Madeleine Inez Stevens

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Tecnológico de Monterrey
Av. Eugenio Garza Sada 2501
Col. Tecnológico C.P. 64700
Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico

mistevens@tec.mx
madeleine.inez.stevens@gmail.com
www.madeleine-stevens.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

El Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico
Assistant Research Professor, Political Science and International Relations August 2025-present

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science 2025
Dissertation: Weaponizing Uncertainty: The Politics of Disappearance in Latin America
American Political Science Association Human Rights Section Best Dissertation Award 2026
Committee: Paul Staniland (chair), Austin Carson, Susan Stokes, Benjamin Lessing
Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations
Certificates in College Teaching, Human Rights, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies 2025
Master of Arts in Political Science 2021

University of Chicago, Master of Arts in Social Science 2017

University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts *summa cum laude* 2015
Communication and Public Service (honors) with a minor in Political Science
Benjamin Franklin Scholar 2011-2015
Phi Beta Kappa 2014; Dean's List 2011-2015; Charles Morris Price Prize 2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political violence and its legacies, covert action, human rights, repression, counterinsurgency, Latin America, qualitative methods, research ethics.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book project:

Weaponizing Uncertainty: The Politics of Disappearance in Latin America

Why do states and armed groups perpetrate disappearances? Existing research explains enforced disappearance as a tactic used to evade blame for violence against civilians, but blame often comes even to those whose victims vanish. In my book project, I address why armed organizations use the tactic when it is often not effective for avoiding blame. I show that, through disappearances, armed organizations send information about their political projects to internal and external audiences using qualitative historical evidence from three late 20th century Latin American cases: Argentina, Mexico, and Colombia.

Working papers:

When Absence is the Spectacle: Enforced Disappearance as Violent Communication
Subversives and Delinquents: The Rhetoric of Disappearance in Latin America
Disappearances, Distrust, and Demobilization: A Survey Experiment in Colombia and Mexico (PAP)
with Ana Paula Pellegrino

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

External

2026

Best Dissertation Award, American Political Science Association (APSA) Human Rights Section.

2025

Steven C. Poe Best Graduate Student Paper Award, International Studies Association (ISA) Human Rights Section (for paper presented at ISA 2024).

2024

Harry F. Guggenheim Emerging Scholar Award, Harry F. Guggenheim Foundation *($25,000)*.

2023

USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar Fellowship, United States Institute of Peace *($20,000)*.

Tecnológico de Monterrey

2026

Faculty Research and Development Support Grant.

University of Chicago

2025

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (*$5,000; with Ana Paula Pellegrino*).
The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Grant (*$2,439*).

2024

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (*$10,000*).
Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Division of the Social Sciences (declined; *$5,000*).
Pozen Doctoral Fellowship, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (*$3,000*).
Dissertation Support Fellowship, Center for International Social Science Research (*$5,000*).

2023

Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph Field Research Award, Center for International Social Science Research (*$4,981*).
The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (*$10,000*).

2022

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (*$10,000*).
The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Research Grant (*$5,000*).
The Center for Latin American Studies Mellon Research Travel Fellowship (*$5,000*).

2021

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (*$8,457*).
Grodzins Prize Lectureship (*$6,000*).

2020

The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Research Grant (*$5,000*).
The Center for Latin American Studies Mellon Research Travel Fellowship (*$5,000*).
Department of Political Science Bienen Summer Research Award (*$1,800*).

2019

The Center for Latin American Studies Tinker Field Research Grant (*$4,200*).

SELECT PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting: 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025
El Congreso La Triada: 2025
International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting: 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
Latin American Peace Science Society (LAPSS) Annual Conference: 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Congress: 2024, 2026
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting: 2025, 2026
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference: 2025
Tecnológico de Monterrey Annual Political Science Conference: 2025, 2026

INVITED TALKS

"Argentina's Last Dictatorship," Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, 2024.

LANGUAGES

Spanish – advanced proficiency (high pass on the University of Chicago's proficiency exam, 2025)
French – reading proficiency

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tecnológico de Monterrey

Design and Implementation of Public Innovations (Fall 2026; senior thesis class)
Global Challenges in International Relations (Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026)
Introduction to Social Sciences (Fall 2025)

University of Chicago

Instructor of Record

Individuals, Communities, and Conflict (Spring 2022)

- Grodzins Prize Lectureship
- Original seminar course

Teaching Assistantships

The Practice of Social Science Research (Fall 2022)
Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2021)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2021)
Revolution, Dictatorship, & Violence in Modern Latin American History (Winter 2020)

SERVICE

Chandra Sriram Human Rights Section Global South Travel Award Committee, ISA 2026-2027
Steven C. Poe Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, ISA 2025-2026
Co-organizer, "Criminal States, State Criminals" Conference within a Conference, MPSA 2024-2025
Organizer, Political Violence Working Group, University of Chicago 2023-2025
Discussant
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference 2025
Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago 2020, 2021, 2024, 2025
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2023
Student Representative, Political Science 2019-2021
Dean's Advisory Council, University of Chicago
Reviewer
International Studies Quarterly; American Political Science Review

FIELDWORK

Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research June 2023

I completed the modules "Process Tracing and Bayesian Reasoning," "Interpretation and History," and "Ethnographic Methods." I was one of fifteen people selected from the general open applicant pool to attend the institute.

Advancing Research on Conflict Consortium Summer Program September 2022

I attended the 2022 edition of the ARC Consortium Summer Program, which is "a week-long residential training for Political Science and International Studies Ph.D. students preparing for research in fragile and violence-affected settings. The course includes rigorous instruction in the practical design and implementation of qualitative and quantitative field methods, intensive discussion of research ethics, and conversations with experts in trauma and psychology. Students also receive training in first aid, data protection and management, risk assessment, and managing IRB protocols."

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Midwest Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Professor Paul Staniland
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago

Professor Austin Carson
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago

Professor Susan Stokes
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago

Professor Benjamin Lessing
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago