

CESAR VILLEGAS

Curriculum Vitae

University of North Texas — Department of Political Science
1155 Union Circle 305340 — Denton, TX 76203
cesarvillegas@my.unt.edu — (956) 460-4969
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cesar-villegas-29761a199/>

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

Dissertation Title: “Understanding the benefits and unintended consequences of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the developing world”

Committee Members: Dr. Glen Biglaiser (Chair), Dr. John Ishiyama, Dr. Marijke Breuning, Dr. Jacqueline DeMeritt

Expected year of completion: 2025

University of North Texas, Denton

Department of Political Science

M.A. in Political Science

Year of completion: 2020

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg

Department of Political Science

B.A. in Political Science

Year of completion: 2018

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg

Department of Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Lu Kelan, Glen Biglaiser and **Cesar Villegas** (2025). “Chinese Overseas Foreign Direct Investment and Income Inequality in the Developing World,” *Chinese Political Science Review*. doi:10.1007/s41111-024-00275-x.

Kim, Dongkyu, Mi-son Kim, and **Cesar Villegas** (2020). “Organized Labor Strikes and Social Spending in Latin America: The Synchronizing Effect of Mass Protest,” *Latin American Politics & Society*. 2020;62(2):99-109.

Working Papers

Cesar Villegas. “Polling in the Zones: Studying the impact of Special Economic Zones on Voting Behavior”

Cesar Villegas. “Zones of Opportunity or inequality: Studying the socio-economic impact of Special Economic Zones in Developing countries”

Cesar Villegas. “Borderline Prosperity: The Sociopolitical Dynamics of Foreign Trade Zones in U.S. Borderlands”

Dongkyu Kim and **Cesar Villegas**. “Social Protests and Foreign Direct Investment in Non-democracies”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Race and Ethnic Politics in the United States (PSCI 3104))

University of North Texas department of Political Science

Term and year taught: (FALL, 2025)

American Government and Politics Online (PSCI 2305)

Texas A&M University Texarkana department of Political Science

Term and year taught: (FALL, 2025)

American Government: Behavior *Online* (PSCI 2305)

University of North Texas department of Political Science

Term and year taught: (FALL, 2024)

American Government: Behavior *Honors* (PSCI 2315)

University of North Texas department of Political Science

Term and year taught: (FALL, 2023)

Texas Government (POLS 2306)

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)

Term and year taught: (FALL 2019 - SPRING 2020)

Teaching Assistant

American Government Behavior (PSCI 2305)

University of North Texas department of Political Science

Term and year: (FALL 2020 - FALL 2021)

Political Science Research Methods (PSCI 3300)

University of North Texas department of Political Science

Term and year: (SPRING 2021)

PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

On ramps Government Grader

Year: 2025-2026

University of Texas Austin Department of Government

Graduate Assistant: Latino Latin American Studies (LLAS) Program)

Year: 2025

University of North Texas Department of Political Science

Research Assistant (Dr. Diego Esparza & Dr. Valerie Martinez-Ebers)

Year: 2024

University of North Texas Department of Political Science

Graduate Assistant: Latino & Latin American Studies (LLAS) Program)

Year: 2022-2024

University of North Texas Department of Political Science

Research Assistant (Dr. Regina Branton)

Year: 2022

University of North Texas Department of Political Science

Research Supervisor (Director: Dr. Dongkyu Kim)

Year: 2020

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Center for Survey Research & Policy Analysis

Research Assistant (Director: Dr. Laryssa Mykyta)

Year: 2018

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Center for Survey Research & Policy Analysis

AWARDS AND HONORS

C.Neal and Carol Tate Fund award

Year: 2024-2026

University of North Texas Political Science Department

Crossing Latinidades Summer Institute Pre-doctoral workshop

Year: 2022

University of Illinois at Chicago Political Science Department

\$3,000

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) Graduate Student Travel grant

Year: 2025

University of North Texas (Denton, Texas)

International Studies Association (ISA) Midwest Graduate student travel Grant

Year: 2024

ISA Midwest (St. Louis, Missouri)

Department of Political Science Travel Grant

Year: 2023

University of North Texas Political Science Department (Denton, Texas)

Kuehne Fellowship

Year-Year: 2020 - 2025

University of North Texas Political Science Department (Denton, Texas)

Voertman Fellowship

Year-Year: 2020 - 2025

University of North Texas Political Science Department (Denton, Texas)

McAlister Scholarship

Year-Year: 2020 - 2025

University of North Texas Political Science Department (Denton, Texas)

Tuition Benefits Scholarship

Year-Year: 2020 - 2025

Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas (Denton, Texas)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers Presented

Polling in the Zones: Studying the impact of Special Economic Zones on Voting Behavior

Date: 2025

Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA)

Chicago, Illinois

Industrial Disputes, Mass Mobilization and Foreign Direct Investment in Developing Countries

Date: 2025

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Zones of Opportunity or inequality: Studying the socio-economic impact of Special Economic Zones in Developing countries

Date: 2024

International Studies Association Midwest (ISA Midwest)

St. Louis, Missouri

Doubling down midst uncertainty: Studying the impact of Special Economic Zones on voting behavior

Date: 2023

International Studies Association Midwest (ISA Midwest)

St. Louis, Missouri

Organized Labor Strikes and Social Spending in Latin America: The Synchronizing Effect of Mass Protest

Date: 2022

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

San Antonio, Texas

Global Production and Labor Rights in Developing Countries

Date: 2019

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

Austin, Texas

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Operations, Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) (2024-2025)

Graduate Student representative, American Politics Faculty Search Committee (2023-2024)

Graduate Student representative, Political Science Professionalization Committee (2023-2024)

Vice President of Professionalization, Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) (2023-2024)

Vice President of Socialization, Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) (2022-2023)

REFERENCES

Glen Biglaiser

Professor & Advisor
Department of Political Science
University of North Texas
glen.biglaiser@unt.edu

Valerie Martinez-Ebers

Professor & former director of LLAS program
Department of Political Science
University of North Texas
Valerie.Martinez-Ebers@unt.edu

John Ishiyama

Professor & Department Chair
Department of Political Science
University of North Texas
john.ishiyama@unt.edu

Dongkyu Kim

Professor & director of Center for Survey Research and Policy Analysis (UTRGV)
Department of Political Science
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)
Dongkyu.kim@utrgv.edu