

Leonardo CARELLA

Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer – University of Vienna

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Aug 2025— **Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer – Department of Government, University of Vienna.**

- > Academic Visitor – University of Zurich Department of Political Science (Feb 2026)
- > Associate Member – Nuffield College, University of Oxford (Oct 2025–)

Oct 2022—2025 **Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow – University of Oxford, Nuffield College.**

- > Ox|Ber Visiting Scholar – DYNAMICS, Humboldt University of Berlin (Sep–Oct 2024).
- > External Postdoctoral Researcher – UChicago Political Science Department (Mar–Jul 2024).

EDUCATION

2019—2022 **DPhil (PhD) in Politics – University of Oxford, Mansfield College**

- > Thesis : *Essays on Electoral Institutions*. Supervisor : Benjamin W. Ansell. [Thesis](#)
- > Pass without corrections in November 2022. Examiners : Simon Hix, Tarik Abou-Chadi.
- > Awarded the 2022–2023 DPIR prize for best thesis in Government.

2017—2019 **MPhil in Politics (European Politics and Society) – University of Oxford, St. Antony's College**

- > Thesis : *Do Campaign Rallies Matter? Evidence from the Five Star Movement's 'Tsunami Tour' in the 2013 Italian Parliamentary Election*. Supervisor : Andrew C. Eggers.
- > Graduated with distinction (first class honours).

2014—2017 **BSocSc (Bachelor's Degree) in Politics and International Relations – University of Manchester**

- > Thesis : *Who Are the Left Behind? The Status Stratification of UKIP Support*. Supervisor : Colin Talbot.
- > Graduated with first class honours, top of cohort.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- > Carella, L. (2026) 'Do Open Lists Increase Turnout? Probably Not, but They Increase Rates of Voter Error : New Evidence from Spain', *Electoral Studies*, 100(2026). [Paper](#) [Data](#)
- > Carella, L. and Raffaelli, F. (2026) 'From Context to Congruence : Immigration Salience and Voter Socialisation'. *European Journal of Political Research*, First View. [Paper](#) [Data](#)
- > Carella, L. (2024) 'Who Runs for Higher Office? Electoral Institutions and Level-Hopping Attempts in Germany's State Legislatures'. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 49(1):481-549. [Paper](#) [Data](#)
- > Carella, L. and Eggers, A. C. (2024) 'Electoral Systems and Geographic Representation', *British Journal of Political Science*, 54(1):40-68. [Paper](#) [Data](#)
- > Carella, L. and Ford, R. (2020) 'The Status Stratification of Radical Right Support : Reconsidering the Occupational Profile of UKIP Voters', *Electoral Studies*, 67(2020). [Paper](#)

Other Publications

- > Carella, L. and Kelly, E. 'Social Values' (2024) in *The State of Public Opinion 2023*, UK in a Changing Europe *[think tank research]*. [Report](#) [Coverage](#)
- > Carella, L. (2022) 'The British Elections of 2019', *Political Quarterly*. *[book review]* [Review](#)
- > Raikes, L., Cox, E. and Carella, L. (2016) 'State of the North 2016 : Building Northern Resilience in an Era of Global Uncertainty', *IPPR North*. *[think tank research]* [Report](#)

- Working Papers**
- > The Choice-Complexity Trade-Off : Effects of Electoral Rules on Invalid Voting, *Under Review*. [Paper](#)
 - > Identity Spillovers : How the Politics of Immigration Shapes Class and Religious Self-Categorization (with Francesco Raffaelli), *Under Review*. [Pre-Print](#) [Paper](#)
 - > Predicting Candidate Preference Shares in Preferential-List PR Systems. [Paper](#)
 - > From Galaxies of Notables to Programmatic Parties : The Party-Building Path to List-Proportional Representation (with Klaudia Wegschaider). *Conference paper*.
 - > The ‘Anti-Cooptational’ Coalition : Explaining the Switch from Two-Round Systems to PR in early 20th Century Europe (with Klaudia Wegschaider). *Conference paper*.

- Work in Progress**
- > Consequences of Voter Flow Narratives for Party Perceptions (with Tarik Abou-Chadi).
 - > Political Consequences of Educational Expansion (with Ari Ray).
 - > Immigration and the Afterlife of British Class Politics (with Sarah Ledoux).
 - > Baby Boomers at the Ballot Box : Cohort Size and Representation across Electoral Systems.
 - > Economic Effects of Immigration Restrictions : The 1921 Quota Act and Italian Rural Development.
 - > Subnational Electoral Institutions and Public Goods Distribution in a Multi-Level Polity : Evidence from Public Works Investments in the Italian South.

 TEACHING

- Graduate**
- Lecturer, INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS**, Michaelmas Term 2023 and 2024.
DPIR, University of Oxford — co-taught with Rachel Bernhard.
[Syllabus](#) [Slides](#) [Lab Material](#)
 - Lecturer, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UK**, Hilary Term 2023 and 2024.
DPIR, University of Oxford — co-taught with Nicholas Dickinson.
[Syllabus](#)
 - Teaching Assistant, INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS**, Michaelmas Term 2021.
DPIR, University of Oxford — Instructors : Tarik Abou-Chadi and Vicente Valentim.
[Lab Material](#)

- Undergraduate**
- Lecturer, INTRODUCTION TO QUANTITATIVE METHODS**, Winter Term 2025, Summer Term 2026.
University of Vienna. Course evaluation : 1.3. Lecturer evaluation : 1.1 (1–5 scale, 1 = best)
[Syllabus](#) [Slides](#) [Lab Material](#) [Evaluations](#)
 - Lecturer, COMPARATIVE DEMOCRATIC POLITICS**, Winter Term 2025, Summer Term 2026.
University of Vienna. Course evaluation : 1.1. Lecturer evaluation : 1.0 (1–5 scale, 1 = best)
[Syllabus](#) [Slides](#) [Evaluations](#)
 - Lecturer, COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT**, Hilary Term 2023, 2024 and 2025.
DPIR, University of Oxford — course taught collectively by Oxford faculty.
[Syllabus](#) [Slides](#)
 - Teaching Assistant, INTRODUCTORY QUANTITATIVE METHODS**, Hilary Term 2022.
DPIR, University of Oxford — Instructor : Spyros Kosmidis.
[Lab Material](#)
 - Tutor, PRACTICE OF POLITICS**, Hilary Term 2022.
Lincoln College, University of Oxford.
 - Tutor, POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**, Michaelmas Term 2021 and Hilary Term 2022.
St. Hugh’s College and Queen’s College, University of Oxford.
 - Tutor, COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT**, Trinity Term 2021.
Various colleges, University of Oxford.

- Other**
- Thesis Supervisor, MPhil AND MA COURSES**, 2022–
B. Matthews (Oxford, completed 2024); A. Jamek (Vienna, expected 2026)
 - Instructor, INTRODUCTION TO R**, Hilary Term 2022.
Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, University of Oxford.
[Lab Material](#)

GRANTS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2025 **IPZ Departmental Funding** – awarded by the University of Zurich Department of Political Science for the project ‘Identity Spillovers’ (main applicant : F. Raffaelli). (9,250CHF)
- 2025 **John Fell Fund Small Research Grant** – awarded by the University of Oxford for the project ‘Identity Spillovers’ (co-investigator : F. Raffaelli). (£7,200)
- 2024 **DPIR DPhil Thesis Prize in Government** – awarded for best thesis in the academic year 2022–2023.
- 2024 **OX|Ber Research Mobility Fund** – awarded by the University of Oxford and Berlin University Alliance for a visiting research stint at Humboldt University in Autumn 2024.
- 2024 **Warden’s Special Research Grant** – awarded by Nuffield College to carry out digitisation of archival data on historical election returns in Italy. (£900)
- 2023 **BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant** – competitive grant awarded for the project ‘Intra-Party Sources of Electoral Reform in the PR Wave’, principal investigator (co-investigator : K. Wegschaider). (£10,000)
- 2017–2022 **‘Grand Union’ DTP Studentship** – post-graduate scholarship (MPhil + DPhil) awarded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (approx. £140,000, plus COVID-19 extension).
- 2020–2021 **‘Admeto Pettinari e Paolo Andreini’ Bursary** – awarded by the Bank of Italy, ranked first. (£8,000)
- 2019 **Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods Bursary** – awarded by the University of Oxford’s DPIR and the Grand Union DTP scheme.
- 2017 **Outstanding Academic Achievement Award** – awarded by the University of Manchester to the top final-year undergraduates (~ 0.5%) across all Faculties. (£1,000)
- 2017 **University of Manchester Q-Step Dissertation prize** – awarded for best quantitative undergraduate dissertation in the school of social sciences.
- 2017 **Simon Prize** – awarded for highest grade average across politics modules.
- 2017 **Ralph Young Prize** – awarded for top final-year performance in BSocSc (Hons) Politics and IR.
- 2012 **Premio Maturità ‘Programma Annuale per la Valorizzazione delle Eccellenze’** – awarded by the Italian Ministry of Education for obtaining 100 *e lode* in secondary school final examinations.

MEDIA

- Articles**
 - > Six Points pour Comprendre l’Élection Présidentielle Italienne, *Le Grand Continent*. [Link](#)
 - > The Pro-Independence Majority in the Scottish Parliament, *Aspenia Online*. [Link](#)
 - > Britain’s New Relationship with the EU : Politics of Resentment, *Aspenia Online*. [Link](#)
 - > Status, not Class, Linked to Support for Right-Wing Populism [co-authored with Rob Ford], *Understanding Society Blog*. [Link](#)
 - > El Asalto al Capitolio También Podría Ocurrir en Europa, *El Confidencial*. [Link](#)
Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. [Link](#)
 - > Britain Negotiates a Precarious New Normal amid Daunting Challenges, *Aspenia Online*. [Link](#)
 - > Veepstakes 2020 : chi è in corsa per il posto di vice di Biden, *YouTrend*. [Link](#)
Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. [Link](#)
 - > Italy’s ‘Election Day’ : A Preview, *LSE Blog*. [Link](#)
Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. [Link](#)
 - > Covid-19 : What went Wrong in Britain, *Aspenia Online*. [Link](#)
 - > Italy’s Regional Elections : The End of the Road for the Five-Star Movement? *PSA Blog*. [Link](#)
Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. [Link](#)
 - > What Impact Would Election Alliances Have on the Election Results? [co-authored with Ben Ansell] *UK in a Changing Europe Blog*. [Link](#)
 - > Comment le Racisme Favorise les Fusillades de Masse aux États-Unis, *Le Grand Continent*. [Link](#)
- Other Contributions**
 - > My research, commentary and tweets have also been featured in ITV’s *Peston*, TGCom24’s *Dentro I fatti*, LBC’s *Shelagh Fogarty*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, *El Confidencial*, *Business Insider*, *Open Democracy*, *Huffington Post (DE)*, *Edinburgh News*, *Observador*, *Atlantic Sentinel*, *Compass*, *Left Foot Forward*.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2026 Co-organiser of the Departmental Research Seminar (internal talks) – University of Vienna.
- 2026 PhD search committee – University of Vienna.
- 2025–2026 Postdoctoral job market workshop for PhDs – University of Vienna (with Klaudia Wegschaider).
- 2025 Grant reviewer for the National Science Center (Narodowe Centrum Nauki) of Poland.
- 2024 Organiser and moderator, ‘British Politics Election Year Seminar’ – Nuffield Politics Research Centre, University of Oxford (with Jane Green and Zack Grant).
- 2022–2025 Graduate admissions (MSc, DPhil), thesis examination (MSc, MPhil, PPE, History and Politics), research project assessment (MSc, MPhil), assessment of final examinations (PPE, H&P) – DPIR, University of Oxford.
- 2022–2025 Country expert coder for party positions in Italy (×2) and UK (×1).
- 2020– Reviewer : *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies* (×4), *Political Science Research and Methods*, *European Journal of Political Research* (×4), *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (×3), *Electoral Studies* (×4), *Government & Opposition*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Swiss Political Science Review*, *Journal of European Public Policy* (×2).

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

- Jun 2026 *Post-EPSS Workshop on ‘A Generative Theory of Party Systems’, Coleraine. [scheduled]*
- Jun 2026 *EPSS 2026 Conference, Belfast. [scheduled]*
- Jan 2026 Europaeum Winter School (presenter), Central European University, Vienna.
- Jan 2026 Political Behaviour Colloquium (presenter), European University Institute, Florence.
- Jan 2026 SPSA Swiss Political Science Association Congress (presenter, discussant), Zurich.
- Nov 2025 Departmental Research Seminar (presenter), University of Vienna.
- Oct 2025 Departmental Research Seminar (presenter), University of Vienna.
- Jul 2025 Representation in Divided Democracies workshop (presenter, discussant), ETH and UZH, Zurich.
- Jun 2025 EPSA 2025 Conference (presenter, chair), Madrid.
- Jun 2025 European Political Institutions Conference (presenter), Madrid.
- May 2025 Work-in-Progress Workshop : Ballots and Borders (discussant), Yale University.
- Apr 2025 Comparative Political Economy Workshop (presenter), Nuffield College, University of Oxford.
- Jan 2025 Politics and IR Seminar (invited speaker), Royal Holloway University, London.
- Jan 2025 Network for the Historical Study of States and Regimes Research Lab (co-presenter), online.
- Jul 2024 EPSA 2024 Conference (presenter, chair), Cologne.
- Apr 2024 MPSA 2024 Conference (presenter, chair, discussant), Chicago.
- Jan 2024 Departmental Research Seminar (invited speaker), UCL Department of Politics, London.
- Nov 2023 Comparative Political Economy Workshop (presenter), Nuffield College, University of Oxford.
- Sep 2023 Race and Electoral Systems Reform Conference (invited speaker), Harvard University, Cambridge (MA).
- Sep 2023 EPOP Conference (presenter, chair), University of Southampton.
- Jun 2023 EPSA Conference (presenter, discussant), University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.
- Dec 2022 DPIR Research in Progress (discussant), University of Oxford.
- Apr 2022 DPIR Politics Colloquium (discussant), University of Oxford.
- Sep 2021 Democracy, Elections and Comparative Politics PGR Conference (presenter), University of Manchester.
- Feb 2020 European Wednesdays | Italy and Its Discontents (invited speaker), St John’s College, University of Oxford.
- Nov 2019 Comparative Research on Political Elites Conference (presenter), Hertie School of Government, Berlin.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019–2022 **Research Assistant, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**, DPIR and Nuffield College
 - › For Spyros Kosmidis, on a review of teaching material for Introductory Quantitative Methods.
 - › For Ezequiel Gonzalez-Ocantos, on a research project about political polarisation in Latin America.
 - › For David Rueda and Philipp Rehm, on a research project about social/occupational status.
 - › For Jane Gingrich, as part of the SCHOOLPOL project on the comparative politics of education.
- June–Aug 2016 **Data Analyst, IPPR NORTH**, Q-Step Internship Programme
 - › Contributed to the think tank’s flagship *State of the North* report.

- Jun—Aug 2015 **Intern, SCIENCE OFFICE**, Italian Embassy in the UK, London
- > Created a database of Italian scientists working in the UK.
 - > Contributed to the drafting of diplomatic messages on UK science and innovation policy.

+ ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES

- 2025 German language course (A1) — University of Vienna *Sprachenzentrum*.
- 2025 Freelance data analysis consultant (IPPR).
- 2023 IPCSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods – University of Michigan.
- 2020—2021 Private tutor in ‘Politics of Central and Eastern Europe’.
- 2020—2021 Freelance tutor for current and prospective postgraduate students.
- 2020—2021 Tutor for Prospective University Applicants – Mentoring for Success outreach scheme.
- 2020 Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford (PLTO) – DPIR, University of Oxford.
- 2019 Oxford Spring School of Advanced Research Methods.
- 2016—2018 Polish language study – Private Tuition (B2), Instytut Kształcenia Obcokrajowców, Warsaw (A2 and B1), University of Manchester LEAP Centre (A1).
- 2016—2017 President – University of Manchester Italian Society.
- 2016 DataFest Summer School – Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield.
- 2015—2016 Peer Mentor – University of Manchester, Politics and International Relations.
- 2014—2015 Student Representative – Politics and International Relations (First Year).
- 2014 English tutor and activities organizer – Up! Summer Camp, Ningxia (China).
- 2013 Summer School – London School of Journalism, London.
- 2010 Summer School – Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa.

🗨️ LANGUAGES

Italian	●	●	●	●	●
English	●	●	●	●	●
Spanish	●	●	●	○	○
French	●	●	●	○	○
Polish	●	●	○	○	○

</> SOFTWARE

- > Proficient : R (RMarkdown, tidyverse, quanteda, sf), Qualtrics, QuestionPro, MS Office, **L^AT_EX**.
- > Knowledgeable : Stata, Python, SPSS, SQL, QGIS, Tableau, Zotero, Adobe InDesign.

“ REFERENCES

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