

# SOFIA BREITENSTEIN

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## APPOINTMENTS

- Since 2024 Postdoctoral fellow at IBEI within the project Bridging the Gaps in Evidence, Regulation and Impact of Anticorruption Policies (BRIDGEGAP)
- 2022- 2024 Juan de la Cierva postdoctoral fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Barcelona
- 2022 - 2024 Researcher at Institution and Political Economy research group (IPERG), University of Barcelona
- 2021 Maternity leave (October 2020 – October 2021)
- 2014 - 2022 Researcher at research group Democracy, Elections and Citizenship (DEC) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona

## EDUCATION AND VISITINGS

- 2024 Feb-April (2 months), visiting fellow at the School of Government and International Relations of the Griffith University, Brisbane
- 2020 PhD in Politics, Policies and International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona
- Dissertation with distinction Cum Laude, International PhD and extraordinary doctorate award “Attitudes towards corruption and their consequences on political behavior”
  - Committee: Catherine E. De Vries (Bocconi University), Sandra León (Universidad Carlos III) and Pablo Fernández-Vázquez (Universidad Carlos III)
- 2018 Feb-May (3 months), Visiting fellow at the Department of Political Science of the University of Gothenburg
- 2017 June (1 month), visiting fellow with the NASP network at different Italian universities (University of Padova, University of Milan and Collegio Carlo Alberto)
- 2014 Master’s degree in Political Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Final grade: 9,2/10)
- 2012 Bachelor’s degree in Sociology, University of Copenhagen (1 year Erasmus)
- 2011 Bachelor’s degree in Sociology (licenciatura), University of Barcelona

## PUBLICATIONS

Breitenstein S, Hernández E. (2024) "Too Crooked to be Good? Trade-offs in the Electoral Punishment of Malfeasance and Corruption". *European Political Science Review*. Published online 2024:1-19. doi:10.1017/S175577392400016X

- Impact factor JCR: 2.7. Q1 Political Science. Rank: 56/317

Breitenstein S, Kenny, J., Stiers, D., Larner, J., Lewis-Beck, M. (2024) "The Authentic A\*\*hole: The causal linkages between politicians' consistency, authenticity and the vote". *Polity*. Forthcoming

- Impact factor JCR: 0.96. Q3. Political Science. Rank: 185/317

Breitenstein, S., Anduiza, E., & Muñoz, J. (2022). "Do They Really Care? Social Desirability Bias in Attitudes towards Corruption." *Research & Politics* 9(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680221141754>

- Impact factor JCR: 2.7. Q1 Political Science. Rank: 58/187
- Citations Google scholar: 2.

This is the first paper to empirically assess the social desirability argument regarding voting for corrupt politicians. Exploiting a list experiment, it shows that the great majority of respondents report intentions to electorally punish allegedly corrupt candidates even when asked in an unobtrusive way. We discuss the implications of this finding for the limited electoral accountability of corruption.

Stiers, D., Larner, J., Kenny, J., Breitenstein, S., Vallée-Dubois, F., & Lewis-Beck, M. (2021). "Candidate Authenticity: 'To Thine Own Self Be True.'" *Political Behavior* 43(3): 1181–1204. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-019-09589-y>

- Impact factor JCR: 4.60. Q1 Political Science. Rank: 18/188
- Citations Google scholar: 49.

This study is one of the pioneering empirical investigations into politicians' authenticity. We discuss theoretically the different dimensions that constitute an authentic politician and test a survey battery designed to measure perceptions of the authenticity of political candidates. Our research reveals that perceptions of politicians' authenticity strongly correlate with evaluations of political parties and leaders, as well as vote intention, while remaining empirically distinct from other traits. This paper is likely to have a long-standing impact as it is the first to provide an authenticity index.

Breitenstein, S. (2019). Choosing the crook: A conjoint experiment on voting for corrupt politicians. *Research & Politics*, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168019832230>

- Impact Factor SJR: 3.141. Q2. Rank: 49/183
- Google scholar: 64.

This paper is the first conjoint experiment published to assesses citizens' decision-making when confronted with information about corruption. It provides compelling evidence for the relative importance of corruption when casting a vote and the mitigating effects of other valued candidate characteristics. Even when obtaining highly credible information, partisanship determines the vote to the same extent as corruption.

Utilizing an innovative methodology, it had a significant impact in its field. It has been cited in journals such as *APSR* (x2), *BJPS* (x2), *WEPS* and *Acta Politica*.

Ares, M., Breitenstein, S., & Hernández, E. (2019)., "The Political Consequences of Corruption Scandals: Main Findings and Challenges" in H Tumber and S Waisbord (Eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Media and Scandal*. ISBN 9780815387596

- Citations Google scholar: 7

This chapter focuses on the political consequences of corruption scandals. There is an increasing number of studies that analyze the political consequences of corruption on citizens' political attitudes and behavior. Through a critical review of the most relevant literature on this matter, this chapter elaborates on some of the reasons why citizens might not punish politicians involved in corruption scandals.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Breitenstein, S., Rodon, T., & Rimbau, G. "Unveiling place-based identities: Exploring rural-urban consciousness and stereotypes".

- Under review in *Electoral Studies*

Ares, M., Breitenstein, S., & Hernández, E., "Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption"

- Under review in *Comparative Political Studies*

Rodon, T., Breitenstein, S., & Rimbau, G. "The big geographic sort? The role of ideology and social capital in a multi-party context"

- Under review in *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*

Hierro, M.J., Breitenstein, S., Anduiza, E., Galais, C., & Marinova, D., "Double standards: discrimination in scientific collaboration"

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Extraordinary doctorate award for the PhD thesis, awarded by the Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2019- 2020

PhD thesis short listed for the ECPR Jean Blondel PhD Prize for the best dissertation, 2021

PhD thesis with distinction Cum Laude "Attitudes towards corruption and their consequences on political behavior", 2020

AECA prize for best book chapter "The Political Consequences of Corruption Scandals: Main Findings and Challenges" (with Macarena Ares and Enrique Hernández), 2022

AECA prize for the best presentation "Looking the other way? Selective information exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption" (with Macarena Ares and Enrique Hernández), 2024

Master's Thesis with Honors (highest mark reserved for the best 5%)

*"The effect of public sector wages on corruption: Evidence from a within country analysis"*, 2014

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Juan de la Cierva formación, postdoctoral scholarship (FJC2020-045084-I), funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain, 52600€, 2020

NASP scholarship for Young Investigator Training Program in Political Studies, 3000€, 2017

FPI Pre-doctoral scholarship (BES-2015-072756), funded by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness of Spain, 100 000€, 2016

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Center for Governance and Public Policy research seminar, Griffith University, March 2024 *Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption*

Inaugural speech in PhD program in Politics, Policies and International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona, November 2023

IPERG seminar, University of Barcelona, January 2023, *Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption*

Seminar about the “The Academic Career” in Master in Institutions and Political Economy, University of Barcelona, January 2022

## PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

EPSA General Conference, Glasgow, June 2023 *“Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption”* (with Macarena Ares and [Enrique Hernández](#))

MPSA General Conference, Chicago, April 2023, *“Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption”* (with Macarena Ares and Enrique Hernández)

MPSA General Conference, Chicago, April 2023, *“The Authentic A\*\*hole: The causal linkages between politicians' consistency, authenticity and the vote”*. (With Michael S. Lewis-Beck, John Kenny, Dieter Stiers and Jac Larner)

WAPOR Annual Conference, Online, November 2021, *Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption* (with Macarena Ares and Enrique Hernández)

EPSA General Conference, Online, June 2021 *Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption* (with [Macarena Ares](#) and Enrique Hernández)

Workshop on Corruption, Manipulation and Accountability, Universitat de Barcelona, December 2019 *Too crooked to be good? Dilemmas and the Punishment of Corrupt Politicians* (with Enrique Hernández)

PhD Workshop on Empirical Political Science, Universidad de Barcelona, December 2019, *Too crooked to be good? Dilemmas and the Punishment of Corrupt Politicians* (with Enrique Hernández)

APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, September 2019, *Candidate's Authenticity: Measures and Consequences* (with Michael S. Lewis-Beck, [John Kenny](#), Dieter Stiers, Jac Larner, and Florence Vallée-Dubois)

International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting, Lisbon, July 2019, *Candidate's Authenticity: Measures and Consequences* (with Michael S. Lewis-Beck, John Kenny, Dieter Stiers, Jac Larner, and Florence Vallée-Dubois)

EPSA General Conference, Belfast, June 2019, *Too crooked to be good? Dilemmas and the Punishment of Corrupt Politicians* (with Enrique Hernández)

MPSA General Conference, Chicago, April 2019, *Too crooked to be good? Dilemmas and the Punishment of Corrupt Politicians* (with Enrique Hernández)

ECPR General Conference, Hamburg, August 2018, *Efficient but Crooked? Dilemmas and the Punishment of Corrupt Politicians* (with Enrique Hernández)

EPSA General Conference, Milan, June 2017, *Choosing the crook: A conjoint experiment to assess under what conditions voters support corrupt candidates*

ECPR General Conference, Prague, September 2016, *Choosing the crook: A conjoint experiment to assess under what conditions voters support corrupt candidates*

International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences (IMEBESS), Rome, April, *Economic Considerations in the Electoral Punishment of Corruption*

## **SUMMER SCHOOLS AND OTHER TRAININGS**

Bayesian inference for Hierarchical/Multilevel Modelling, University of Barcelona, 30 January – 3 February, 2023

ESS workshop on Designing Mixed Mode Surveys, online 16 - 17 de November 2022

International Society of Political Psychology Summer Academy, Lisbon 9-11 July 2019

Course on Panel Data analysis, taught by Anja Neundorf, UAB 29-31 of May 2018

Course in Advanced Regression Techniques at the University of Gothenburg, 2 February 26 of March 2018. Responsible of the course Stefan Dahlberg.

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Summer Institute, Turin 24 June- 08 July 2017

Methods of Modern Causal Analysis Based on Observational Data, ECPR Winter School, Bamberg 6-10 March 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> Leuven-Montréal Winter School on Elections, Leuven 26 February- 5 March 2017

Course in Advanced Regression and Multilevel analysis, UAB, Barcelona 25-29 July 2016

Course in Survey Experiments taught by Thomas J. Leeper at Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology UPF, Barcelona 4-8 July 2016

Course in Data Analysis with R, UAB, Barcelona 6-9 June 2016

Training workshop in claims analysis taught by Maria Kousis at University of Crete, Crete 18-19 September 2015

Designing Conducting and Analyzing Field Experiments taught by Professor Donald P. Green at Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology, Barcelona 5-6 March 2015

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Introduction to Research  
  
PhD in Politics, Policies and International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona  
Autum 2024  
Taught in English
  
- Electoral Analysis  
  
Bachelor's degree in political science, University of Barcelona,  
spring 2023  
Three credits, Taught in English
  
- Workshop on Survey Experiments for the Dynamics Research Group  
  
PhD and posterior formation, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Hertie School  
November 2021  
Taught in English
  
- RECSM Winter Methods School: Experiments in the Study of Public Opinion  
  
PhD and posterior formation, University Pompeu Fabra  
February 2021  
With Luis Miller and Amalia Álvarez, taught in English
  
- Causal inference in experimental Political Science  
  
Seminar at the master's in political science, Autonomous University of Barcelona  
December 2018, 2019 and 2023  
Taught in English
  
- Researching Corruption  
  
Seminar in bachelor's degree in political science, Autonomous University of Barcelona  
March 2019  
Taught in Catalan
  
- Teaching assistant: Methodologies for Political Science, Spanish Politics, Politics and Contemporary World  
  
Bachelor's degree in political science, Autonomous University of Barcelona  
2015- 2020  
Taught in Catalan

## MENTORING

Supervision of bachelor's degree in political science final thesis (TFG), Júlia Díaz-Portales, February – June, 2023, University of Barcelona

Supervision of bachelor's degree in political science final thesis (TFG), Oriol Martínez Domínguez, February – June, 2023, University of Barcelona

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

### *As principal investigator*

“Setè fòrum interdisciplinari de corrupció (ICRN forum)”, Ajuntament de Barcelona 5.362€. (PI Sofia Breitenstein).

### *As member of the research team*

“BridgeGap: Bridging the Gaps in Evidence, Regulation and Impact of Anticorruption Policies”, Horizon Europe. 5.730.000€. From January 2024 to December 2027. (PI Alina Mungiu-Pippid, LUISS)

“WHAT-IF: Exploring the World of Future Technology: Anticipating, Learning, and Applying Insights for Social Innovation”, Horizon Europe. €2,497,920. (PI Wouter van Atteveldt, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

“Compromise: You win some, you lose some: building policy compromise in polarized democracies”  
Reference number: PID2022-137516NA-I00. Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation. From April, 2022 to March 31, 2025. 112.500,00€ (PI Macarena Ares, UB)

“Geography, polarization and the rural-urban divide in the XXI century”, Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, 55.055€. (PI Antoni Rodon, UPF)

“Looking the other way? Selective media exposure and the electoral punishment of corruption”, Observatorio Social de la Caixa (PI Enrique Hernández, UAB), 11601€

“Political Change in Spain: Populism, Feminism and new dimensions of conflict”, FEDER/Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades CSO2017-83086-R. From January 2018 to December 2020, 105.270€ (PI Guillem Rico and Eva Anduiza, UAB)

“Politician’s Authenticity: conceptualization, measurement and its political consequences” (PI Michael S. Lewis-Beck, University of Iowa)

“Living with hard times: How European citizens deal with economic crises and their social and political consequences”, EU 7th Framework Program grant FP7-SSH- 613237, EU, from November 2013 to October 2016, 2.499.623€ (PI Marco Giugni, Université de Genève)

“LIMCOR: Limits on political corruption: the media, the system of political parties, civil society and citizens”, Recercaixa grant, 96.930€ (PI Pilar Sorribas Navarro, UB)

“Populist attitudes in Spanish public opinion”, Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness grant CSO2014-52950-R, from 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2017, 75.000€ (PI Eva Anduiza and Guillem Rico, UAB)

## OUTREACH

Politskandale ohne Konsequenzen: Ist uns Korruption egal?, Der Standard, 06/04/2024

Votar al corrupto o la lógica electoral que (casi) nadie entiende, ABC, 25/06/2023

Així és el perfil dels votants de cada partit a les municipals de Barcelona, interview on newscast of TV3, 04/06/2023

Així és el perfil dels votants de cada partit a les municipals de Barcelona, article on 3/24, 30/05/2023

El bajo coste de la corrupción, La Vanguardia, 07/08/2021

¿Por qué no se castiga electoralmente la corrupción?, (with Macarena Ares and Enrique Hernández) Informes la Caixa, 08/2021

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Organizer of the BridgeGap conference on Historical Cross-Border Corruption, IBEI, October 2024, with 30 participants from 25 countries

Founder of Women in Political Science network in Barcelona (WOPS)

Lead organizer of the 7th Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum, University of Barcelona, June 2023, with 40 participants from 30 countries

Organization of Roundtable discussion: What questions on anti/corruption are of TOP policy relevance today and which ones are outdated? With Lara Baena (Oficina Antifrau de Catalunya) Simona Levi (anti-corruption activist and founder of Xnet) and Branislav Radeljic (United Arab Emirates University), June 2023, University of Barcelona

Co-organizer of seminar on “Spanish accreditation system” with Eva Anduiza and Laura Chaqués-Bonafont, Autonomous University of Barcelona, November 2023

Organizer of seminar on “Female Academic Career” with Aina Gallego and Fulya Apaydin, University of Barcelona, February 2022

Chair of “Political consequences of corruption” panel at AECPA conference, September 2022

Moderator of roundtable about Corruption in the course Strategic Direction in Public Management and Policies in Citizen Security, IBEI, September 2023

Member of the tribunal of Master in Institutions and Political Economy Thesis Defense, June 2023, University of Barcelona, June 2023

Member of the tribunal of Master Political Analysis and Institutional Consulting, June 2023, University of Barcelona, July 2023

Manuscript reviewer for: American Political Sciences Review (x3), The Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Science (x2), British Journal of Political Science (x2), Public Opinion Quarterly, Governance (x2), Electoral Studies (x3), Research and Politics and European Journal of Political Research

Discussant at: DEC seminar (UAB), PhD workshop on empirical Political Science, MPSA General Conference, PhD seminar at UAB

Participation in accreditation hearing of the PhD in Politics, Policies and International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona

Participation in accreditation hearing of the master’s in political science, Autonomous University of Barcelona

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

English proficiency  
Spanish native  
German native  
Catalan native  
French beginner

## OTHER SKILLS

STATA user level  
Qualtrics advanced  
R basic

## REFERENCES

Eva Anduiza  
Michael Lewis-Beck  
Jordi Muñoz

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