

Juan Diego Alvarado De Leon

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EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. in Government and Politics | Expected 2027 |
| University of Maryland, College Park | |
| M.Sc. in Democracy and Comparative Politics | 2016 |
| University College London | |
| B.A. in Law and Political Science | 2012 |
| Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua | |

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- 2026 *Framing and News Sharing Behavior: The use of confirmation and refutation statements in the election of a right-wing populist leader.* With Aruguete, Natalia and Calvo, Ernesto. Forthcoming at *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*.
- 2025 “Better the devil you know than the devil you don’t? Continuity and change in Panama’s 2024 general elections.” *Revista Uruguaya de Ciencia Política*, 34. With Perelló, L.

Under Review

- 2025 *The Electoral Business Cycle of Wikipedia: What Elections Reveal About Partisanship, the Public’s Attention, and the Production of Political Knowledge.* With Batista, Carolina F.T., Calvo, Ernesto, Ciampaglia, Giovanni Luca, and Ziaei, Rojin. Under review at *EPJ Data Science*.
- 2025 *Joining a Discredited Institution: Legitimacy and the Meanings of Party Membership in Latin America.* Under review at *Party Politics*.

Works in Progress

- Mass Party-Switching From Below: Evidence from Panama* (Job Market Paper).
- Partisan Identity Threat: Party Membership and Social Identity in Panama.* With Johnson, Marcus.
- Who Cares About Bitcoin? Cryptocurrency Adoption, Issue Salience and Social Media Audiences in El Salvador.*
- Generational Replacement, Partisanship and Party System Deinstitutionalization: Evidence from Panama.* With Perelló, Lucas.
- When Legacies Ripen: Authoritarianism, Elections, and the Sources of Partisan Attachment in the Dominican Republic.* With Perelló, Lucas.

Monographs

2020 “¿Crisis o malestar?: La representación política y el sistema de partidos ante el surgimiento de las candidaturas por libre postulación.” Panamá: *Tribunal Electoral*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland, College Park

Research Assistant for Prof. Fiona Shen-Bayh (Fall 2025; Fall 2026)

- Conducted literature review, data collection, and text analysis for projects on constitutional entrenchment and judicial institutions.

Research Assistant for Prof. Johanna Birnir, All Minorities at Risk (AMAR) Project (Fall 2024–Spring 2025)

- Built variable-level dataframes to automate data coding for an expanded successor to the Minorities at Risk dataset (scaling from 286 to nearly 1,200 ethnic groups), sourcing and archiving supporting documentation (news reports, State Department human rights reports) to enable LLM-assisted replication of the original coding process.

Research Assistant for Prof. David Cunningham (Spring 2024)

- Created a dataset for a cross-national project on UN peace operations.

Research Assistant for Prof. Shibley Telhami (Fall 2023)

- Wrote memos and briefs for the Anwar Sadat Center for Peace and Development.

Research Assistant for Prof. Marcus Johnson (Fall 2022–Spring 2023; Spring 2026)

- Designed a survey experiment fielded in Panama, including experiment design, pre-analysis plan, data cleaning, and preliminary analysis; supported data collection for a book project on Panamanian racial politics.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Global Politics of Sports (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Summer 2026.

Designed and directed a six-week asynchronous online course. undergraduate elective using international sport to teach core comparative politics concepts, including state capacity, authoritarian legitimation, and nationalism.

Political Participation: Parties, Civil Society and Ideologies (undergraduate), Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua (Panama), 2024–present.

International Political System (undergraduate), Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua (Panama), 2024–present.

Political Science I and II (undergraduate), Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua (Panama), 2020–2022.

Democratic Theory (undergraduate), Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua (Panama), 2017–2020.

Professional Training

Electoral Systems, Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua / Electoral Tribunal of Panama, 2023 and 2025.

Master’s-level professional certificate course for Electoral Tribunal staff and electoral practitioners.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026 GVPT Summer Methods Training Grant (UMD)
- 2026 Virginia Lee Lussier Summer Research Fellowship (UMD)
- 2026 Comparative Politics Field Grant (UMD)
- 2025 Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant (UMD)
- 2025 Graduate School Summer Fellowship (UMD)
- 2024 Graduate School Summer Fellowship (UMD)
- 2024 GVPT Methods Field Summer Grant (UMD)
- 2023 Graduate School Summer Fellowship (UMD)
- 2022–2025 Dean’s Fellowship (UMD)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 “When Legacies Ripen: Authoritarianism, Elections, and the Sources of Partisan Attachment in the Dominican Republic.” With Perelló, Lucas. 83rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA), Chicago, IL.
- 2026 “Who Asks Matters: Legitimacy, Warm Glow, and Citizen Evaluations of Party Membership in Latin America.” 83rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA), Chicago, IL.
- 2025 “Generational Replacement, Partisanship and Party System Deinstitutionalization: Evidence from Panama.” With Perelló, Lucas. 121st APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- 2025 “Generational Replacement, Partisanship and Party System Deinstitutionalization: Evidence from Panama.” With Perelló, Lucas. 82nd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA), Chicago, IL.
- 2024 “Confirmation vs. Refutation Frames in Partisan Appeals: Assessing Candidates’ Competence in the Argentine Presidential Runoff.” With Aruguete, Natalia and Calvo, Ernesto. 120th APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 “The Bitcoin Shock: Cryptocurrency Adoption, Issue Salience and Audience Considerations in Bukele’s El Salvador.” 81st Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA), Chicago, IL.

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 “Joining a Discredited Institution: Legitimacy and the Meanings of Party Membership in Latin America.” CIEPS (Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos y Sociales), Panama, August 19, 2026.
- 2026 “Time to Join: Political Timing, Competition and the Structure of Party Affiliation in Panama.” INED (Instituto de Estudios Democráticos, Tribunal Electoral de Panamá), August 5, 2026.
- 2025 “Bitcoin Shock: Crypto, Issue Salience and Audience Considerations in Bukele’s El Salvador.” LACS Graduate Lecture Series, University of Maryland, November 19, 2025.
- 2025 “The Panama Canal in Global Politics: Sovereignty, Trade, and Influence.” CAPC / CIPR, Tulane University, February 20, 2025.
- 2024 “Elections in Panama.” INED (Instituto de Estudios Democráticos, Tribunal Electoral de Panamá), May 13, 2024.

METHODS TRAINING

- 2026 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), UCLA. June 8–12, 2026.
- 2019 10th Annual IPSA–USP Summer School in Concepts, Methods and Techniques in Political Science and International Relations, University of São Paulo. January 14–February 1, 2019.

SKILLS

Methods: Panel and time-series cross-sectional data, survival models, causal inference, generalized linear modeling, computational text analysis, digital trace data, web-scraping and data collection, and large-scale administrative dataset construction.

Fieldwork & Archival Research: Focus group design and facilitation, elite interviewing, and archival research and digitization.

Programming: R, Python, LaTeX, Git, Qualtrics.

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (proficient).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Researcher	2018–2022
Institute for Democratic Studies – Electoral Tribunal of Panama	
Political representation, parties and party systems, electoral behavior.	
Executive Assistant to the Ombudsman	2016–2018
Defensoría del Pueblo (Ombudsman’s Office)	
Counsel	2014–2015
General Revenue Directorate – International Taxation Division	
Consultant	2013–2014
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental (Center for Environmental Advocacy)	
Consultant	2012–2013
Solusoft, S.A.	

REFERENCES

Marcus Johnson

Assistant Professor
Government and Politics
University of Maryland, College Park
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Isabella Alcañiz

Professor
Government and Politics
University of Maryland, College Park
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