

Mario Villegas

Curriculum Vitae

Ann Arbor, Michigan — vmario@umich.edu — Website

EDUCATION

Ph.D.

Expected May 2028

University of Michigan

Department of Political Science

Dissertation: “Unlikely Candidates: A Theory of Political Ambition Among Minoritized Populations”

- Committee: Nicholas Valentino (Chair), Vincent Hutchings, Roberto Carlos, Tyler Simko, Arnold Ho

M.A.

May 2024

University of Florida

Department of Political Science

Thesis: “Framing the Fight Against Capitalists: Issue Frames and Worker Cooperative Acceptance.”

- Committee: Michael Martinez (Chair), Beth Rosenson, Suzanne Robbins

B.A.

May 2022

University of South Florida

Department of Political Science

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political psychology, political participation, workplace socialization, and Latino politics.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Nguyen, N., Villegas, M., Lieu, C., McBrien, J., & Thornburg, D. (2025). The Dream Academy: Hope and community for doubly marginalised refugees and asylum seekers. In *A Modern Guide to Refugee Education* (pp. 380-398). Edward Elgar Publishing.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

American National Election Studies Graduate Fellow

January 2026–Current

- Conducted data analyses, created data visualizations, and produced research memos.

Graduate Research Assistant

Voting and Election Science Team

January 2024–August 2024

- Collected precinct-level election data, conducted data analyses, and attended weekly meetings.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

The Dream Academy

July 2021–August 2024

- Conducted qualitative research, coded transcriptions and videos, and contributed to the research manuscript.

PRESENTATIONS

Midwest Political Science Association. “What Changed? Predictors of the Latino Vote Shift During the Trump Era,” with Franshelly Martinez-Ortiz, Francy Luna Diaz, and Nicholas Valentino, 2026.

Midwest Political Science Association. “Deaf Ears and Echo Chambers in Presidential News,” with Ben Goehring

and Kenneth Lowande, 2026.

Florida Political Science Association. “Support for Florida’s \$15 Minimum Wage Amendment,” 2024.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Villegas, Mario. “Exploited and Indignant: How Resources and Emotions Shape Union Members’ Pursuit of Elective Office.” Work in progress.

Villegas, Mario. “The Political Ambition of Authoritarian Latinos.” Work in progress.

Villegas, Mario. “How Policy Experiences Motivate Teachers to Run for their School Board.” Work in progress.

Villegas, Mario, Franshelly Martinez-Ortiz, Francy Luna Diaz, and Nicholas Valentino. “What Changed? Predictors of the Latino Vote Shift During the Trump Era.” Work in progress.

Villegas, Mario, and Tyler Simko. “Teacher Mobilization in School Board Meetings.” Work in progress.

Goehring, Ben, Kenneth Lowande, and **Mario Villegas.** “Deaf Ears and Echo Chambers in Presidential News.” Work in progress.

FELLOWSHIPS

Rackham Merit Fellowship *August 2024*

TEACHING

Graduate Student Instructor

University of Michigan *Fall 2025*
Course: Introduction to American Politics
Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Lowande

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Florida *Fall 2023*
Course: American Government
Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Robbins

SERVICE

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member

University of Michigan *Winter 2025*

SKILLS

R, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics, survey research, experimental designs.