Robert Vidigal

Institute of Political Science (IPOL)
Campus Darcy Ribeiro, Asa Norte - Brasília
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Personal Website
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, August 2026 - Current
Institute of Political Science (IPOL)
University of Brasília, Brazil

Research Statistician, July 2024 - July 2026
Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP).
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Research Data Scientist, February 2022 - June 2024
Center for Social Media, AI, 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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Authoritarianism, Online Political Behavior, Political Psychology
Computational Methods, Experimental Design, Item Response Theory

METHODS TRAINNING

Building AI & Reasoning Agents, Vanderbilt Data Science Institute, Summer 2025 (30h)
APSA Political Networks Workshop, University of Exeter, Summer 2023 (15h)
Web interfaces with HTML, CSS and JavaScript, IME-USP Winter School 2022 (30h)
Computational Social Science, Université de Montrèal, SICSS Summer School 2020 (30h)
Advanced Network Analysis, University of Michigan, ICPSR 2019 (60h)
Structural Equation Modeling, University of Michigan, ICPSR 2019 (60h)
Social Networks, RECSM-UPF Barcelona 2018 (15h)
Machine Learning for Social Sciences, RECSM-UPF Barcelona 2018 (15h)
Social Media and Big Data Research, RECSM-UPF Barcelona 2018 (15h)
Predicting Elections, IPSA-USP Summer School 2017 (20h)
Pooled Time Series Analyses, IPSA-USP Summer School 2016 (20h)
Introduction to Big Data, CPEQS-UFMG Winter School 2015 (15h)
Game Theory and Applications for Political Science, IPSA-USP Summer School 2015 (20h)
Causality and Experimental Analysis, CPEQS-UFMG Winter School 2014 (15h)
Categorical Data Analysis, CPEQS-UFMG Winter School 2014 (15h)

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 Departamental 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.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

[10] **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2026. Comparing Belief Certainty Question Formats in the Measurement of Political Knowledge. *Political Science Research Methods*. View here

[9] ABRAJANO, M., GARCIA, M., POPE, A., **VIDIGAL, Robert**, TUCKER, J., NAGLER, J. 2026. What Does the Public Know about their State's Abortion Laws in the Post-Dobbs Era? *Research & Politics*. View here

[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

ONGOING RESEARCH

[3] Leader Cues and Political Knowledge in Mass Democracy (with Álvaro Pereira and André Borges). *Under review.*

[2] Priming Threat and Politics: Authoritarian Values Strength and Equivalence (with Drew Engelhardt). *Under review.*

[1] Who Do Nicaraguans Trust? Interviewer Identity and Response Bias under Authoritarianism (with D. Montalvo, N. Lupu). *Manuscript in 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

[6] "Cuba's crisis of daily life: economic collapse, regime accountability, & public priorities." Noam Lupu, Mariana Rodríguez and **Robert Vidigal**. The Pulse of Democracy (Center for Global Democracy). September, 2026. View here

[5] "Rise of the Right in Latin America: electoral shift or ideological realignment?" Mariana Rodríguez and **Robert Vidigal**. The Pulse of Democracy (Center for Global Democracy). September, 2026. View here

[4] "Trust in China once again surpasses trust in the U.S. governemnt." Mariana Rodríguez and **Robert Vidigal**. The Pulse of Democracy (Center for Global Democracy). September, 2026. View here

[3] "Order, Rights, and Fairness shape views of Democracy." **Robert Vidigal**. The Pulse of Democracy (Center for Global Democracy). September, 2026. View here

[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

[6] PEREIRA FILHO, Álvaro; **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2023. Lesser-of-two-evils? Partisan Identity and Ambivalence in the Brazilian Electorate. OPINIÃO PÚBLICA, Campinas, vol. 29, nro 3, sep.-dez. View here

[5] MUNDIM, Pedro S; **VIDIGAL, Robert**; MICHELOTTI, Fernando C; JÁCOMO, André P. 2019. Cash-transfer programs, Information, and Prejudice: An Experimental Analysis. Revista do Serviço Público 70(4):551-575. View here

[4] BORGES, André; **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2018. From Lulism to antipetism? Polarization, party identity and voting in the Brazilian presidential elections. OPINIÃO PÚBLICA, Campinas, vol. 24, nro 1, jan.-abr. View here

[3] **VIDIGAL, Robert**; PEREIRA FILHO, Álvaro João. 2017. Education and Political knowledge: two sides of the same coin or different currencies? Revista em Tese, v. 14, n. 1, jan-jul. View here

[2] PORTO, Nathália F. F; **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2016. The Racial Democracy Myth and non-support for race-targeted policies in Brazil. Encuentro Latinoamericano: Revista de Ciencia Politica. Vol. 3 No. 2. View here

[1] **VIDIGAL, Robert**. 2015. Measuring Social Sensitive Issues: A List-Experiment on Affirmative Action. Revista Eletrônica de Ciência Política - RECP, v. 6, p. 205-219. View here

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Brasília, Brazil
Instructor POL-055: Introduction to Public Policy, Fall 2026
Instructor POL-117: Quantitative Methods Applied to Public Policy, Fall 2026
Instructor IPO-0029: Introduction to R for Political Scientists, Winter 2021
Instructor IPO-185205: Research Methods in Political Science, Winter 2015

Stony Brook University, NY
Instructor POL-103: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2021, 2022.
Instructor POL-344: American Pol. Ideology & Public Opinion, Spring-Summer 2020, 2021
Instructor POL-504: Research Design (Masters in Political Psychology), Fall 2020
Teaching Assistant POL-604: Maximum likelihood estimation (PhD Level), Fall 2019, 2021

STUDENT COMMITTEES

Master's Thesis, External Member, Denise Santana (University of Goiás, 2026).
Dissertation Committee, External Member, João T. Sartori (University of São Carlos, 2024).
Dissertation Committee, External Member, Miaofang Guan (University of São Paulo, 2022).

INVITED TALKS

Pulse of Democracy: the AmericasBarometer 2026. University of São Paulo (USP). Graduate Program in Political Science. October 2026.

The Psychology of Misinformation Corrections. Universidad Nacional de La Rioja, Argentina. Graduate Program in Political Psychology (Graduate Seminar), March 2026.

Individual Differences in the Correction of Misinformation. University of Brasília, Brazil. 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, ABRAPEL.

REFEREE

Journal of Politics; Political Behavior; Public Opinion Quartely; Political Communication; Political Psychology; British Journal of Political Science; Politics & Gender; American Politics Research; Communication Methods and Measures; Behavioral Sciences; Journalism and Media; Computational Communication Research; PLOS ONE; Social Science Research; Acta Politica; Brazilian Political Science Review; Revista Brasileira de Ciência Política; Opinião Pública; Latin American Research and Review; Journal of Politics in Latin America; Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública; PADEIA; Sociedade e Cultura, The Forum.

REFERENCES

Jennifer Jerit
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