,** Journal of Elections, Public Opinions, & Parties

Department

- **Speaker Series Coordinator** Tulane University, 2020-2021
- **Graduate Student Subfield Representative, Comparative Politics** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016-2017
- **Coordinator, Latin American Politics Working Group** Duke/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2015-2016

METHODS TRAINING

Research Methods, Ordinary Least Squares Regression, Generalized Linear Models, Multi-level Modeling, Formal Theory, Bayesian Statistics

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical computing: R, Stan, and STATA
 Document composition: L^AT_EX
 Additional Programs: Qualtrics

LANGUAGES

Professional Fluency in Spanish

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association, Latin American Studies Association, Society for Political Methodology, Southern Political Science Association