

Maria J. Ovalle

moval011@fiu.edu

EDUCATION

Florida International University

Miami, FL

Ph.D. Political Science

Expected Summer, 2026

- Research Interests: Latino political behavior, political communication, immigration policy attitudes, survey research.
- Dissertation: *“Latino Conversations: How Social Networks and Interactions Shape Latino Immigration Attitudes.”*
- Advisor: Dr. Eduardo Gamarra

M.A. Political Science

Fall, 2023

Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana

Medellin, Colombia

B.A. Political Science

Fall, 2020

EXTERNAL METHODS TRAINING

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program for Quantitative Methods (ICPSR). University of Michigan, Summer 2024

AWARDS AND HONORS

John A. Garcia Scholarship Recipient

Society for Political Methodology, 2024

- Used to attend the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Summer Program in Quantitative Methods at the University of Michigan.

Kevin A. Hill Research Travel Scholarship Recipient

Florida International University, 2024

- Department of Political Science

Best Teaching Assistant Award

Florida International University, 2023

- Department of Political Science

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Casas, D & **Ovalle, M** (In progress) “Transnational Voting Patterns of Colombian and Ecuadorians living overseas.” To be submitted for publication Fall 2025.
- **Ovalle, M** & Quinn, G (In progress) “Challenging the Narrative: Latino Voting in Presidential Elections.” To be submitted for publication Fall 2025.
- **Ovalle, M.** (In progress) “Navigating Opposing Views: How Interpersonal Disagreement Shapes Immigration Attitudes among Latino Voters.” To be submitted for publication Spring 2026.
- **Ovalle, M.** (In progress) “Shared Identity, Framing, and Immigration Opinion Formation among Latinos.” Article manuscript in progress. To be submitted for publication Spring 2026.

- **Ovalle, M** (In progress). “Latino Political Discussions: How Patterns of Issue Contestation Shape Immigration Attitudes Among Latino Voters.” To be submitted for publication Spring 2026.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American Government

Florida International University

Fall, 2025

Summer, 2025

Latino Politics

Florida International University

Spring, 2025

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Latino Public Opinion Forum

Florida International University

Fall 2023-Present

- Working on survey design, analysis, and question translation to Spanish

International Protection Program (PPI)

Universidad de Antioquia/ACNUR

Summer 2020-Spring 2021

- Research focused on identifying legislative shortcomings for the Venezuelan immigration crisis that took place in Colombia

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana

Fall 2018-Fall 2020

- Conducted qualitative research on reintegration programs in Colombia, examining the historical political factors of the Colombian civil conflict and the resulting institutional developments.

PRESENTATIONS

Ovalle, M (2025). Latino Political Discussions: How Patterns of Issue Contestation Shape Immigration Attitudes Among Latino Voters.

- Paper presentation delivered at the American Political Science Association (APSA), Annual Meeting, Vancouver Canada, September 2025.

Ovalle, M. & Quinn, G (2025). Challenging the Narrative: Latino Voting in Presidential Elections.

- Paper presentation delivered at the Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC), Boulder CO, September 2025
- Paper presentation delivered at the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Annual Conference (AAPOR). St. Louis MO, April 2025.

Ovalle, M (2025). Visual Framing of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

- Paper presentation delivered at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, IL, April 2025.

Ovalle, M (2024). The Transmission of Misinformation via Political Discussion Groups in the Latino community.

- Paper presentation delivered at the Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC), Columbus OH, August 2024.

Ovalle, M (2024). Latino Partisanship in the United States: Influences on Changing Trends.

- Paper presentation delivered at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Bogotá Colombia, June 2024.

Gamarra, E & Ovalle, M (2024). Shifting Alliances: Are Hispanics Becoming More Republican?

- Paper presentation delivered at the Fourteenth Conference on Cuba and Cuban American Studies. Miami FL. February 2024.

INVITED PANELS.

Participación Política y Electoral de los Migrantes. Universidad de Medellín. Medellín, Colombia. March 2024

Migraciones en la Diáspora Colombiana en el Sur de la Florida. Colombian Consulate in Miami, FL. May 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- Restrepo, A; Cobaleda, S; & Ovalle M-J (2019). Capítulo Conclusiones Reintegración y resocialización en Colombia: Vulnerabilidad, reincidencia y comunidad. In *Reintegración y resocialización en Colombia Vulnerabilidad y prevención del delito*. Medellín: Editorial Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana.

Academic Journals

- Rodríguez Cabrera, N., & Ovalle Román, M. J. (2020). La condición del migrante irregular. Una reflexión de la noción “apátrida” desde Hannah Arendt y Giorgio Agamben. *Estudios De Derecho*, 77(169), 145-166.
<https://doi.org/10.17533/udea.esde.v77n169a06>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Academic Journal Reviewer

- Political Behavior, 2025.

Session Chair

- Participando aquí y allá: Debates sobre la participación política y electoral de los migrantes. Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Bogotá, Colombia, 2024.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish: Native
- English: Fluent
- French: Intermediate