Jessala A. Grijalva

Political Scientist | Representation, Voting Rights & Political Behavior
Guinier Project Postdoctoral Fellow
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Academic Appointments

Harvard Law School 2026–Present
Guinier Project Postdoctoral Fellow, Houston Institute for Race & Justice

University of Notre Dame 2024–2026
Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Latino Studies

Education

University of Notre Dame 2024
Ph.D., Political Science
Dissertation: *From Binary to Multidimensional: Reframing Latino Acculturation in Political Science*. Committee: Luis R. Fraga (chair), Ricardo Ramírez, and David Cortez. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

University of Arizona 2017
B.A., Government and Public Policy, magna cum laude
Robie Gold Medal.

Research Areas

Voting rights and electoral institutions; Latino political behavior; race and ethnic politics; American political development; political representation; measurement and computational social science.

Book Project

Herrenvolk Democracy: Race, Exclusion, and the American Political Order **Book project**
Examines how American democracy developed alongside enduring racial inequalities in political membership and power. Using herrenvolk democracy as a framework, the project traces how democratic inclusion and racial exclusion became intertwined in the development of the American political order, with particular attention to periods of institutional change including Reconstruction and the post-1965 era.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Democracy for Whom? Herrenvolk Democracy and the American Founding." **2026**
PS: Political Science & Politics, First View, 1–8. Open access. doi:10.1017/S1049096526102479.

"The Myth of the Zero-Sum: Rethinking Acculturation in American Politics." **Forthcoming**
Politics, Groups, and Identities.
Preprint | Code | Data.

Selected Manuscripts

"Acculturation, Identity, and Latino Politics." **Under review**
Preprint | Code | Data.

"Why Groups Diverge: Latino Support for Trump, 2016–2024." **In preparation**
Preprint | Code.

"Democracy and the Power-Sharing Deficit." **In preparation**
Code.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2020–2023	$138,000
Democracy Initiative Catalyst Grant, University of Notre Dame	2025–2027	$100,000
Co-principal investigator and primary grant author; lead, Multiracial Democracy Working Group.		
Joseph L. Gaia Distinguished Fellowship	2018–2020	$29,000
National Science Foundation Pathways Fellowship	2017	$12,000
ICPSR Diversity Scholarship	2020	$8,000
Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy Award	2019	$3,800
Institute for Latino Studies Fellowship	2019	$2,700

Invited Presentations and Discussions

"The Herrenvolk Blindspot: Power-Sharing, Tocqueville, and the Real Test of Democracy." 2025
ILS Colloquium, University of Notre Dame

"The Contours of Latine Political Interests," by Marques Zárate and Enrique Quezada. 2025
Discussant, CSREA, Brown University

"Beyond the Binary: Rethinking Latino Acculturation in Political Science." 2025
Pathways Summit, University of Arizona

"The Resilience Toolkit: Building Foundations for Professional and Personal Growth." 2025
Workshop facilitator, Pathways Summit, University of Arizona

Conference Presentations

"Stable Drivers or Campaign Effects: Mapping Latino Support for Trump, 2016–2024." 2026
MPSA Annual Meeting

"Power-Sharing and Exclusion: Toward a Theory of Herrenvolk Democracy." 2026
PRIEC Conference, Arizona State University

"Navigating Cross-Pressures: How Multidimensional Acculturation Shapes Latino Political Behavior." 2025
Keeping the Republic, University of Notre Dame

"Navigating Cross-Pressures: How Acculturation Shapes Latino Political Behavior." 2025
MPSA Annual Meeting

"Exploring Latino Acculturation Through Non-Parametric Cluster Analysis." 2024
MAPOR Annual Meeting

Methods and Research Resources

Measurement	Construct development and validation; index construction; psychometric assessment.
Survey research	Survey design and experiments; vignette design; behavioral outcome batteries.
Computational methods	Random forests; interpretable machine learning; SHAP-based interpretation; ablation analysis; bootstrap diagnostics; unsupervised learning.
Software and resources	R; Quarto/LaTeX; Git/GitHub; Harvard Dataverse; project-specific code and replication materials.

Teaching Experience

University of Notre Dame

Instructor of Record

Applied Leadership: Theory and Practice (new course development) Summer 2025
Empowering Change: Latino Leadership and Professional Growth (new course development) Summer 2024

Teaching Assistant

Latinos in the Future of America Spring 2025
Urban Politics Fall 2023
Introduction to World Politics Spring 2020
Introduction to American Politics Fall 2019

Prepared to teach: Introduction to American Politics; American Democracy; Political Psychology; Introduction to Machine Learning; Research Design; Race and Ethnic Politics; Immigration Policy; Political Behavior.

Professional Service and Leadership

Manuscript reviewer: *Political Behavior*; *PS: Political Science & Politics*

Co-founder and Coordinator, ILS/IRR Postdoctoral Working Group 2025–Present
Voting Member, American Politics Tenure-Track Search Committee 2022
Coordinator, ILS Graduate Working Group 2020–2022
Committee Member, Inclusive Teaching & Leadership 2019–2020
Coordinator, Politics of Race, Ethnicity & Sexuality Colloquium 2018–2019

Professional affiliations: APSA; IPSA; MPSA; ISPP; AAPOR; MAPOR; PRIEC.