

# Emilia Simison

---

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Department of Political Science  
77 Mass. Ave, E53-470, Cambridge, MA 02142

simison@mit.edu  
www.emiliasimison.com  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6572-9888>

## Education

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science

Fields: Political Economy and Methods

Dissertation Project: “Resetting public policy? Democracies, Dictatorships, and Policy Change”

### **Torcuato Di Tella University (UTDT)**, Buenos Aires, Argentina

M.A. in Political Science, 2015

M.A Thesis: “Transferencias discrecionales en contextos de centralización fiscal y desnacionalización del sistema de partidos: Argentina, 2002-2011”

### **University of Buenos Aires (UBA)**, Buenos Aires, Argentina

B.A. in Political Science, Honors Diploma, 2011

## Awards and Fellowships

**Smith Fellow**, Mercatus Center and Liberty Fund (2021-2022)

**MIT CIS Summer Study Fellowship**, 2021

**MIT Graduate Woman of Excellence**, Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, 2019

**MIT Brazil Research Grant**, MIT Science and Technology Initiative, 2017

**MIT Political Science Luksic Fellowship**, 2016-2017, 2020

**Travel Grant**, Latin American Studies Association, 2014

**Martín Lardone Award for Research on Federalism, Intergovernmental Relations and Public Policy**, Argentinean Society of Political Analysis (SAAP), 2013

**International Seminar for Young Leaders**, Fulbright Commission Argentina, 2012

Publications **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

“Lawmaking in Personal Dictatorships: Evidence from Spain”

Journal of Legislative Studies, Conditionally Accepted

Co-authored with Alejandro Bonvecchi

“Supporters and Opposition in Authoritarian Legislatures”

Journal of Legislative Studies, DOI: 10.1080/13572334.2020.1847375, pp. 1-20.

“Divided cities, divided parties. Measuring the effect of intra-party conflict on electoral performance”

Revista SAAP, Vol 13, N° 1, May 2019, pp. 137-156.

Co-authored with Lukas Wolters

“Nation or My District? Evaluating the Territorial Scope of Bills through Experimental Designs”

Journal of Politics in Latin America, Vol 9, N°2, August 2017, pp. 93-120.

“Legislative Institutions and Performance in Authoritarian Regimes”

Comparative Politics, Vol 49, N° 4, July 2017, pp. 521-539.

Co-authored with Alejandro Bonvecchi

“Una dictadura sin centro: historia y ciencia política en la interpretación del Proceso de Reorganización Nacional”

Revista SAAP, Vol 11, N° 1, June 2017, pp. 129-146.

Co-authored with Alejandro Bonvecchi

“Descentralización y Partidos Políticos en América Latina: un estado de la cuestión”

Revista Ciencia Política, Vol 10, N° 20, December 2015, pp. 243-265

Political Science Department, Colombia National University

“Distribuyendo transferencias discrecionales: Argentina entre la centralización fiscal y la desnacionalización del sistema de partidos”

Revista SAAP, Vol 9, N°1, May 2015, pp. , pp. 93-118

“Estrategias distributivas presidenciales en contextos cambiantes de centralización fiscal y nacionalización partidaria: Transferencias discrecionales en Argentina durante presidencias peronistas”

Revista de Ciencia Política, Vol.34, N°3, November 2014, pp. 561-582.

Publications **Book Chapters**

“Economic Crises, Military Rebellions, and Democratic Survival: Argentina, 1983-2020”  
in Mainwaring, Scott and Mosaoud, Tarek (eds.)

*Democracy in Hard Places*, Oxford University Press, in preparation

Co-authored with Scott Mainwaring

“Experimentos en las Ciencias Sociales”

in Caminotti, Mariana and Toppi, Hernán Pablo (eds.)

*Metodología de la investigación social: Caja de herramientas*,

Buenos Aires: EUDEBA, 2021, pp. 127-151

“Fiscal Federalism and Lawmaking under Authoritarianism: Institutional Design  
and Economic Policy in Argentina’s Last Dictatorship”

in Grigera, Juan and Zorzoli, Luciana (eds.)

*The Argentinian dictatorship in perspective. Rethinking the ‘proceso’*,

London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020, pp. 93-121

Co-authored with Alejandro Bonvecchi

“Legislatures and Representation in Latin American Politics”

in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Latin American Politics*,

Oxford University Press, Online Publication Date: Sep 2019, pp. 1-30

“The Power and Limits of Federalism”

in Ménard, Claude and Shirley, Mary M. (eds.)

*A Research Agenda for New Institutional Economics*,

Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishers, 2018, pp. 27–33

Co-authored with Daniel Ziblatt

“Distribución de transferencias con distintos nivel de discrecionalidad en un contexto  
de centralización fiscal y desnacionalización del sistema de partidos”

in Garriga, Marcelo and Rosales, Walter (eds.)

*La relación fiscal Nación-Provincias lo que se discute, lo que falta discutir*,

La Plata: Universidad Nacional de La Plata, 2017, pp. 75-111

Research  
Experience

**Parliaments Under Fire Project**

Team Member, since 2020

**Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation,  
Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA**

Part-time fellowship, Initiative on Democracy in Hard Places, 2019

**Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET)**

PhD Fellow, 2013-2017

Project: “Transferencias discrecionales en épocas de centralización fiscal:  
Argentina, 2002-2012”

Advisors: Vicente Palermo and Alejandro Bonvecchi.

**Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani**, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Research Assistant, Programa de Historia Política, 2011-2013

**Facultad Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)**

Student research scholarship, 2010-2011

Advisor: Marcos Novaro

- Teaching **Department of Political Science, MIT**  
Teaching Assistant, *Math Camp I for incoming students*, Fall 2019, 2020, and 2021  
Instructor, *Political Methodology Lab Workshop: Introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X*, Fall 2019 and 2020  
Teaching Assistant, *Quantitative Research Methods II, Causal Inference*  
(Daniel Hidalgo), Spring 2019  
Teaching Assistant, *International Political Economy* (David Singer), Fall 2018
- Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Político, SAAP**  
Instructor, *Introducción a R para las Ciencias Sociales*, June 2019
- Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, UBA**  
Teaching Assistant, *Fundamentos de Ciencia Política*, 2016  
Teaching Assistant, *Instituciones Políticas y Procesos Gubernamentales*, 2012-2016
- Departamento de Ciencia Política y Estudios Internacionales, UTDT**  
Teaching Assistant, *Lógica y Técnicas de Investigación en Ciencias Sociales*, 2013-2015
- Instituto Saint-Exupéry**  
Primary and secondary school auxiliary teacher, 2009-2012
- Training **Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program (KTCP)**, Spring 2019
- Academic Service **Reviewer**  
American Political Science Review, FONDECYT (National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development, Chile), Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Politics, Revista SAAP, Revista Ciencia Política (Chile), Revista Colombia Internacional, and British Journal of Politics and International Relations  
External master dissertation reviewer, Universidad de San Andrés
- Department Service, Political Science, MIT**  
Co-organizer, Women in Poli Sci, monthly coffee hour for women students in the department, 2019-2021  
Co-organizer, Latin American Working Group, 2018-present  
Department Representative, Graduate Student Council, 2018-2019  
Member, Political Science Gender and Diversity Working Group, 2016-2017
- Conferences**  
Discussant, Brown-MIT Development Workshop, February 28th, 2020  
Conference Chair, Artificial Intelligence Latin America SumMIT, 2019-2020  
Organizer, Jornadas de Jóvenes Investigadores, IIGG, 2011-2015
- Co-Advisor**  
Gandulfo, Alejandro Eloy, Master Thesis, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, 2018
- Memberships **Professional Associations**  
American Political Science Association (APSA)  
Asociación Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política (ALACIP)  
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)  
Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Político (SAAP)
- Professional Networks**  
Red de Politólogas #NoSinMujeres  
Women Also Know Stuff  
Women in Legislative Studies

Recent Conference Presentations	“Social Mobilization and Social Policy in Latin America” 2021 REPAL Conference Virtual Meeting, July 15-17, 2021 Co-authored with Candelaria Garay
	“Resetting public policy? Regime Change and Housing Policy in Argentina and Brazil” 2021 LASA Conference Virtual Meeting, May 26-29, 2021
	“Social Policy Expansion, Continuity, and Change in Latin America” 2020 APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition Virtual Meeting, September 10-13, 2020 Co-authored with Candelaria Garay
	“Democratic Survival in Argentina” 2019 APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition Washington, DC, August 29-September 1, 2019 Co-authored with Scott Mainwaring
	“Lawmaking under Authoritarianism: Theory and Evidence from Argentina and Spain” XIV Congreso Nacional de Ciencia Política, SAAP-UNSAM San Martín, July 17-21, 2019 Co-authored with Alejandro Bonvecchi
	“Economic Crisis, Military Rebellions, and Democratic Survival: Argentina, 1983-2003” Conference on Democracy in Hard Places, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, May 1-2, 2019 Co-authored with Scott Mainwaring
Media Collaborations	“Business Influence on Economic Policymaking: Lobbying the Executive and the Legislature for Economic Policy in Argentina’s Last Dictatorship” 77th Annual MPSA Conference, Chicago, IL, April 4-7, 2019 Co-authored with Alejandro Bonvecchi
	<b>Columnist</b> Revista Quid, Cultural and literary magazine, 2013-2020 Blog Bastión Digital, 2014-2015
	<b>Documentaries</b> Las Leyes de la Dictadura y cómo afectan la Democracia, 2017 CAL: El Congreso en Dictadura, 2015
Languages	Spanish (native), English (proficient), Italian (advanced), Portuguese (advanced), German (intermediate)

References Ben Ross Schneider  
Ford International Professor of Political Science  
Director, MIT Brazil Program  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
brs@mit.edu - 617-253-7207

F. Daniel Hidalgo  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
dhidalgo@mit.edu - 617-253-8078

Chappell Lawson  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
clawson@mit.edu - 617-253-3524