

MICHAEL AHN PAARLBERG

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
Virginia Commonwealth University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 2018 - present
Assistant professor of political science

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 2017 - 2018
Postdoctoral fellow, Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Bernie Sanders for President 2020 campaign 2019 - 2020
Chief foreign policy adviser for Latin America

Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, DC 2016 - present
Associate fellow

Organization of American States
Election monitor and coordinator (Brazil, El Salvador, Colombia) 2014 - present

The Guardian 2009 - 2019
Contributing op-ed writer, labor and immigration policy

Washington City Paper 2009 - 2019
Contributing writer and arts critic

Center for American Progress, Washington, DC 2008 - 2009
Consultant and researcher, American Worker Project

Service Employees International Union, Washington, DC 2003 - 2007
Research analyst, Health Systems Division

EDUCATION

Georgetown University, Washington, DC 2017
Ph.D., Political Science
Dissertation: *Diaspora Outreach by Latin American Parties*

M.P.P., Public Policy 2009
Thesis: *Labor Policy in New Democracies*

Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts 2002
B.A., Political Science with honors

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“Sanctuary Policies and the Influence of Local Demographics and Partnership.” with Benjamin Gonzalez O’Brien and Loren Collingwood. Forthcoming in *Urban Affairs Review* (2023)

“Transnational Gangs and Criminal Remittances: A Conceptual Framework.” *Comparative Migration Studies* Vol. 10, no. 24 (2022)

“Turcos and Chilestinos: Latin American Palestinian Diaspora Nationalism in a Comparative Context.” In Alkazemi, Mariam, and C. E. Youakim, eds. *Arab Worlds Beyond the Middle East and North Africa*. Lexington (2021)

“Hometown Associations and Parties as Vehicles for Mexican Electoral Campaigns in the US.” *Representation* (2020)

“Anti-Party Skew and Variation in Diaspora Outreach by Mexican Parties.” In Kernalegenn, Tudi and Emilie van Haute, eds. *Political Parties Abroad: A New Arena for Party Politics*. Routledge (2020)

“Competing for the Diaspora’s Influence at Home: Party Structure and Transnational Campaign Activity in Latin America.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* Vol. 45, no. 4 (2019)

“Transnational Militancy: Diaspora Influence over Electoral Activity in Latin America.” *Comparative Politics* Vol. 49, no. 4 (2017)

- *Honorable mention, best journal article, American Political Science Association Migration and Citizenship section 2018*

“Day Laborers and Low-Wage Immigrant Workers.” In Huerta, Iglesias-Prieto, and Brown, eds. *Contemporary Issues for People of Color in the U.S. Today: Immigration*. Greenwood (2016)

BOOK PROJECT *Diaspora Democracy: Migrants, Parties, and Transnational Elections from Latin America to the U.S.* under revise & resubmit

Summaries in media:

“Mexico’s Diaspora Electorate.” [The Wilson Center, Mexico Institute](#) May 15, 2018

“Cómo se corteja el voto de la diáspora salvadoreña.” [El Faro](#) May 29, 2018

WORKING PAPERS “The Prior Socialization of Mexican Immigrants and their Political Participation in the United States.” with Michael Jones-Correa

“Much Ado About Nothing? Local Immigration Policy and the MS-13 ‘Threat.’” with Loren Collingwood

“Why Do Emigrants Vote? Evidence from a Transnational Voter Mobilization Experiment.” with Elizabeth Iams Wellman

“Cross-party Transnational Voting in the Turkish Diaspora.” with Gulcan Saglam.

BOOK REVIEWS “Migration and Democracy: How Remittances Undermine Dictatorships.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics* 2022

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS “The Emerging Gang State in El Salvador.” *Global Americans* 2022

“Gang Membership in Central America: More Complex Than Meets the Eye.” *Migration Policy Institute* 2021

“EEUU, una presidencia pandémica en un año de elecciones.” *Barcelona Centre for International Affairs Anuario Internacional* 2020

Agricultural Cooperatives: Opportunities and Challenges for African American Women in the South, Institute for Policy Studies 2018

“New York’s Experience after the Tipped Minimum Wage Increase,” with Teófilo L. Reyes, Institute for Policy Studies and Restaurant Opportunities Centers United 2018

The Human Trafficking of Domestic Workers in the United States. with Sameera Hafiz, Institute for Policy Studies and National Domestic Workers Alliance 2017

Unpredictable, Unsustainable: The Impact of Employers' Scheduling Practices in D.C.. With Ari Schwartz, Michael Wasser, and Merrit Gillard, DC Jobs with Justice 2015

Making Contracting Work for the United States. with David Madland, Center for American Progress 2008

COURSES TAUGHT **Virginia Commonwealth University:** Assistant professor 2018 - present
Political Science 109: Comparative Politics
Political Science 320: Research Methods
Political Science 353: Latin American Politics and Government
Political Science 391: Politics of Immigration

Georgetown University: Instructor 2012
Government 340: Latin America's Turn to the Left

Georgetown University School of Foreign Service: Teaching assistant 2009 - 2011
Masters of Science in Foreign Service 527: Statistical and Analytical Skills
International Politics 320: Quantitative Methods for International Politics

SELECTED OP-EDS "Latin America's Pink Tide Is an Opportunity for Washington." [Foreign Policy](#) Nov. 11, 2022.

"Why El Salvador's Mass Arrests Won't Lower the Murder Rate." [The Washington Post](#) July 11, 2022.

"Why Is America Cooperating with Militaries Running Criminal Rackets?" [Foreign Policy](#) Aug. 3, 2021.

"Want to Counter Authoritarianism in Central America? Follow the Money." [Foreign Policy](#) June 21, 2021.

"The US Approach to El Salvador's Authoritarianism Must Be Bold." [Univision](#) May 10, 2021.

"The Elections in El Salvador Could Make or Break Biden's Central America Policy." [The Washington Post](#) Feb. 25, 2021.

"China was already winning over the US's neighbors. Trump's COVID-19 response just makes Beijing's job easier." [Business Insider](#) Aug. 27, 2020.

"El Salvador's President Sent Troops to Occupy the Legislature. Here's What's Going On." [The Washington Post](#) Feb. 17, 2020

"It's Not Just a Coup: Bolivia's Democracy Is in Meltdown" [The Washington Post](#) Nov. 13, 2019

"Paying Tipped Workers Better Wouldn't Lead to Fewer Restaurant Jobs" [The Washington Post](#) Jan. 16, 2018

"Don't Believe the Trump Admin: MS-13 Is Not Ravaging the U.S." [The Washington Post](#) Oct. 11, 2017

**SELECTED MEDIA
APPEARANCES**

“The Pinochet Myth is Alive and Well Among Pundits Who Write About Egypt” [The New Republic](#) Mar. 2, 2014

“A Recent Study Says Unionized Companies Actually Pay Less. The Truth Is a Bit More Complex.” [In These Times](#) Feb. 19, 2015

“Amid Surge in Migrants to US, Where Are They Coming From?” [Miami Herald](#) Sept. 21, 2022.

“Chaos Rules.” [Frank News](#) May 17, 2022.

“The 10,000 Ukrainians Just Processed at the Border Show the US Government Can Do Better.” [Mother Jones](#) Apr. 14, 2022.

“Why Kamala Harris’ Cozy Relationship with Corporations Is Worrying.” [MSNBC](#) Dec. 30, 2021.

“Análisis sobre El Salvador y los efectos de la presidencia de Nayib Bukele.” [IQ Latino](#) Nov. 12, 2021.

“Postura de Bukele ante la Lista Engel podría provocar más sanciones.” [La Prensa Gráfica](#) July 3, 2021.

“Las relaciones entre EEUU y El Salvador son las peores desde la guerra civil.” [El Mundo](#) May 21, 2021.

“Pandemic Spending Immunity Deepens El Salvador Corruption Concerns.” [Insight Crime](#) May 10, 2021.

“In El Salvador a New Security Minister with a Dubious Past.” [Insight Crime](#) Apr. 2, 2021.

“Ulloa usa lobista para protestar por artículo.” [La Prensa Gráfica](#) Mar. 3, 2021.

“Los congresistas que envían cartas a Bukele tienen más poder de lo que él admite.” [El Faro](#) Feb. 10, 2021.

“Bernie’s Approach to Latin America’s Socialist Leaders Wouldn’t Be That Radical.” [Huffington Post](#) March 17, 2020.

“Migration Likely to Top Agenda When Trump Meets El Salvador’s Bukele.” [New York Times](#) Sept. 25, 2019.

“New Study Shows NY Restaurant Jobs Increase Despite Tipped Minimum Wage Hike.” [Eater](#) Nov. 20, 2018

“A New Economic Model for the South: Ditch Corporate Welfare and Fund Agricultural Co-ops.” [In These Times](#) Nov. 16, 2018

“Adios al mito: Pinochet no mejoró la economía chilena.” [La República](#) (Peru) Sept. 22, 2018

“Académico estadounidense derrumba el mito de que Pinochet mejoró la economía chilena.” [CNN Chile](#) Sept. 13, 2018

“Is Raising Wages for Tipped Workers Worth It?” [US News and World Report](#) June 21,

2018

“SCOTUS Hears Arguments in Case That Could Upend Unions.” [KPFK Los Angeles, KPFA Berkeley, & Free Speech TV](#) June 22, 2018

Debate: Child migrant detentions. Sky News (UK) June 18, 2018

“MS-13 gang brutality grabs headlines while its influence in Houston and the U.S. may be waning.” [Houston Chronicle](#) Jan. 5, 2018

“The Gangs of Nantucket: Fear and Politics.” [WGBH Boston](#) Nov. 15, 2017

“Comienza la era Trump.” [Telam](#) (Argentina) Jan. 20, 2017

“La Cuba americana di Marco.” [Radiotelevisione Svizzera Italiana](#) (Switzerland) Mar. 15, 2016

INVITED LECTURES

“El Salvador: Democratic Challenges in an Emerging One-Party State.” University of Nevada Las Vegas Sept. 22, 2021.

“Campaigning Abroad: Transnational Elections and Diaspora Influence in Latin America.” Boston University, Boston, MA. Mar. 22, 2018

“Campaigning Abroad: Transnational Elections and Diaspora Influence in Latin America.” Amherst College, Amherst, MA. Mar. 20, 2018

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Data Driven Approaches to Global Conflict.” Hosted by State Department Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Alliance for Peacebuilding, and VCU Political Science, Richmond 2022

“MS-13 and the Criminalization of Central American Migration.” Southern Political Science Association annual meeting, San Juan 2020

“Local Immigration Policy and the MS-13 ‘Threat’” (with Loren Collingwood). American Political Science Association annual meeting, Washington, DC 2019

“Transnational Remittances of Organized Crime from Migrant-Receiving to Migrant-Sending States: The Cases of MS-13 and Satudarah.” International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion annual conference, Malmö 2019

“Latin American Asylum in the US: Expert Witnessing in the Age of Trump.” Latin American Studies Association, Boston 2019

“The Transnationalization of Migrant Gangs.” International Conference of Europeanists, Madrid 2019

“The Prior Socialization of Immigrants and Their Political Participation in the United States” (with Michael Jones-Correa). American Political Science Association annual meeting, Boston 2018

“Transnational Campaigning within a Skewed Diaspora: Mexican Parties in the U.S.” Latin American Studies Association annual congress, Barcelona 2018

“Partisan Skew and Infrastructure: Historical Legacies of Migration on Diaspora Outreach by Latin American Parties.” Political Parties Abroad: A New Arena for Citizenship? conference, Université Catholique de Louvain 2018

“Emigrant Engagement in Homeland Elections: A Survey of the Dominican Diaspora Electorate in New York” (with Elizabeth I. Wellman). International Studies Association annual conference, Baltimore 2017

“Partisan Consensus and Diaspora Electoral Participation: A Case Study of the Dominican Republic.” Advances in the Comparative Study of Emigrant Policies workshop, German Institute of Global and Area Studies Hamburg 2016

“Diaspora Outreach and Anti-Party Sentiment in Mexico.” Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago 2016

“Party Motivations for Diaspora Campaigning: A Case Study of El Salvador.” Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago 2015

“Diaspora Influence over Voter Preference in Latin America.” Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago 2014

“Diaspora Partisan Political Strategies in El Salvador and Latin America.” International Political Science Association world congress, Madrid 2012

**GRANTS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Georgetown University: Jill Hopper Memorial Fellowship, Herbert Roback scholarship, US Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarship, Korean American Scholarship Foundation fellowship

**PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE**

Expert witness in hearings for asylum seekers on Latin America security conditions

Faculty sponsor, VCU UndocuRams

Program co-chair, APSA 2020, Migration and Citizenship section

Council member, LASA Expert Witness section

Associate editor, *Frontiers in Political Science*

Reviewer, *Journal of Politics*, *World Development*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Journal of Latin American Geography*, *Migration Studies*, *Journal of International Migration and Integration*

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish (fluent), Portuguese (intermediate), Korean (basic)

SOFTWARE

SAS, Stata, SPSS, R, LaTeX