

ROBERT VIDIGAL

Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)
230 Appleton Place, Suite 304, The Commons
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37203

robert.vidigal@vanderbilt.edu
[Personal Website](#)
[Google Scholar](#)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

RESEARCH STATISTICIAN, July 2024 - Current
Latin American Public Opinion Project ([LAPOP](#)).
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

RESEARCH DATA SCIENTIST, February 2022 - July 2024
Center for Social Media and Politics ([CSMaP](#)).
New York University, New York City, NY

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in POLITICAL SCIENCE, May 2022
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY
Committee: Jennifer Jerit (chair), Stanley Feldman, John B. Ryan, and Efrén Pérez (UCLA).

M.A., POLITICAL SCIENCE, May 2016
B.A., POLITICAL SCIENCE, August 2013
University of Brasília, Brazil

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

[9] **VIDIGAL, Robert.** *forthcoming*. Comparing Belief Certainty Question Formats in the Measurement of Political Knowledge. *Political Science Research Methods*.

[8] GRAMACHO, W., **VIDIGAL, Robert**, STABILE, M. 2025. Issue Framing Effects Across Information Environments. *Political Behavior*. [View here](#).

[7] ABRAJANO, M., GARCIA, M., POPE, A., KAMAU, E., **VIDIGAL, Robert**, TUCKER, J., NAGLER, J. 2025. Understanding Latino Political Engagement and Activity on Social Media. *Political Research Quarterly*, Online first. [View here](#)

[6] ABRAJANO, M., GARCIA, M., POPE, A., **VIDIGAL, Robert**, TUCKER, J., NAGLER, J. 2024. Spanish social media use predicts false political beliefs in U.S. Latinos. *PNAS-NEXUS*. [View here](#)

[5] **VIDIGAL, Robert.** 2024. Measuring Belief Certainty in Political Knowledge. *Political Behavior*. [View here](#)

[4] VITRIOL, J., SANDOR, J., **VIDIGAL, Robert**, FARHART, C. 2023. On the independent roles of Cognitive and Political Sophistication: Variation across attitudinal objects. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 37(2), pp.319-331. [View here](#)

[3] **VIDIGAL, Robert**; JERIT, Jennifer. 2022. Issue Importance and the Correction of Misinformation. *Political Communication*, 39(6), pp.715-736. [View here](#)

[2] **VIDIGAL, Robert.** 2022. Authoritarianism and Right-wing Voting in Brazil. *Latin American Research Review*. 57 (3), 554-572. doi:10.1017/lar.2022.32. [View here](#)

[1] **VIDIGAL, Robert.** 2018. Affirmative Actions Attitudes of Whites: Evidence from a List-experiment Survey in Brazil. *Brazilian Political Science Review*. vol. 12, no 2. [View here](#)

**BOOK
CHAPTERS**

[3] BORGES, André; **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2024. "Progressive Policy Change, Cultural Backlash and Party Polarization in Latin America." *In: The Recasting of the Political Right: Polarization and conservative reaction in Latin America*. Edited by: André Borges, Ryan Lloyd, and Gabriel Vommaro. Cambridge University Press (CUP). [View here](#)

[2] COTTER, Ryan G.; LODGE, Milton, **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2020. When, How, and Why Persuasion Fails: A Motivated Reasoning Account. *In: The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion*. Edited by Elizabeth Suhay, Bernard Grofman, and Alexander H. Trechsel. [View here](#)

[1] COTTER, Ryan G.; LODGE, Milton, **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2020. The Boundary Conditions of Motivated Reasoning. *In: The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion*. Edited by Elizabeth Suhay, Bernard Grofman, and Alexander H. Trechsel. [View here](#)

**GRANTS
& AWARDS**

[7] *YouGov's Scientific Research Group*, United States.
Selected pre-registered research design on Web Survey Methods. March, 2024.

[6] *National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq)*, Brasília, Brazil.
Research Grant (421077/2022-0), Co-PI (with A. Borges & M. Turgeon), R\$396,000. 2022-2024.

[5] *Department of Political Science*, Stony Brook University, NY.
Internal Departmental Funding: US\$9,300. Research Grant, 2021.

[4] *Society for Political Methodology (POLMETH): John A. Garcia Award for Latino students*.
ICPSR Summer Program Scholarship, registration fees \$3,800, University of Michigan. 2019.

[3] *National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq)*, Brasília, Brazil.
Federal govt. two-year fellowship in Public Opinion & Political Behavior. 2014-2015.

[2] *Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies*, University of Brasília, Brazil
Study Abroad Fellowship, Justus-Liebig-Universität, Giessen, Germany. 2011.

[1] *Brazilian Ministry of Education (MEC)*, Brasília, Brazil
Two-year scholarship for undergraduate students in Political Science, 2009-2010.

**ONGOING
RESEARCH**

[5] Political Misfits: Political Knowledge and Leader Cues in Mass Democracy
(with Álvaro Pereira). *Study 2 data collection in progress*.

[4] Priming Politics and Threat: Authoritarian Values Strength in Latin America (with Drew Engelhardt). *Study 3 data collection in progress*.

[3] Religious fundamentalism, authoritarianism, and the idealization of elected authoritarian leaders (with Victor Araújo). *Pilot data complete*.

[2] Who Do Nicaraguans Trust? Interviewer Identity and Response Bias under Authoritarianism (with S. Berrospi, D. Montalvo, N. Lupu). *Data collection scheduled with the AB2025/26*.

[1] What Does the Public Know about their State's Abortion Laws in the Post-Dobbs Era? (with M. Abrajano, M. Garcia, A. Pope, J. Tucker, and J. Nagler). *Manuscript under preparation*.

**EDITED
VOLUMES**

[1] BORGES, André; **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2023. Understanding the New Brazilian Right: Polarization, Populism and Antipetismo. Zouk Publishing. ISBN: 9786557781234. [View here](#)

**OTHER
WRITING**

[2] "The impact of question format on knowledge about politics and government."
Robert Vidigal. *YouGov Research*. (Methodology Matters Series). [View here](#)

[1] "Latinos who use Spanish-language social media get more misinformation."
Marisa A. Abrajano, Marianna Garcia, Aaron Pope, **Robert Vidigal**, Joshua Tucker and Jonathan Nagler. *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage), November 8, 2022. [View here](#)

PEER-REVIEWED WORKS IN PORTUGUESE	<p>[6] PEREIRA FILHO, Álvaro; VIDIGAL, Robert. 2023. Lesser-of-two-evils? Partisan Identity and Ambivalence in the Brazilian Electorate. <i>OPINIÃO PÚBLICA</i>, Campinas, vol. 29, nro 3, sep.-dez. View here</p> <p>[5] MUNDIM, Pedro S; VIDIGAL, Robert; MICHELOTTI, Fernando C; JÁCOMO, André P. 2019. Cash-transfer programs, Information, and Prejudice: An Experimental Analysis. <i>Revista do Serviço Público</i> 70(4):551-575. View here</p> <p>[4] BORGES, André; VIDIGAL, Robert. 2018. From Lulism to antipetism? Polarization, party identity and voting in the Brazilian presidential elections. <i>OPINIÃO PÚBLICA</i>, Campinas, vol. 24, nro 1, jan.-abr. View here</p> <p>[3] VIDIGAL, Robert; PEREIRA FILHO, Álvaro João. 2017. Education and Political knowledge: two sides of the same coin or different currencies? <i>Revista em Tese</i>, v. 14, n. 1, jan-jul. View here</p> <p>[2] PORTO, Nathália F. F; VIDIGAL, Robert. 2016. The Racial Democracy Myth and non-support for race-targeted policies in Brazil. <i>Encuentro Latinoamericano: Revista de Ciencia Política</i>. Vol. 3 No. 2. View here</p> <p>[1] VIDIGAL, Robert. 2015. Measuring Social Sensitive Issues: A List-Experiment on Affirmative Action. <i>Revista Eletrônica de Ciência Política - RECP</i>, v. 6, p. 205-219. View here</p>
ADDITIONAL METHODS TRAINING	<p>Building AI & Reasoning Agents, Vanderbilt Data Science Institute, Summer 2025 (30h)</p> <p>APSA Political Networks Workshop, University of Exeter, Summer 2023 (15h)</p> <p>Web interfaces with HTML, CSS and JavaScript, IME-USP Winter School 2022 (30h)</p> <p>Computational Social Science, Université de Montréal, SICSS Summer School 2020 (30h)</p> <p>Advanced Network Analysis, University of Michigan, ICPSR 2019 (60h)</p> <p>Structural Equation Modeling, University of Michigan, ICPSR 2019 (60h)</p> <p>Social Networks, RECSM-UPF Barcelona 2018 (15h)</p> <p>Machine Learning for Social Sciences, RECSM-UPF Barcelona 2018 (15h)</p> <p>Social Media and Big Data Research, RECSM-UPF Barcelona 2018 (15h)</p> <p>Predicting Elections, IPSA-USP Summer School 2017 (20h)</p> <p>Pooled Time Series Analyses, IPSA-USP Summer School 2016 (20h)</p> <p>Introduction to Big Data, CPEQS-UFGM Winter School 2015 (15h)</p> <p>Game Theory and Applications for Political Science, IPSA-USP Summer School 2015 (20h)</p> <p>Causality and Experimental Analysis, CPEQS-UFGM Winter School 2014 (15h)</p> <p>Categorical Data Analysis, CPEQS-UFGM Winter School 2014 (15h)</p>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p><i>Stony Brook University</i></p> <p>Instructor POL-103: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2021, 2022.</p> <p>Instructor POL-344: American Pol. Ideology & Public Opinion, Spring-Summer 2020, 2021</p> <p>Instructor POL-504: Research Design (Masters in Political Psychology), Fall 2020</p> <p>Teaching Assistant POL-604: Maximum likelihood estimation (PhD Level), Fall 2019, 2021</p> <p><i>University of Brasília, Brazil</i></p> <p>Instructor IPO-0029: Introduction to R for Political Scientists, Winter 2021</p> <p>Instructor IPO-185205: Research Methods in Political Science, Winter 2015</p>
STUDENT COMMITTEES	<p>Dissertation Committee, External Member, João T. Sartori (University of São Carlos, 2024).</p> <p>Undergraduate Honor's Thesis, Member, Isabela Dantas (University of Brasília, 2023).</p> <p>Dissertation Committee, External Member, Miaofang Guan (University of São Paulo, 2022).</p>

**INVITED
TALKS**

Individual Differences in the Correction of Misinformation. University of Brasília.
Communication Strategies Against Misinformation (Graduate Seminar), October 2025.

Social Media and Politics: Insights on Latinos in the U.S. Florida International University.
Truth is Non-Partisan: Spanish Media and Grassroots Organizations. October, 2024.

Brazilian Democracy Today. Vanderbilt University.
Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies (CLACX). September, 2024.

Measuring Belief Certainty in Political Surveys. University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
Survey Research (Graduate Seminar), Prof. Alexander Theodoridis. April, 2024.

Measuring Uncertainty in Political Behavior. University of Santa Catarina (UFSC).
Núcleo Interdisciplinar em Políticas Públicas (NIPP). October 2022.

Advancing the Measurement of Political Knowledge. University of Minas Gerais (UFMG).
Centro de Estudos de Comportamento Político (CECOMP). November 2022.

2022 Brazilian Elections: Presidential Runoff Overview. Stony Brook University.
Institute for Globalization Studies (IGS). October 2022.

Measuring Socially Sensitive Topics in Public Opinion. University of Santa Catarina (UFSC).
Undergraduate Program Debate: Affirmative Action in Brazil. March, 2016.

**PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS**

MPSA Latinx Caucus, ISPP, AAPOR, APSA, SPSA, IPSA, WAPOR LatAm.

REFEREE

Political Psychology; Journal of Politics; American Politics Research; Political Behavior;
Public Opinion Quarterly; Political Communication; Communication Methods and Mea-
sures; Behavioral Sciences; Journalism and Media; Computational Communication Re-
search; British Journal of Political Science; PLOS ONE; Social Science Research; Brazilian
Political Science Review; Revista Brasileira de Ciência Política; Opinião Pública; Latin Amer-
ican Research and Review; Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública; PADEIA.

REFERENCES

Jennifer Jerit
Department of Government
Dartmouth College
jennifer.jerit [at] gmail.com

Jonathan Nagler
Department of Politics
New York University
jn23 [at] nyu.edu

Noam Lupu
Department of Political Science
Vanderbilt University
noam.lupu [at] vanderbilt.edu

Efrén O. Pérez
Department of Political Science
University of California Los Angeles
perezoe [at] ucla.edu

Stanley Feldman
Department of Political Science
Stony Brook University
stanleyfeldman1 [at] gmail.com

Marisa Abrajano
Department of Political Science
University of California San Diego
mabrajano [at] ucsd.edu

Last updated: August 2025