

# Noah Schouela

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

Ph.D., Political Science

2025

- *Fields*: Comparative Politics and Quantitative Methods
- *Dissertation*: “Essays on Fragmented Urban Government and Democracy in Latin America”
- *Committee*: Michael Albertus, Benjamin Lessing, and Susan Stokes
- *Summary*: Developed a geospatial database of 1,000+ Latin American cities to study how urban fragmentation shapes democratic attitudes, electoral competition, and access to urban infrastructure using quantitative and spatial methods. In 4 city case studies, I examined how segregation and class-based voting influence electoral representation.

M.A., Political Science

2022

M.A., Committee on International Relations

2018

- *Thesis*: “Localized Criminal Orders in the Mexican Drug War”
- *Advisors*: Paul Staniland and Benjamin Lessing

**University of Toronto**, Toronto, ON

B.A. (Honours)

2016

- *Specialist*: Peace, Conflict, and Justice Studies; *Major*: Economics; *Minor*: Political Science

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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Uribe, Andres D., Benjamin Lessing, Noah Schouela, and Elayne Stecher. 2025. “[Criminal Governance in Latin America: Prevalence and Correlates](#),” *Perspectives on Politics*.

Uribe, Andres D., and Noah Schouela. 2025. “[Opportunistic Rebel Strategy in Civil War](#),” *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Albertus, Michael, and Noah Schouela. 2025. “[When Redistribution Backfires Politically: Theory and Evidence from Land Reform in Portugal](#),” *Journal of Politics*, 87 (2). Sage Best Paper Award, Honourable Mention, Comparative Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2022.

Albertus, Michael, and Noah Schouela. 2024. “[Fascist Legacies of Mobilization and Co-Optation: Evidence from Democratic Portugal](#),” *Comparative Political Studies*.

## WORKING PAPERS

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Schouela, Noah. “[Fragmented Latin American Urban Democracy \(FLAUD\): Measuring and Theorizing Regionalism in Latin America’s Metropolises](#),” Available at SSRN.

Schouela, Noah. “[Class-Based Voting and Local Election Competition in Fragmented Latin American Cities](#),” Available at SSRN.

Schouela, Noah. “[Nested Urban Democracy: Balancing Partisan and Candidate Information in Lima, Peru](#),” Available at SSRN.

Schouela, Noah. “Parochial Infrastructure Provision in Fragmented Latin American Cities,” prepared for The Politics of Urban Infrastructure panel at the Bloomberg Center for Cities Research Conference at Harvard University on November 13, 2025.

## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### World Bank Group

#### Short-Term Consultant, Institutions - Governance Global Practice

2026-Present

- Conduct econometric analysis of large administrative datasets on public investment projects in Peru, covering project preparation, budgeting, procurement, and execution.
- Edit, pilot, and analyse an original survey of national, regional, and local officials executing public infrastructure projects in Peru to explore the drivers of project paralysis and abandonment.
- Lead the quantitative analysis for a World Bank policy report on improving results from public investment in Peru, including drafting analytical sections, policy notes, and presentations.

### University of Chicago

#### Research Manager

2019-2024

- Supervised two research assistants generating case studies on urban governance, finance, and elections for select cities and trained two research assistants to implement quality control procedures for contemporary and digitised archival quantitative data.

#### Urban Doctoral Fellow, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation

2020-2021

- Presented research to and provided constructive feedback for a working group of scholars in economics, sociology, and the humanities interested in a broad range of research topics related to cities.

#### Head Research Assistant for Professor Benjamin Lessing

2018-2019

- Led a team of research assistants in coding and aggregating qualitative reports of criminal governance in Latin America. Used to validate the first-ever estimate of the 77-101 million people in the region living under criminal rule, generated using multilevel regression with post-stratification for 20,000 survey respondents in over 1,000 districts.

## VISITING APPOINTMENTS

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### London School of Economics

#### Visiting Fellow, Department of Government

2026-Present

#### Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (Lima, Peru)

#### Visiting Researcher

2022, 2023

- Collaborated with Peruvian economists and public policy experts to process and analyse data on municipal election competitiveness, electoral campaign dynamics, municipal spending efficiency, and infrastructural investment effectiveness in Lima.

## ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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#### Fellow, Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

Summer 2015

- Published six op-eds and five interviews conveying human rights issues for a public-facing audience.
- Drafted proposal for partnership with the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative to study the rehabilitation of child soldiers and the protection of educational facilities from Boko Haram in West Africa.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of Chicago

#### Introduction to Comparative Politics, Michael Albertus and Monika Nalepa

Spring 2021

- Led weekly discussion sections, graded assignments and exams, and provided feedback on student work.

#### Democratic Erosion, Susan Stokes

Fall 2020

- Coordinated with related courses at peer institutions to facilitate student engagement via interactive blogging and themed debates on WhatsApp.

## Introduction to Comparative Politics, Benjamin Lessing

Spring 2020

- Managed course administration, including student enrollment, accessibility needs, and online course portal (Canvas).

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bloomberg Center for Cities Urban Research Conference, Harvard University                    | 2025                   |
| Toronto-Montreal Political Behaviour Workshop                                                | 2024                   |
| American Political Science Association Conference                                            | 2019-2024              |
| <i>Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina</i> , Georgetown University | 2024                   |
| Midwestern Political Science Association Conference                                          | 2018, 2019, 2021, 2024 |
| American Political Science Association Virtual Research Meeting                              | 2024                   |
| Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Penn State                                  | 2024                   |
| Urban Politics in the Global South Workshop, University of California, Los Angeles           | 2023                   |
| Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago                                         | 2020, 2021, 2023       |
| <i>Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina</i> , Quito, Ecuador        | 2023                   |
| <i>Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE)</i> , Lima, Peru                             | 2023                   |
| Midwest Peace and Conflict Conference, University of Michigan                                | 2020                   |
| Criminal Governance in the Americas, University of Chicago                                   | 2019                   |
| Committee on International Relations Workshop, University of Chicago                         | 2018                   |
| Program on International Politics, Economics, and Security, University of Chicago            | 2017                   |

## SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

### Ph.D.

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Bienen Summer Research Award, Political Science, University of Chicago             | 2020, 2023 |
| Research Grant, Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts | 2022       |
| Urban Doctoral Fellow Grant, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation               | 2021       |
| Mellon Research Travel Fellowship, Center for Latin American Studies               | 2020       |
| Graduate Field Research Grant, Center for International Social Science Research    | 2020       |
| Research Grant, Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts | 2019       |

### M.A.

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| Marvin Zonis Second-Year Specialization Fellowship, Committee on International Relations | 2017 |
| Merit Scholarship, Committee on International Relations                                  | 2016 |

## FIELD WORK

### Peru, Chile, Argentina, Mexico

February-August 2023

- Collected data on spatial inequality and segregation, decentralisation, local elections, and municipal governance in Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, and Mexico City from national archives, think tanks, government ministries, statistical institutes, and libraries.
- Conducted over 40 English and Spanish interviews with academic, political, and government experts on urban governance to gain a context-specific and multi-disciplinary understanding of social and economic development challenges.

### Peru

January-February 2022

- Collected contemporary and archival data on urban land use, informal settlements, and policy approaches toward the urban poor in Lima during authoritarian regimes and democratic spells.

### Portugal

July 2019

- Led a research team in Lisbon, Coimbra, and Montemor-O-Novo to collect archival data on Portugal's land reform and military conscription during the country's transition to democracy in 1974.

### Portugal

February 2016

- Conducted interviews with government officials, business leaders (e.g., oil, banking, pharmaceutical), and academics in Lisbon to study global Lusophone regionalism and international political economy.

## OPINION AND BLOGS

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“When Redistribution Backfires Politically: Theory and Evidence from Land Reform in Portugal,” The Journal of Politics Blog, April 24, 2025.

“How Criminal Territories Impact Victimization in Latin America,” The Mantle, January 29, 2019.

## LANGUAGES, TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND SKILLS

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**Languages:** French (proficient reading/oral), Spanish (intermediate reading/oral).

**Coding and Programming:** R, Stata, QGIS, Geoda. Working knowledge of Python and SQL.

**Quantitative Methods:** data analysis, econometrics, causal inference, networks, spatial analytics.

University of Toronto: Quantitative and Statistical Methods in Economics, Applied Econometrics I/II.

University of Chicago: Spatial Data Analysis, Mathematical Foundations of Political Inquiry, Linear Models, Field Experiments in Public Policy, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Causal Inference.

**Qualitative Methods:** comparative analysis, measurement, case studies, interviews.

Summer Institute in International Survey Methods, Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), Vanderbilt University (June 17-27, 2024): sampling, modes, indices, weighting, experiments.

**Professional Skills:** project management, problem-solving, teamwork, effective under pressure.