



DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER FOR
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

2024 CERTIFICATE, THESIS PRIZE & FELLOWSHIP CEREMONY

MAY 22, 2024 • TSAI AUDITORIUM • CAMBRIDGE, MA

STEVEN LEVITSKY

Steven Levitsky is David Rockefeller Professor of Latin American Studies and Professor of Government at Harvard University. He is also Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard.

His research focuses on democratization and authoritarianism, political parties, and weak and informal institutions, with a focus on Latin America.

He is co-author (with Daniel Ziblatt) of *How Democracies Die*, which was a New York Times Best-Seller and was published in 25 languages. He has written or edited 11 other books, including *Transforming Labor-Based Parties in Latin America: Argentine Peronism in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press 2003), *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War* (with Lucan Way) (Cambridge University Press, 2010), *Revolution and Dictatorship: The Violent Origins of Durable Authoritarianism* (with Lucan Way) (Princeton University Press, 2022), and most recently, *Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point* (with Daniel Ziblatt) (Crown Publishers, 2023). He and Lucan Way are currently working on a book on global democratic resilience.

YANILDA GONZÁLEZ

Yanilda María González is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her research focuses on policing, state violence, and citizenship in democracy, examining how race, class, and other forms of inequality shape these processes.

González's book *Authoritarian Police in Democracy: Contested Security in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), studies the persistence of police forces as authoritarian enclaves in otherwise democratic states, demonstrating how ordinary democratic politics in unequal societies can both reproduce authoritarian policing and bring about rare moments of expansive reforms. *Authoritarian Police in Democracy* received the Gregory Luebbert Prize for Best Book in Comparative Politics from the American Political Science Association (2022), as well as the Donna Lee Van Cott Award for Best Book on Latin American Politics and Institutions from the Latin American Studies Association (2022). González received the Clarence Stone Scholar Award from the Urban and Local Politics Section of the American Political Science Association (2022).

González received her PhD in Politics and Social Policy from Princeton University. Prior to joining HKS she was an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. González previously worked at a number of human rights organizations in the US and Argentina, including the New York Civil Liberties Union, ANDHES, and Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Steven Levitsky
Professor of Government;
Director, David Rockefeller Center for Latin
American Studies

KEYNOTE

Yanilda González
Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the
Harvard Kennedy School

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Undergraduate Recipients
Graduate Recipients

PRESENTATION OF THESIS PRIZES

James R. and Isabel D. Hammond Thesis Prize in
Latin American Studies

Joan Morthland Hutchins Thesis Prize in Latino
Studies

Kenneth Maxwell Thesis Prize in Brazilian Studies

PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP

Steve Reifenberg Travel Fellowship



UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

Amy Elizabeth Chalán Vacacela

Social Studies; Secondary in Art, Film, & Visual Studies
Indigenous Futurisms: Kichwa Hip-Hop and
Contemporary Cultural Activism in the Andes

Andrea Grace Fernandez

*History and Literature, Secondary in Global Health and
Health Policy*

From the County Hospital to Comisión Femenil: Care
Philosophies in Madrigal v. Quilligan

Ashley Adamari Cruz

Applied Math in Government

Camila Santana

Government; Secondary in History; Citation in Spanish
“We have other facts”: Populism, Media Strategies, and
Executive Approval in AMLO’s Mexico

Elizabeth Vasconcellos e Silva

Government; Secondary in History
Transnational Political Behavior: Exploring the Voting
Trends of the Brazilian Diaspora in the 2022 Brazilian
Presidential Election

Erick Torres-Gonzalez

*Cognitive Psychology; Secondary in Art, Film, & Visual
Studies*

Gloria Natalie Maldonado

*Romance Languages and Literatures & Government;
Secondary in Social Anthropology*
¡La Tierra No Se Vende, Se Ama Y Se Defiende! ¡Viva
Mezcala! : The Coca’s Battle for Land and Heritage in
Mezcala de la Asunción

Hailey Mnookin Olcott

History of Science

Hannah Bottarel

Social Studies; Secondary in Spanish
“The Most Difficult Part is Over, Right?”: Gender-Based
Violence and Retraumatization for Latin American
Women Navigating the U.S. Immigration System

Henry Noble Lear

History and Literature

Jessie Alejandra Dominguez

*Neuroscience; Secondary in Ethnicity, Migration, and
Rights; Citation in Spanish*

Juan Carlos Venancio

*Government; Secondary in Ethnicity, Migration, and
Rights*
Institutionalizing Migrant Reception: Exploring The
Transformation of Low and Middle Income Countries’
Inclusive Citizenship Regimes

Liliana Arvizu-Sanchez

*Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology;
Secondary in Ethnicity, Migration, Rights*

Liyanni Ariana Vazquez

*Economics; Secondary in Ethnicity, Migration, and
Rights*

Mateo Peralta McCormack

*History & Literature with a field of study in Latin America;
Secondary in Ethnicity, Migration and Rights*
Thresholds of Trans Alterity in Caribbean Cultural
Production

Maya Isolde Peña-Lobel

*Environmental Science & Engineering; Secondary in
Spanish*

Nicolas Montoya Bonilla

*Anthropology; Secondary in Ethnicity, Migration and
Rights*

Rocío Eiriz

Economics, Secondary in Psychology

Sebastian Arana

*Romance Languages and Literature: Spanish, Latin
American, and Latino Studies; Secondary in Social
Anthropology*

Sofia Andrade Hidalgo

*History & Literature and Studies of Women, Gender,
and Sexuality; Secondary in Spanish*
Border(ed) Fictions: 21st Century Migration Narratives as
Counter-Archives

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS



Cameron M. Curtin

PhD, Human Evolutionary Biology: Cultural Evolution

Institutions and Cooperation: The Cultural Evolutionary Roots of Prosociality in Oaxaca, Mexico

Julia Smith Coyoli

PhD, Government

How Unions Bring About Policy Implementation: Education Reform, Teachers' Unions, and Subnational Politics in Mexico

Juliana Ramírez Herrera

PhD, History of Art and Architecture (pre-Columbian art)

Demonic (Dis)Possessions: Indigenous Gold from the Colombia-Panama Borderlands

Maiara Knihs

PhD, Romance Languages and Literatures: Latin America Studies, Brazilian Studies

Contradizendo os arquivos da nação: revisões da “mãe preta” na arte brasileira

Yareli C. Castro Sevilla

PhD, American Studies; Latin American, Asian, and Latinx Studies

Genealogías Chino Mexicanas/Chinese Mexican Genealogies: (Digital) Community, Historical Memory, and Self-Archives

Yazmín M. Crespo Claudio

PhD, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning: Architecture History and Theory

Counter-Narratives Of Architecture: Pedagogies, Practices, and Participation in Latin America and El Caribe, 1970 - 2022.



THESIS PRIZES

JAMES R. AND ISABEL D. HAMMOND THESIS PRIZE IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Jorge A. Ruiz Ruiz

Government and Economics

Old Parties and New Cleavages: Puerto Rico's
Emerging Multi-Party System

JOAN MORTHLAND HUTCHINS THESIS PRIZE IN LATINO STUDIES

Sofia Andrade Hidalgo

*History & Literature and Studies of Women, Gender, and
Sexuality; Secondary in Spanish*

Border(ed) Fictions: 21st Century Migration Narratives as
Counter-Archives

HONORABLE MENTION

Andrea Grace Fernandez

*History & Literature, Secondary in Global Health and
Health Policy*

From the County Hospital to Comisión Femenil: Care
Philosophies in Madrigal v. Quilligan

KENNETH MAXWELL THESIS PRIZE IN BRAZILIAN STUDIES

Helena Gallotti de Mello Franco

Economics and Statistics, Secondary in Government

Quality Matters: Assessing the Impact of the Educational
Infrastructure on Intergenerational Outcomes for Brazil's
Bolsa Família

POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP



STEVE REIFENBERG TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

Erick Torres-Gonzalez

Cognitive Psychology; Secondary in Art, Film, & Visual Studies

Grassroots Solidarity and Food Sovereignty, ACOMER, San Juan, Puerto Rico

El destino quiere que los tomates y rábanos estén juntos, nunca lo olvides

Tomatoes and radishes are destined to be planted together, don't you forget

Away from Harvard, there is one place that gives Erick hope when thinking about food: his grandma's garden. His grandmother opens her palace of vegetables for neighbors, friends, and family with the same care that she puts into the harmonious garden. Erick conceived of his Fellowship plans as an ode to his grandmother's ability to use food as a foundation for community, inspiring him to work within food sovereignty.

Erick is a first-generation Mexican-American from the city by the water: Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Erick is a member of the Dudley Co-op, concentrating in Cognitive Psychology with a Secondary in Art, Film, & Visual Studies. At Harvard, Erick is a Franklin Roosevelt Scholar committed to community solidarity and has been involved in co-founding organizations such as the RAZA Ballet Folklorico dance team and the Act on a Dream Metamorphosis Mentorship Program.

Erick will work with ACOMER, an organization empowering communities through food sovereignty in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to bridge the collaborations between other non-profit and community organizations that aim to strengthen food security in the archipelago. Erick will work closely on initiatives aimed to grow a grove of rainbows, from fruits to vegetables, that communities can use for home grown food, defend food sovereignty through congress advocacy, and educate on food security through live workshops.

From the humble seeds of his grandmother's garden to the vibrant tapestry of community empowerment, Erick embodies the enduring truth captured in his grandmother's wisdom: just as tomatoes and radishes flourish together, so too does community with care and solidarity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU TO OUR SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Anya Vieira Meyer

Laura Gamboa

Catalina Andrago-Walker

Marcia C. de Castro

Frances Hagopian

Steven Levitsky

June Carolyn Erlick

Theodore MacDonald

THANK YOU TO OUR THESIS PRIZE DONORS

James R. Hammond, A.B. '57

Joan Morthland Hutchins, A.B. '61

Kenneth Maxwell



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HARVARD UNIVERSITY