

# Abby B. Córdoba

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## Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky, August 2012 to present

- Board Member: Quantitative Initiative for Policy and Social Research
- Affiliated Faculty: Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Program
- Affiliated Faculty: Center for Equality and Social Justice

2016-2017 Central American Visiting Scholar, Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS)

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2008-August 2012

Lead Researcher of USAID's CARSI (Central America Regional Security Initiative) Field Experiment, Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), 2009-August 2012

Consultant for the World Bank, Poverty and Gender section for the Latin American and Caribbean region, May-August 2008

Instructor of Economics, Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA), El Salvador, May-December 2000

## Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Vanderbilt University, December 2008

- Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Research Methods
- Dissertation titled: "Divided We Fail: Economic Inequality, Social Mistrust, and Political Instability in Latin American Democracies"

M.A. in Latin American Studies, Vanderbilt University, 2005

- Fields: Economics and Political Science

M.A. in Economics, Vanderbilt University, Graduate Program in Economic Development (GPED), 2003

B.A. in Economics. Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador, 2000

## Peer Reviewed Articles

### *In Preparation for Special Issues*

Córdoba, Abby. "How Gang Activity in Neighborhoods Undermines Democracy: Impacts on Political Participation in El Salvador." *Latin American Research Review* (special issue titled "Criminal Governance and Societal Resistance in Latin America," expected publication date: Spring 2018)

- Paper presented at the 2017 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference in a featured panel co-sponsored by the Latin American Research Review and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Córdova, Abby. “The Effect of Gang Activity on Trust in Government: Evidence from El Salvador.” *América Latina Hoy* published by the University of Salamanca, Spain (expected publication date: December 2017)

- Special issue on Central America

*Invited to Revise and Resubmit*

Córdova, Abby and Jonathan Hiskey. “Development Context and the Political Behavior of Remittance Recipients in Latin America and the Caribbean.” *Comparative Politics*

*Forthcoming/Published*

Hiskey, Jonathan, Abby Córdova, Mary Malone, and Diana Orcés. 2018. “Leaving the Devil You Know: Crime Victimization, U.S. Deterrence Policy, and the Emigration Decision in Central America.” *Latin American Research Review* 53(3).

Córdova, Abby and Gabriela Rangel. 2017. “Addressing the Gender Gap: The Effect of Compulsory Voting on Women’s Electoral Engagement.” *Comparative Political Studies* 50 (2): 171–199.

- Co-authored with a graduate student at the University of Kentucky

Barnes, Tiffany and Abby Córdova. 2016. Making Space for Women: Explaining Citizen Support for Legislative Gender Quotas in Latin America. *Journal of Politics* 78(3): 670–686.

- Winner of the Midwest Political Science Association's 2017 Sophonisba Breckinridge Award for best paper on women and politics.

Córdova, Abby and Matthew Layton. 2016. “When Is Delivering the Goods Not Good Enough? How Economic Disparities in Latin American Neighborhoods Shape Citizen Trust in Local Government.” *World Politics* 68(1): 74-110.

Córdova, Abby and Jonathan Hiskey. 2015. “Shaping Politics at Home: Cross-Border Social Ties and Local-Level Political Engagement.” *Comparative Political Studies* 48(11): 1454-1487.

Córdova, Abby. 2011. “The Role of Social Capital in Citizen Support for Government Action to Reduce Economic Inequality.” *Journal of International Sociology* 41 (2): 28-50. (Special Issue on Political Inequality in Latin America)

Córdova, Abby and Mitchell A. Seligson. 2010. “Economic Shocks and Democratic Vulnerabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean.” *Latin American Politics and Society* 52 (2): 1-35.

Córdova, Abby and Mitchell A. Seligson. 2010. “Governance and Support for Stable Democracy in Latin America.” *Journal of Democracy* 2: 28-46. (In Spanish)

Córdova, Abby and Mitchell A. Seligson. 2009. “Economic Crisis and Democracy in Latin America.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42 (4): 673-678.

## **Methodological Studies**

Córdova, Abby. 2014. Measuring Community Resilience and Citizen Security. Study Prepared for USAID-Guatemala. The methodology developed is currently being employed to evaluate USAID’s programs to prevent crime and violence in Guatemala.

Córdova, Abby. 2009. Measuring Relative Wealth using Household Asset Indicators and Principal Component Analysis (PCA). *Insights Series 6*. Nashville: Latin American Public Opinion Project, Vanderbilt University. [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/insights/I0806en\\_v2.pdf](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/insights/I0806en_v2.pdf)

## Book and Book Chapter

“Measuring Migration Connections across Latin America.” In *Migration and Remittances: Trends, Impacts and New Challenges*, ed. Alfredo Cuccuecha. 2012. Maryland: Lexington Books. (co-authored with Jonathan Hiskey)

Haiti in Distress: The Impact of the 2010 Earthquake on Citizen Lives and Perceptions. 2011. Nashville: Vanderbilt University, Latin American Public Opinion Project. (co-authored with Dominique Zéphyr; 240 pp.) <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/haiti/2010-Haiti-in-Distress-English.pdf>

## Invited Review Essay

Córdova, Abby. 2015. “Old and New Forms of Civic Engagement.” *Latin American Politics and Society*. (Critical Debates series) 57 (2): 154-161.

## Policy Reports

Understanding the Central America Refugee Crisis: Why They are Fleeing. 2016. Published by the American Immigration Council (with Jonathan Hiskey, Mary Malone, and Diana Orcés). [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/understanding\\_the\\_central\\_american\\_refugee\\_crisis.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/understanding_the_central_american_refugee_crisis.pdf)

Contributor to the study, *Crime and Violence in Central America: A Development Challenge*. 2011. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.

## Other Publications

Córdova, Abby, Diana Orcés and Mitchell A. Seligson. 2010. “Democratic Values in Hard Times.” In *Democratic Consolidation in the Americas in Hard Times: Report on the Americas*, eds. Mitchell A. Seligson and Amy Erica Smith. Nashville: Vanderbilt University, Latin American Public Opinion Project.

Córdova, Abby. 2008. “Social trust, Economic Inequality and Democracy in the Americas.” In *Challenges to Democracy in the Americas, evidence from the AmericasBarometer*, ed. Mitchell A. Seligson. Nashville: Vanderbilt University, Latin American Public Opinion Project.

Córdova, Abby. 2008. “Corruption and its Impact on Support for Stable Democracy.” In *Political Culture of Democracy in Ecuador: The Impact of Governance*, ed. Mitchell A. Seligson. Nashville: Vanderbilt University, Latin American Public Opinion Project.

Zéphyr, Dominique, Yves Pierre, and Abby Córdova. 2006. *The Political Culture of Democracy: Haiti 2006*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University, Latin American Public Opinion Project.

Córdova, Abby. 2006. “Capital social y su impacto en la democracia.” In *Auditoría de la democracia: Informe Bolivia 2006*, ed. Mitchell A. Seligson. Nashville: Vanderbilt University, Latin American Public Opinion Project.

Córdova, Abby. 2000. Crecimiento Económico y Convergencia en Centro América. *Realidad, Revista de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades* 77. Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas.

Córdova, Abby, and Dominique Zéphyr. Pobreza, Crecimiento Económico, y Distribución del Ingreso en El Salvador en la década de los 90's. *Realidad, Revista de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades* 73. Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas.

## **New Projects/Work in Progress**

### Manuscripts under Review

Córdova, Abby, and Annabella España. When Do Multiparty Local Governments Perform Better? An Examination of Municipal Councilors' Political Behavior in the Latin American Context. Under review at *Comparative Political Studies*

- Research based on original elite survey data collected among elected local officials across 101 municipalities in El Salvador.

### Book Projects

Córdova, Abby, and Annabella España. Making Decentralization Work for Women: The Electability and Representation of Women in Local Governments.

- Invited by the selection committee at the *Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study's* Fellowship program at Harvard University to submit a full book proposal for further review in the selection process.
- Project funded by the *Office of the Vice President for Research* and the *College of Arts and Science* at the University of Kentucky and the *College of Social Sciences* at California State University, Fresno

Barnes, Tiffany, and Abby Córdova. Citizen Support for Gender Equality Policies in Latin America

- Project funded by the *Office for Policy Studies on Violence against Women* at the University of Kentucky

### Working Papers

Córdova, Abby and Diana Orces. Are Citizens Color-Blind? The Effect of Differences in Skin Tone on Support for Policies toward Immigrants.

Córdova, Abby. How Economic Inequality Erodes Social Trust: Testing Conventional Explanations in Comparative Politics.

### Papers in Progress

Córdova, Abby. Coping with Violence in Gang-Controlled Neighborhoods: Citizen Strategies and Political Consequences

Córdova, Abby. Neighborhood Inequality and Local Political Participation in Latin America

Córdova, Abby. When do the Poor Participate the Most? Compulsory Voting, Clientelism, and Political Participation in Latin America

Córdova, Abby, and Katie Angell. How Civic Engagement in Indigenous Communities Fosters Women's Political Participation: Evidence from Guatemala.

Córdova, Abby, and Helen Kras. The Effect of Gendered Violence on Women's Political Trust and Participation in Brazil.

## Grants/Funding

\$24,594—Office for Policy Studies on Violence against Women at the University of Kentucky, Research Assistantship. Awarded: summer 2017.

- Project: *The Effect of Gendered Violence on Women's Political Trust and Participation in Brazil*

\$5,000—Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Kentucky and the College of Social Sciences at California State University, Fresno, Co-Principal Investigator with Annabella España. Awarded: spring 2017.

- Project: *Making Decentralization Work for Women: The Electability and Representation of Women in Local Governments*

\$28,000—Harvard University, Research Fellowship at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS). Awarded: fall 2016. (Principal Investigator)

- Project: *The Impact of Gang Activity in Central American Neighborhoods on Political Participation.*

\$18,500—Office for Policy Studies on Violence against Women at the University of Kentucky (partially funded by the Department of Political Science), Co-Principal Investigator with Tiffany Barnes. Awarded: spring 2014.

- Project: *Dangerous Places and State Action: Does Violence against Women Legislation Motivate Women to Participate in Politics?*

\$26,300—DevTech/United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Principal Investigator. Awarded: fall 2013.

- Project: *Community Resilience, Citizen Security, and Democratic Governance*

\$2,000—College of Arts and Science Diversity Faculty Funds, with Ana Liberato. Awarded: fall 2013.

- Project: *When Color Matters: Skin Tone Preferences and Support for Welfare Policies toward Immigrants*

\$22,000—Mellon-Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Seminars Grant, with Fernanda Boidi, Ryan E. Carlin, Gregory J. Love, and María del Rosario Queirolo. Awarded: summer 2011.

- Project: *Experiments for Export? Assessing the Suitability of Behavioral Experiments in Latin America*

\$3.2 million—Experimental Impact Evaluation of Neighborhood-Based Crime Prevention Strategies, Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI). In charge of the research design of the study, writing of grant proposal, preparation of survey questionnaires, design of neighborhood selection strategy, and supervision of research assistants and project execution (award granted by USAID to the Latin American Public Opinion Project for the implementation of a multi-year randomized field experiment). Awarded: fall 2009.

\$2,500—Summer Research Award, College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University. Awarded: summer 2008.

\$2,500-Summer Field Research Award, Center for the Americas, Vanderbilt University.  
Awarded: summer 2008.

## **Honors and Awards**

Midwest Political Science Association's Sophonisba Breckinridge Award for best paper on women and politics, April 2017.

Research Fellowship at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS), Harvard University, May 2016.

Ph.D. Dissertation nominated by the Political Science Department at Vanderbilt University for the 2010 Gabriel A. Almond APSA Award for Best Dissertation in Comparative Politics, January 2010.

Fulbright-LASPAU Scholarship, Master's degree in Economics (2001-2003).

"Most Outstanding Student" award, class 2001-2003. Graduate Program in Economic Development (GPED), Vanderbilt University (highest GPA of the class)

"Most Outstanding Thesis" award, class 2001-2003. GPED, Vanderbilt University

## **Training in Survey Research and Methodology**

Experimental Methods and Causal Inference. Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan. Summer 2009.

Questionnaire Design, Semi-structured Interviewing, and Focus Groups. Institute for Survey Research (ISR), University of Michigan. Summer 2007.

Multilevel Modeling, Survey Methodology, Analysis of Complex Samples, and Structural Equations Analysis. Institute for Survey Research (ISR), University of Michigan. Summer 2006.

## **Fieldwork and Data Collection**

Fieldwork in Guatemala in indigenous communities (with Katie Angell), summer 2017

Online surveys in Brazil, Argentina, and El Salvador (with Tiffany Barnes), ongoing

Third wave of face-to-face elite surveys among elected local officials in El Salvador in 100 municipalities (with Annabella España), ongoing

Fieldwork in the Dominican Republic, July 2013

Fieldwork for USAID study in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama, January 2010-July 2011.

Pre-test of LAPOP survey questionnaires and training of interviewers and supervisors in:

- Dominican Republic, January 2012
- Guatemala, April 2011, June 2011
- El Salvador, November 2008, November 2009, April, 2010, August 2011
- Nicaragua, June 2006, December 2008
- Panama, August 2010, October 2010
- Guyana, February 2007, March 2009

## Teaching at the University of Kentucky

Comparative Politics (PS620), graduate seminar (fall 2013; spring 2016, 2017)  
Comparative Political Behavior (PS711), graduate seminar (spring, 2013, 2015)  
Comparative Politics (PS210), undergraduate course (spring 2017)  
Global Inequality (PS492), upper division undergraduate course (fall 2014)  
Latin American Politics and Government (PS428G), upper division undergraduate course (fall 2012, 2013, 2014; spring 2014, 2015, 2016)

## Mentorship

### Member of Dissertation/ Advisory Committee:

Ryan Voris (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), fall 2014-spring 2016  
Gabriela Rangel (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), fall 2015-spring 2017  
John Poe (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2014-summer 2017  
Gregory Saxton (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), fall 2015-  
Jonathan Kratzer (Martin School, U of Kentucky), spring 2015-  
Chris Ledford (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2014-  
Steve Kaiser (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2014-  
Glenn Harden (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2017-  
Damian Jones (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2017-  
Erik Fay (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2017-  
Katie Angell (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2017-  
Helen Kras (Department of Political Science, U of Kentucky), spring 2017-

### Member of Master's Thesis Committee:

Grace Cale (Department of Sociology, University of Kentucky), fall 2013-spring 2014.

### Mentorship of Undergraduate Students:

Spencer Dodge, advising on graduate school application (admitted at the University of Denver, fall 2015)

Joshua Smith, advising on graduate school application (admitted at the Patterson School, fall 2013)

Catherine Palmer-Ball, Faculty Mentor, Chellgren Program (University of Kentucky), spring 2013

## Invited Presentations

Harvard University. Cambridge, MA, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Presentation titled: *How Gang Activity in Neighborhoods Undermines Democracy: Impacts on Electoral and Non-Electoral Participation in El Salvador.*

Harvard University. Cambridge, MA, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Presentation titled: *International Migration in Latin America: Impacts on Citizens' Political Behavior in Sending and Receiving Countries.*

University of Miami, Department of Political Science, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Presentation titled: *How Gang Activity in Neighborhoods Undermines Democracy: Impacts on Electoral and Non-Electoral Participation in El Salvador.*

Vanderbilt University. Nashville, TN, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Presentation titled: *Political Impacts of Migration in Sending Countries*.

USAID-International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL/State Department), Guatemala, July 13-16, 2015. Participation in internal workshop on Crime-Place based Strategies of CARSI (Central America Regional Security Initiative) programs. Presentation titled: *Monitoring and Evaluation Methods: An Overview*.

California State University, Fresno, March 18, 2015. Presentation titled: *Shaping Politics at Home: Cross-Border Social Ties and Local-Level Political Engagement*

USAID, Guatemala City, United States Embassy, February 7, 2014. Presentation titled: *Measuring Community Resilience and Citizen Insecurity*

Patterson School, Lexington, Kentucky, October 27, 2014. Participant in panel titled, *Gender and Development in Latin America* at the Patterson Annual Conference

Committee on Social Theory, University of Kentucky, November 17, 2014. Invited Paper Discussant.

International Samaritan (Board of Trustees Meeting), Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, October 15, 2013. Presentation titled: *Crime Prevention Strategies and Democratic Governance in Guatemala*.

Committee on Social Theory, University of Kentucky, spring 2013. Presentation titled: *Social Distrust in the Americas and its Political Consequences*.

Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky, November 14 2012. Presentation titled: *Neighborhood Politics: Explaining Subnational Variation in Local Government Legitimacy in the Latin American Context*.

Georgia State University, Conference: Experiments for Export? Behavioral Experiments in Latin America, April 19-21, 2012. Presentation titled: *Altruistic Behavioral Predispositions and Support for Public Policies to Reduce Income Inequality: Experimental Evidence from El Salvador*.

University of Colorado at Boulder, 36th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, Colorado (invited by Florida International University), July 9-12, 2011. Presentation titled: *Haiti in Distress: The Impact of the 2010 Earthquake on Citizen Lives and Perceptions*.

USAID, the U.S. Department of State, and the Organization of American States (OAS)'s conference on Successful Models and Approaches on Youth Development and Crime Prevention, OAS Headquarters, Hall of the Americas, Washington, D.C., June 28, 2011. Participated in panel on "Community Policing" (presented baseline results of CARSI neighborhood based field experiment for El Salvador).

Florida International University (FIU), Latin American and Caribbean Center, Miami, January 28, 2011. Presentation titled: *Haiti in Distress: The Impact of the 2010 Earthquake on Citizen Lives and Perceptions*.

State Department's Third Annual Conference on Program Evaluation: New Paradigms for Evaluating Diplomacy in the 21st Century, Washington, DC, June 8-9, 2010. Presentation titled: *Improving Democracy and Governance Programs through Better Evaluation: The Impact Evaluation of USAID's Central America Regional Security Initiative*, with Eric Kite (USAID).

Woodrow Wilson Center's Conference on Municipal Strategies of Crime Prevention, Washington, D.C., december, 2009. Presentation titled: *Measuring the Impact of Community Based-Crime Prevention Programs: A Scientifically Rigorous Methodology*.

Presentations at the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, State Department, and American Organization of States, Washington, D.C., march, 2009. Presentation titled: *Economic Crisis and Democracy in Latin America*, with Mitchell A. Seligson and Liz Zechmeister.

The World Bank, Poverty and Gender section for the Latin American and Caribbean region, Washington, D.C., June 28, 2008. Presentation titled: *Crime Victimization and Insecurity as Threats to Democratic Stability in Central America*.

## Recent Presentations in Academic Conferences

Latin America Studies Association Annual Conference, Lima, Peru, May, 2017. Presentation of paper titled: *The Impact of Gang Activity in Central American Neighborhoods on Political Participation*.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2017. Presentation of paper titled: *When Do Multiparty Local Governments Perform Better? An Examination of Municipal Councilors' Political Behavior in the Latin American Context* (with Annabella España).

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2017. Presentation of paper titled: *The Impact of Gang Activity in Central American Neighborhoods on Political Participation*.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., September, 2015. Presentation of papers titled: *Are Citizens Color-Blind? The Role of Nationals' Skin Tone and Education on Support for Policies toward Black Immigrants* (with Diana Orces). *Leaving the Devil You Know: Violence, Migration and the U.S. "We Will Send You Back" Campaign* (with Jonathan Hiskey, Mary Malone, and Diana Orces).

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., August, 2014. Presentation of paper titled: *Context Matters: National Economic Development and the Political Behavior of Remittance Recipients in Latin America and the Caribbean* (with Jonathan Hiskey).

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2014. Presentation of paper titled: *Addressing the Gender Gap: The Effect of Compulsory Voting on Political Engagement* (with Gabriela Rangel)

## Professional Service

### Political Science Department, University of Kentucky:

Director, Women in Political Science Initiative, fall 2017-

Director, Promotion of Minority and Graduate Students of Color Initiative, fall 2017-

Member of the Graduate Program Committee, spring 2017 to present

Member of the Executive Committee, fall 2015-spring 2016

Member of the Undergraduate Program Committee, fall 2012-spring 2016

### Multidisciplinary Initiatives, University of Kentucky

Affiliated Faculty, Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Program, fall 2012 to present

- Member of organizing committee, third Annual LACLS Symposium, titled Democracy, Citizenship and Violence in Latin America.

Affiliated Faculty, Center for Equality and Social Justice, spring 2017

Board Member, Quantitative Initiative for Policy and Social Research, fall 2013 to present

### Academia:

Co-chair, Comparative Politics Section, 2018 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Journal Referee: American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Political Behavior, Comparative Political Studies, Latin American Politics and Society, Latin American Research Review, Political Research Quarterly, International Studies Quarterly, European Political Science Review.

Country coder expert for *Varieties of Democracy project*, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, fall 2013.

## Languages

Spanish (native), country of origin: El Salvador

English (fluent)

Portuguese (intermediate level)