

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
30 Wadsworth Street E53-470
Cambridge, MA 02142
✉ giannoni@mit.edu
www.matiassignoni.com

Matias Giannoni

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science (2017 - to date)

Fields: Political Economy; Models and Statistical Methods.

Dissertation title: “Frustrated Expectations: Firm-Based Origins of Anti-System Politics”

Committee: Ben Ross Schneider (chair), Volha Charnysh, Peter Hall, Kathleen Thelen

Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Master in Political Science (2014-2017)

Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

BA (Licenciatura) in Political Science and Government (2008–2012)

Medal of Honor - Highest GPA

Research Interests

Political economy; political behavior; causal inference; business and politics; urban labor markets and politics; Southern Europe; Latin America.

Book Project

My book project develops a firm-level theory for the rise of anti-system politics. I argue that explanations proposing economic changes as causes of anti-system politics, like globalization, trade, or skill-biased technological change, are incomplete if firms are ignored. I show that anti-system politics is a product of firm strategies. The key argument is that none of the traditional explanations of the rise of anti-system politics, dissatisfaction with democracy, and the populist backlash can be understood without looking at firms. I support this argument using original surveys, survey experiments and subnational analyses of massive administrative datasets in Italy and Brazil.

Working Papers

“The Politics of ‘Place’: Community and Individual Precarity in Anti-System and Right Populist Views in France.” (*Under review*).

“Who Benefits from Informality? Middle Classes and the Distributional Consequences of Informality.”

“Big Business and the Inequality Trap: Taxes, Collusion, and Undue Influence in Latin America.” (with Ben Ross Schneider).

Work in progress

“Voting Against the Chief: The Historical Roots of Contentious Politics in South Africa.” (with Rorisang Lekalake).

“When Opportunism Knocks: Political Parties and Land Occupations during COVID-19 in Argentina and South Africa.” (with Rorisang Lekalake).

“The Cycle of Protest and the Stability of Violence through Social Media Images: An Application of Convolutional Neural Networks to the Gilets Jaunes Acts.”

Teaching Experience

MIT - Teaching Assistant: 17.800 - Quantitative Research Methods I: Regression. Professor: Daniel Hidalgo. Fall 2019. (Graduate).

MIT - Teaching Assistant: 17.835 - Machine Learning and Data Science in Politics. Professor: In Song Kim. Spring 2020. (Undergraduate).

MIT - Instructor - Political Science Math Pre-fresher. Summer 2019 & Summer 2020. (Graduate).

Universidad Torcuato Di Tella - Teaching Assistant: Political Institutions and Government. Professor: Ana Maria Mustapic. 2014-2017. (Undergraduate).

Universidad Torcuato Di Tella - Teaching Assistant: Comparative Politics. Professor: Ana Maria Mustapic. 2014. (Undergraduate).

Grants & Fellowships

Krupp Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship - Harvard Center for European Studies - 2021

Travel grant - MaxPo-MPIfG PhD Seminar - 2019

Fieldwork seed grant - MIT's GOV/LAB - 2018

Luksic Fellowship - MIT Department of Political Science - 2017

Tuition Scholarship for Master's - Fundacion Universidad Torcuato Di Tella - 2014-2017

Tuition Scholarship for BA - Fundacion Universidad Torcuato Di Tella - 2008-2012

Conference Presentations

“Big Business and the Inequality Trap: Taxes, Collusion, and Undue Influence in Latin America” - REPAL Annual Meeting, June 30 - July 1, 2022.

“The Role of Firms in the Rise of Anti-System Politics ” - ECPR Annual Conference, August 22-26, 2022.

“Populism, Polarization and Social Democracy” - MaxPo-MPIfG PhD Seminar, Paris, May 21-23, 2019.

Professional Experience

Director of Military Attaches and Foreign Commissions - Ministry of Defense (Argentina). 2017.

Advisor on the Minister's team on urban labor policies and economic development - Ministry of Labour (Argentina). 2013-2015.

Skills

Software and computer languages

Python, R, SQL, Javascript, L^AT_EX, Stan, ArcGIS

Languages

Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), Italian (Advanced - C1), French (Intermediate - B1)