

Leonardo CARELLA

Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow in Politics — University of Oxford, Nuffield College

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Oct 2022—2025 **Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow – University of Oxford, Nuffield College.**
- Visiting Posts :
- External Postdoctoral Researcher – UChicago Political Science Department (Mar–Jul 2024).
 - Ox|Ber Visiting Scholar – DYNAMICS, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Sep–Oct 2024).




EDUCATION

- 2019—2022 **DPhil (PhD) in Politics – University of Oxford, Mansfield College**
- Thesis : *Essays on Electoral Institutions*. Supervisor : Benjamin W. Ansell. 🔗
 - Pass without corrections in November 2022. Examiners : Simon Hix, Tarik Abou-Chadi.
- 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), obtaining firsts in all components.
- 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.
- 2012 **Maturità Classica (high-school diploma) – Liceo Classico Sperimentale Bertrand Russell**
- Graduated with 100/100 *e lode*.




AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2025 **John Fell Fund Small Research Grant** – awarded for the project 'Class-Based Anti-Immigration Narratives: Effects on Economic Identities and Attitudes', principal investigator.
- 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 to spend 4–8 weeks 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.
- 2023 **BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant** – awarded for the project 'Intra-Party Sources of Electoral Reform in the PR Wave', principal investigator.
- 2017—2021 **'Grand Union' DTP Studentship** – four-year scholarship awarded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council.
- 2020—2021 **'Admeto Pettinari e Paolo Andreini' Bursary** – awarded by the Bank of Italy.
- 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.
- 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.


Journal Articles

- > Carella, L. (2024) 'Who Runs for Higher Office? Electoral Institutions and Level-Hopping Attempts in Germany's State Legislatures'. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 
- > Carella, L. and Eggers, A. C. (2024) 'Electoral Systems and Geographic Representation', *British Journal of Political Science*, 54(1):40-68. 
- > Carella, L. and Ford, R. (2020) 'The Status Stratification of Radical Right Support : Reconsidering the Occupational Profile of UKIP Voters', *Electoral Studies*, 67(2020). 




Working Papers

- > From Context to Congruence : Immigration Salience and Voter Socialisation (with F. Raffaelli). *R&R at the European Journal of Political Research*. 
- > Do Open Lists Increase Turnout? Probably Not : Evidence from the Replication of a Study on Spanish Local Elections. *R&R at Electoral Studies*. 
- > Predicting Candidate Preference Shares in Preferential-List PR Systems. 
- > The 'Anti-Cooptational' Coalition : Explaining the Adoption of Proportional Representation in Early 20th-Century France and Italy (with K. Wegschaider).
- > Electoral Systems' Effects on Participation beyond Turnout : Evidence from Heterogeneity-in-Discontinuity Analysis from Italy and Poland.









Work in Progress

- > Intra-Party Sources of Electoral Reform in the 'PR wave' (with K. Wegschaider). 
- > Class-Based Anti-Immigration Narratives (with F. Raffaelli).
- > Gendered Effects of PR Rules : Evidence from Italian Municipal Election Reforms (1956-1970).
- > Subnational Electoral Institutions and Public Goods Distribution in a Multi-Level Polity : Evidence from Public Works Investments in the Italian South (1971-1984).
- > Baby Boomers at the Ballot Box : Cohort Size and Representation across Electoral Systems.

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]. 
- > Carella, L. (2022) 'The British Elections of 2019', *Political Quarterly*. [book 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] 

Media

- > Six Points pour Comprendre l'Élection Présidentielle Italienne, *Le Grand Continent*. 
- > The Pro-Independence Majority in the Scottish Parliament, *Aspenia Online*. 
- > Britain's New Relationship with the EU : Politics of Resentment, *Aspenia Online*. 
- > Status, not Class, Linked to Support for Right-Wing Populism, *US Blog* (with R. Ford). 
- > El Asalto al Capitolio También Podría Ocurred en Europa, *El Confidencial*. 
- Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. 
- > Britain Negotiates a Precarious New Normal amid Daunting Policy Challenges, *Aspenia Online*. 
- > Veepstakes 2020 : chi è in corsa per il posto di vice di Biden, *YouTrend*. 
- Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. 
- > Italy's 'Election Day' : A Preview, *LSE Blog*. 
- Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. 
- > Covid-19 : What went Wrong in Britain, *Aspenia Online*. 
- > Italy's Regional Elections : The End of the Road for the Five-Star Movement? , *PSA Blog*. 
- Also published in French for *Le Grand Continent*. 
- > What Impact Would Election Alliances Have on the Election Results? , *UK in a Changing Europe* (with B. Ansell). 
- > Comment le Racisme Favorise les Fusillades de Masse aux États-Unis, *Le Grand Continent* 
- > 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*.

TEACHING

Graduate **Lecturer, INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS**, Michaelmas Term 2023, 2024.
DPIR, University of Oxford — co-taught with Rachel Bernhard.
[Syllabus](#) [Slides](#) [Lab Material](#)

Lecturer, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UK, Hilary Term 2023, 2024.
DPIR, University of Oxford — co-taught with Nicholas Dickinson.
[Syllabus](#)

Instructor, INTRODUCTION TO R, Hilary Term 2022.
Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, University of Oxford.
[Lab Material](#)

Teaching Assistant, INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS, Michaelmas Term 2021.
DPIR, University of Oxford — Instructors : Tarik Abou-Chadi and Vicente Valentim.
[Lab Material](#)

Undergraduate **Lecturer, COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT**, Hilary Term 2023, 2024, 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.
[Syllabus](#)

Tutor, POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY, Michaelmas Term 2021 and Hilary Term 2022.
St. Hugh's College and Queen's College, University of Oxford.
[Syllabus](#)

Tutor, COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT, Trinity Term 2021.
Various colleges, University of Oxford.

SUPERVISION, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MENTORING

2022— Thesis supervisor : B. Matthews (MPhil European Politics, 2022–2024).
2020— Reviewer for *Comparative Political Studies* (×4), *British Journal of Political Science*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (×2), *Government & Opposition*, *European Journal of Political Research* (×4), *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Electoral Studies* (×4).
2024 Organiser of the 'British Politics Election Year Seminar Series' (Nuffield Politics Research Centre).
2023—2024 Admissions (MSc, DPhil) and thesis marking (MSc, MPhil, PPE) – DPIR, University of Oxford.
2022—2024 Country expert coder for party positions in Italy (×2) and UK (×1).
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 (volunteer position).
2015—2016 Peer Mentor – University of Manchester, Politics and International Relations.

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.

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

Scheduled	EPSA 2025 (Madrid), EPIC! 2025 (Madrid), 'Representation in Divided Democracies' (Zurich)
May 2025	Work-in-Progress Workshop : Ballots and Borders (discussant), Yale University.
Apr 2025	Comparative Political Economy Workshop (co-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 (presenter), online.
Jul 2024	EPSA 2024 Conference (chair, presenter), 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 (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.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2023	IPCSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods – University of Michigan.
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.
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, RStan, quanteda, sf), MS Office, SPSS, **L^AT_EX**.
- > Knowledgeable : Git, Qualtrics, Stata, QGIS, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Zotero, SQL.

REFERENCES

Andrew C. Eggers

Professor,

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Benjamin W. Ansell

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