

Francesca Parente

Perry World House
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Academic Appointments

University of Pennsylvania

Postdoctoral Fellow, Perry World House, July 2020–present

Princeton University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, September 2019–June 2020

Education

University of California-Los Angeles

Ph.D., Political Science, June 2019

Concentrations: International Relations, Political Methodology, Comparative Politics (minor field)

Committee: Leslie Johns (chair), Art Stein, Chad Hazlett, Asli Bâli (UCLA School of Law)

University of Virginia

B.A., Highest Distinction, May 2013

Echols Scholar, 2009–2013

Majors: Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law; Classics

Dissertation and Book Project

Title: Past Regret, Future Fear: Compliance with International Law

Why do democratic governments that support human rights sometimes defy the rulings of international human rights courts? In my dissertation, I examine this question in the context of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. I argue that non-compliance results from (1) high capacity constraints that limit leaders' ability to comply; and from (2) democratic leaders responding to voter preferences against compliance. Although human rights scholars generally assume that voters support compliance, I find that attitudes toward compliance are not so uniform when the military is implicated. Despite the abuses committed by military officials in recent dictatorships, the military is still a trusted institution in many Latin American states, and some voters would prefer to leave the past alone. Leaders thus face a dilemma when they receive judgments from the Inter-American Court: do they follow international law, or do they choose the policies that voters want? I show that the leader's decision to comply is a function of the public's attitudes toward the actor implicated by compliance and the leader's need to match the public's preferences to remain in power. I test my theory using an original dataset of all Court orders from 1989 to 2014. My results show that leaders become more responsive to the public's preferences as their need for democratic accountability increases, but this does not necessarily result in more compliance. Rather, the public's attitude toward the military moderates the effect by dictating the direction of the leader's response. I supplement my statistical work with evidence from semi-structured interviews with attorneys and judges, as well as a qualitative study on overturning amnesty laws.

Fieldwork: San Jose, Costa Rica (Seat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights), September 2018

Working Papers

“Fix for the Future, Not for the Past: Democratic Accountability and Non-Compliance with International Law” (job market paper). *Under review*.

“‘Is It Identified?’ is the Wrong Question: A Sensitivity-Based Approach to Evaluating and Debating the Credibility of Observational Studies” (with Chad Hazlett). *Under review*.

“Settle or Litigate? Consequences of International Design in the Inter-American System of Human Rights Protection”. *Under review*.

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

External

Lynne Rienner Publishers Award for Best Dissertation, ISA Human Rights Section (finalist), 2020
Conference Travel Grant, Society for Political Methodology, National Science Foundation, 2018
Conference Travel Grant, Hayek Fund for Scholars, 2018
Graduate Student Travel Grant, American Political Science Association, 2017
Bradley Fellowship, Bradley Foundation, 2015, 2016 (declined)

UCLA

Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2018–2019
Fieldwork Fellowship Award, UCLA International Institute, 2018
Alice Belkin Memorial Scholarship, Burkle Center for International Relations at UCLA, 2017
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2016
Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2015–2016
Graduate Dean’s Scholar Award, UCLA Graduate Division, 2013–2015
Graduate Student Fellowship, UCLA Department of Political Science, 2013–2014

Presentations

Workshops and Invited Talks

*2020–2021 (scheduled; * indicates virtual)*

Perry World House, Global Order Colloquium, “The UN at 75: Coronavirus and Competition”^{*}
University of Chicago, “Resistance and Opposition to Liberal International Institutions”
University of Southern California, Center for International Studies Working Paper Series^{*}

2019–2020 (indicates virtual)*

Binghamton University (SUNY), Department of Political Science
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 60th Anniversary Conference
Princeton University, International Relations Faculty Colloquium
Temple Workshop on International Institutions and Global Governance
University of Notre Dame, “Rethinking Compliance in International Law”^{*}
University of Pittsburgh, Department of Political Science
University of Virginia, International Relations Speaker Series

2018–2019

Princeton University, Department of Politics
Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop, Loyola Law School
USC-UCLA Graduate Student International Law-International Relations Workshop

Conference Presentations

(*indicates virtual)

American Political Science Association: 2017, 2019, 2020*
Empirical Studies of Conflict: 2020*
International Studies Association: 2019
Midwest Political Science Association: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Society for Political Methodology: 2018
Southern California Methods Conference: 2019
Visions in Methodology: 2021 (sch.)

Teaching

Instructor

Mathematical Methods for Political Science (graduate), September 2017
PS 123A: Politics of International Law (undergraduate), Summer 2017, Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant

PS 20: World Politics, Professor Robert Trager, Spring 2017
PS 123A: Politics of International Law, Professor Leslie Johns, Fall 2014, Winter 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
PS 123B: International Organizations, Professor Leslie Johns, Spring 2015
PS 134: Foreign Policy Decision-Making, Professor Arthur Stein, Winter 2018
PS 137A: International Relations Theory, Professor Arthur Stein, Fall 2016

Guest Lecturer

“The Inter-American Court of Human Rights and *Velásquez Rodríguez*,” Spring 2018, for PS 123A (Professor Leslie Johns)
“The Inter-American Commission and Inter-American Court of Human Rights,” Fall 2017, for LAW 717 (Professor Joseph Berra)
“The Inter-American Commission and Inter-American Court of Human Rights,” Spring 2017, Spring 2018 for LAW 273 (Professor Asli Bâli)
“Second-Order Compliance in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,” Spring 2016, Winter 2017, for PS 123A (Professor Leslie Johns)

Graduate Student Peer Teaching

Writing Maven, 2015–2017
Duties include advising students on fellowship applications and qualifying papers; and leading workshops on how to prepare successful grant applications.

Research Assistant Experience

Arthur Stein, University of California-Los Angeles, 2018–2019
Maximo Langer, University of California-Los Angeles (School of Law), 2018
Leslie Johns, University of California-Los Angeles, 2014–2018
Lauren Peritz, University of California-Davis, 2016
Todd Sechser, University of Virginia, 2013
Josipa Roksa, University of Virginia (Sociology), 2010–2011

University and Departmental Service

Perry World House

Co-Organizer, Perry World House Seminar Series, 2020–2021
Mentor, Perry World House Student Fellows Program, 2020–2021

UCLA

Vice President of Finance, UCLA Social Sciences Council, 2015–2018
Graduate Student Organizer, International Relations Speaker Series, 2016–2017
Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee, 2016–2017
Co-President, Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2016–2017
Political Science Representative to UCLA Social Sciences Council, 2015–2016
Co-Head, UCLA International Relations Reading Group, 2015–2016

Specialized Skills

Software: R, Stata, Python, L^AT_EX

Foreign Languages: Spanish (Advanced reading, writing, and speaking); Latin (Intermediate reading);
Italian (Intermediate reading)

References

Leslie Johns

Professor of Political Science and Law
University of California, Los Angeles
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Arthur Stein

Distinguished Professor of Political Science
University of California, Los Angeles
stein@polisci.ucla.edu

Asli Bâli

Professor of Law
Faculty Director, Promise Institute for Human Rights
Director, Center for Near Eastern Studies
University of California, Los Angeles
bali@law.ucla.edu

Chad Hazlett

Assistant Professor of Political Science and
Statistics
University of California, Los Angeles
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