

ESMERALDA LÓPEZ

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan Joint Political Science and Public Policy Doctoral Student Rackham Merit Fellow <i>Subfield:</i> World Politics (<i>with honors</i>) <i>Dissertation:</i> Words Hurt? Naming and Shaming Human Rights Abuses <i>Committee:</i> Ragnhild Nordås (co-chair), Megan Stewart (co-chair), Justine Davis, Edgar Franco-Vivanco, Chris Fariss	2022 - Present
University of North Texas B.A. in Political Science and B.A. in History Minor in Spanish Latina/o and Mexican American Studies certificate Legal Studies certificate McNair Scholar	2019 - 2022

PUBLICATIONS

Nordås, R. and **López, E.** (2024) ‘Recent Advances in the Study of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence’,
Current Psychiatry Reports. 27:66–75.

Working Papers

Friendly Fire: Why States Shame Their Strategic Partners
Gender-Related Human Rights: Introducing the GRHR Dataset, 1999-2024

SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Rackham Merit Fellowship , University of Michigan	2022 - Present
DGS Conference Travel Grant , University of Michigan (\$750)	2026
Genocide and Atrocity Prevention Fellowship , Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, US Holocaust Memorial Museum (\$20,000)	2025
Institute for Social Research-Rackham Summer Training Awards , University of Michigan (\$2,725)	2025
Precandidate Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant , University of Michigan (\$1,500)	2025
Roy Pierce Award , University of Michigan (\$6,000)	2024
MPSA Conference Travel Grant , University of Michigan (\$1,450)	2024, 2025, 2026
Rackham Conference Travel Grant , University of Michigan (\$3,300)	2023, 2025
Graduate Student Travel Grant , Peace Science Society (International) (\$400)	2023
Top Student in Political Science , University of North Texas	2022

Latina/o and Mexican American Studies Fellowship , University of North Texas	2021 - 2022
Undergraduate Research Fellowship , University of North Texas	2020 - 2022
Castleberry Peace Institute Fellowship , University of North Texas	2020 - 2021
Steven C. Poe Scholarship , University of North Texas	2021

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

** = Invited*

Genocide and Atrocity Prevention Research Fellowship Policy Roundtable <i>*Gender-Based Violence Fact-Finding and Atrocity Prevention</i>	May 2026
Midwestern Political Science Association <i>Especially Shameful? Naming and Shaming Gender-Based Violence</i>	April 2026
International Studies Association <i>Gender-Related Human Rights: Introducing the GRHR Dataset, 1999-2024</i>	March 2026
Genocide and Atrocity Prevention Research Fellowship Seminar <i>*When Words Hurt: Naming and Shaming Gender-Based Violence</i>	December 2025
Peace Science <i>Gender-Related Human Rights: Introducing the GRHR Dataset, 1999-2016</i>	November 2025
Midwestern Political Science Association <i>Unable or Unwilling? Institutional Constraints on Gender-Based Political Violence Reporting Practices</i>	April 2025
International Studies Association <i>Institutional Capacity and Discussion of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence by the US State Department</i> <i>*Participant, Atrocity Prevention Strategies and Tools Workshop</i>	March 2025
Conflict & Peace, Research & Development Workshop <i>Institutional Capacity and Attention to Gender Violence</i>	October 2024
Interdisciplinary Workshop on Gender and Politics <i>Unable or Unwilling? Institutional Constraints on Gender-Based Violence Reporting Practices</i>	October 2024
Midwestern Political Science Association <i>Lightning Talk: Missing or Misconstrued? Information on Conflict Related Sexual Violence</i>	April 2024
Peace Science Conference <i>Poster Session: Evaluating Measures of Wartime Sexual Violence</i> <i>*Participant, Rising Scholars Workshop</i>	November 2023
Conflict & Peace, Research & Development Workshop <i>Vulnerabilities in the Reporting Process of Wartime Sexual Violence</i>	October 2023
Rackham Aspiring Fellows, Research Spotlight <i>*Reporting Wartime Sexual Violence</i>	October 2023

Midwestern Political Science Association <i>Lightning Talk: Discrepancies in Wartime Sexual Violence Reporting</i>	April 2023
Western Political Science Association <i>Examining Discrepancies in Wartime Sexual Violence Reporting</i>	April 2023
Rackham Merit Fellowship, Research in Progress <i>Examining Reporting Discrepancies in Wartime Sexual Violence</i>	October 2022
Western Political Science Association <i>Understanding Public Support for the Colombian Peace Agreement and Its Policy Implications</i>	March 2022
Southern Political Science Association <i>Public Support for the Colombian Peace Agreement: An Analysis of Governmental Trust</i>	January 2022

TEACHING

University of Michigan	
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Upper-Level Writing Instructor	Fall 2025
Introduction to Political Theory, Graduate Student Instructor	Winter 2024 - 2025
Introduction to World Politics, Graduate Student Instructor	Fall 2023 - 2024
University of North Texas	
US and Texas Constitutions and Institutions, Teaching Assistant	Fall 2020 - 2021
Introduction to American History, Supplemental Instructor	Spring 2020

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan	
Principal investigator leading a student from a local community college	Summer 2026
University of Michigan	
Principal investigator leading a team of three undergraduate students	2025 - 2026
Advised a recipient of a UROP Blue Ribbon Certificate	
University of Michigan	
Research assistant for Chris Fariss	2025 - 2026
University of Michigan	
Research assistant for Ragnhild Nordås	Summer 2023 - 2024
University of North Texas	
Research assistant for Kimi King	2020 - 2022

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MENTORSHIP

<i>Department</i>	
Mentor , First Year PhD Mentorship Program	2024 - 2026
Committee Member , Political Science and Public Policy Admissions Committee	2023 - 2024

Co-President , Political Scientists of Color	2023 - 2024
Thesis Third Reader , Political Science Undergraduate Honors Program	Fall 2023, 2024, 2026
Mentor , Prospective PhD Mentorship Program	Winter 2023 - 2026
Mentor , Emerging Scholars Conference	Fall 2023 - 2025

University

Research Mentor , Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program	Summer 2026
Research Mentor , Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program	2025 - 2026
Founder & Coordinator , Interdisciplinary Workshop on Gender and Politics	2023 - 2025

Discipline

Volunteer Organizer , Peace Science Conference	2024
Panel Chair , Southern Political Science Association	2022

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Causal Inference for the Social Sciences I ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods Instructors: Jake Bowers and Ben Hansen	Summer 2025
Machine Learning: Applications in Social Science Research ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods Instructor: Chris Hare	Summer 2025
Introduction to Python ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods Instructor: Sarah Hunter	Summer 2025
Math for Social Scientists, Intermediate Review ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods Instructor: Sara Tomek	Summer 2025
Academic Centers of Conflict Anticipation and Prevention (ACCAP) Scholars Conference US Department of State	Fall 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Language	English (Native), Spanish (Intermediate)
Software	R, L ^A T _E X, Stata, Python