Leonardo **Carella**

Lecturer in Comparative Politics – Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR)

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Academic Positions

Sep 2026— **Departmental Lecturer in Comparative Politics – University of Oxford, DPIR.**
- Associate Member – Nuffield College, University of Oxford (Oct 2025–)

Aug 2025—2026 **Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer – University of Vienna, Department of Government.**
- Academic Visitor – University of Zurich Department of Political Science (Feb 2026)

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*, 65(3), 790–814. 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

Research In Progress

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
- How Men Keep Their Seats : Gendered Incumbent Protection in Scottish Local Elections. 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

- Women Candidates Outperform Copartisan Men among Out-Party Voters : Evidence from Ranked-Choice Ballots and Conjoint Experiments.
- 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.

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, 2025 and 2027.
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 (compl. 2024) ; three ongoing supervisions (exp. 2027).

Instructor, Introduction to R, Hilary Term 2022.
Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, University of Oxford.
Lab Material

Grants, Awards and Scholarships

2026 **DPIR Research Support Fund** – awarded for the project 'The Afterlife of British Class Politics'. (£3,000)
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

- Italy is Changing its Electoral System (Again), *Fruits & Votes*. Link
- 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 [with Rob Ford], *US 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 Elections ? [with Ben Ansell] *UKICE Blog*. Link
- Comment le Racisme Favorise les Fusillades de Masse aux États-Unis, *Le Grand Continent*. Link

Other Contributions

- The End of the Two-Party System in the UK ? *University of Vienna IPW Podcast* Link
- 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	Coordinator, Departmental Research Seminar (internal speakers) – University of Vienna.
2026	PhD (University Assistant Praedoc) search committee – University of Vienna.
2025—2026	Postdoctoral job market workshop for PhDs – University of Vienna (with Klaudia Wegschaider) and DPIR, Oxford (guest speaker in professional development seminar convened by Katerina Tertychnaya).
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 : *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies* (×4), *Political Science Research and Methods* (×2), *European Journal of Political Research* (×5), *American Politics Research*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (×3), *Electoral Studies* (×5), *Government & Opposition*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Swiss Political Science Review*, *Journal of European Public Policy* (×2), *West European Politics*, *International Migration Review*.

Conferences and Talks

Dec 2026	*University of Manchester Democracy and Elections seminar series (invited speaker). [scheduled]*
Dec 2026	*Nuffield College Political Science Seminar (invited speaker). [scheduled]*
Jun 2026	Workshop on 'A Generative Theory of Party Systems' (discussant), Coleraine.
Jun 2026	EPSS 2026 Conference (presenter), Belfast.
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 2026 (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 (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 2023 Conference (presenter, chair), University of Southampton.
Jun 2023	EPSA 2023 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 Volunteer 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, LaTeX.
- Knowledgeable : Stata, Python, SPSS, SQL, QGIS, Tableau, Zotero, Adobe InDesign.

References

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