

José Incio, Ph.D

Associate Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

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Professional Profile

I am an Associate Professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, specializing in Latin American politics. My research examines electoral behavior, political corruption, and democratic accountability, with a focus on subnational politics in Latin America. I use quantitative methods, experiments, mixed methods, and computational text analysis to study these questions. Before joining the university full time, I worked inside the Peruvian State, where I built electoral data systems and led impact evaluations for national programs. I have also collaborated with international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women.

Education

- 2018–2022 **Ph.D. in Political Science**, *University of Pittsburgh, USA*
Concentrations: Comparative Politics and Methods
- 2016–2018 **M.A. in Political Science**, *University of Pittsburgh, USA*
Concentrations: Latin American Politics and Methods
- 2005–2010 **B.A. in Political Science**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru*

Research Interests

Electoral Behavior • Political Corruption • Democratic Accountability • Subnational Politics
• Latin American Institutions • Mixed-Methods Research • Computational Social Science

Academic Positions

- Fall 2026 **Mid-Career Fellow**, *Tulane University*, Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (CIPR)
- 2026–Present **Associate Professor**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*, Social Science Department
- 2022–2026 **Tenure Track Professor**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*, Social Science Department
- 2019–2020 **Editor's Assistant**, *University of Pittsburgh*, Latin American Research Review
- 2017–2019 **Research Assistant**, *University of Pittsburgh*, Political Science Department
Under Barry Ames, Aníbal Pérez-Liñan, and Ariel Armony
- 2012–2016 **Lecturer**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*, Social Science Department
- 2013–2016 **Lecturer**, *Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya*, Social Science Department
- 2009–2012 **Teaching Assistant**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*, Social Science Department

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles

- Forthcoming Incio, J. Peru 2025: The Consolidation of Chaos. *Revista de Ciencia Política*. Forthcoming.
- 2026 Incio, J., & Muñoz, P. (2026). When electoral reforms backfire: reassessing reelection's impact on corruption. *Public Choice*.
- 2025 Sosa-Villagarcía, P., Incio, J., & Arce, M. (2025). The Rise of Legislative Authoritarianism. *Journal of Democracy*, 36(2), 106-117.

- 2024 González-Rostani, V., Incio, J., & Lezama, G. (2024). Social media versus surveys: A new scalable approach to understanding legislators' discourse. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 50(2), 258-266.
- 2024 Incio, J., & Seifert, M. (2024). How the Perception of Corruption Shapes the Willingness to Bribe: Evidence From An Online Experiment. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 36(3), edae035.
- 2022 Gentil-Fernandes, L., Guedes-Neto, J. V., & Incio, J. (2022). From Drug Lords to Police State: The Effects of Order Transition on Local Economies. *Comparative Political Studies*, 55(10), 1765-1801.
- 2018 Arce, M., & Incio, J. (2018). Perú 2017: un caso extremo de gobierno dividido [Peru 2017: An extreme case of divided government]. *Revista de Ciencia Política*, 38(2), 361-377.
- 2018 Holland, A. C., & Incio, J. (2018). Imperfect Recall: The Politics of Subnational Office Removals. *Comparative Political Studies*, 52(5), 777-805.
- 2016 Incio, J., & Gil, R. (2016). Enraizamiento electoral en ámbitos subnacionales: Análisis de las organizaciones político-electorales peruanas (1963-2014) [Electoral rootedness in subnational settings: An analysis of Peruvian political-electoral organizations, 1963-2014]. *Revista Uruguaya de Ciencia Política*.
- 2013 Incio, J., & Córdova, B. (2013). La ventaja del incumbente en el ámbito subnacional peruano: un análisis de las dos últimas elecciones municipales en Perú [The incumbency advantage at the subnational level in Peru: An analysis of the last two municipal elections]. *Papel Político*, 18, 415-432.

Peer-reviewed Articles, Revise and Resubmit

- R&R Incio, J., Muñoz, P., & Bird, M. A Vote of Confidence? Corruption, Accountability, and Local Candidate Preferences in a Developing Democracy. *Public Choice*. Revise and Resubmit.
- R&R González-Rostani, V., Incio, J., & Lezama, G. Competing Narratives of Welcome? Migration Shocks and Elite Communication. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. Revise and Resubmit.

Books

- 2016 Contreras, C., Incio, J., López, S., Mazzeo, C., & Mendoza, W. (2016). *La desigualdad de la distribución de ingresos en el Perú: Orígenes históricos y dinámica política y económica* [Income inequality in Peru: Historical origins and political and economic dynamics]. Fondo Editorial PUCP.

Book Chapters

- 2025 Sulmont, D., & Incio, J. (2025). Affective Polarization, representation, and accountability. In M. Torcal & E. Hartevelt (Eds.), *Handbook of Affective Polarization* (pp. 361-371). Edward Elgar.
- 2022 Incio, J. (2022). Elecciones generales peruanas 2021: fragmentación y debilidad democrática [Peruvian general elections 2021: Fragmentation and democratic weakness]. In F. Tuesta (Ed.), *Elecciones 2021. Pandemia, crisis y representación* (pp. 371-388). Fondo Editorial PUCP.
- 2022 Incio, J. (2022). De la provincia a la nación: análisis comparado de la trayectoria política de ex-gobernadores [From the province to the nation: A comparative analysis of the political trajectories of former governors]. In C. Varetto & J. P. Milanese (Eds.), *Actores políticos, elecciones y sistemas de partidos. Una aproximación comparada desde la política subnacional en América Latina* (pp. 119-135). Editorial Universidad Icesi.
- 2015 Aragón, J., & Incio, J. (2015). La medición de la volatilidad electoral en sistemas de partidos escasamente institucionalizados. Análisis del caso Peruano [Measuring electoral volatility in weakly institutionalized party systems: An analysis of the Peruvian case]. In M. Tanaka & E. Dargent (Eds.), *¿Qué implica hacer ciencia política desde el sur y desde el norte?* (pp. 39-63). Escuela de Gobierno y Políticas Públicas, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

- 2015 Incio, J., & Dammert, M. C. (2015). La izquierda política en las elecciones subnacionales de Lima Metropolitana [The political left in the subnational elections of Metropolitan Lima]. In F. Carrión & P. Ponce (Eds.), *El giro a la izquierda: gobiernos locales en América Latina* (pp. 153-178). Café de las Ciudades.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Courses (Faculty of Social Science)

- 2022–Present **Quantitative Methods - Basic**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Statistical foundations, descriptive statistics, and introduction to inferential analysis
- 2022–Present **Quantitative Methods - Advanced**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Regression analysis, causal inference techniques, and applied statistical computing
- 2023 **Field Work Methodology**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Research design, data collection strategies, and field research ethics
- 2023 **Introduction to Natural Language Processing**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Text analysis fundamentals, computational approaches to textual data in political contexts

Graduate Courses (Master's Program in Sociology)

- 2025 **Social Network Analysis**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Network theory, visualization techniques, and empirical applications in social research
- 2022–Present **Quantitative Analysis for Social Sciences**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Advanced statistical modeling and computational social science methods

Doctoral Program (Doctorate in Sociology)

- 2023–Present **Research Design**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Advanced methodological approaches, mixed-methods integration, and research proposal development

Specialization Programs

- 2023–Present **NLP and Artificial Intelligence**, *QLAB (Laboratory in Artificial Intelligence)*
Applications of computational linguistics and machine learning in political text analysis
- 2024–Present **Python for Data Analysis**, *QLAB (Laboratory in Artificial Intelligence)*
Programming fundamentals and data science techniques using Python
- 2022–Present **Regression Discontinuity Design**, *QLAB (Laboratory in Artificial Intelligence)*
Causal inference methodology for quasi-experimental research designs

Fellowships & Research Grants

- 2025 **Research Grant in Social Sciences**, *Prociencia (National Science Agency)*, Peru
Principal Investigator for competitive national research funding
- 2024 **Research Grant in Social Sciences**, *Prociencia (National Science Agency)*, Peru
Co-Investigator for competitive national research funding
- 2024 **Research Project Grant (CAP)**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Competitive annual grant for research projects
- 2023 **Research Support Fund (FAI)**, *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú*
Grant for studying electoral behavior and corruption
- 2022 **National Research Grant**, *Consortium of Economic and Social Research (CIES)*, Peru
Project: "Subnational Reelection and Corruption"
- 2021 **National Digital Democracy Award (Premio Democracia Digital)**, Peru
Awarded to DecideBien, a voter information platform I created to help citizens navigate the large number of candidates and information sources in the 2021 general election. The platform reached close to one million visits.
- 2020–2021 **Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship**, *University of Pittsburgh*
Competitive fellowship supporting dissertation research on Latin American politics

- 2019–2020 **Arts & Science Fellowship**, *Dietrich School of Arts and Science*, University of Pittsburgh
Merit-based fellowship for advanced doctoral research
- 2016–2017 **Latin American Social and Public Policy Fellowship**, *University of Pittsburgh*
Research fellowship focused on Latin American political institutions

Skills & Languages

Languages

- Spanish Native speaker
- English Full professional proficiency
- Portuguese Reading comprehension

Technical Skills

- Statistical Analysis Advanced: R, STATA, SPSS
- Data Visualization Advanced: R (ggplot2, plotly), Tableau
- Computational Methods Text analysis, web scraping, machine learning in R and Python
- Database Management Intermediate: ORACLE, MySQL, PostgreSQL
- Geospatial Analysis Arc GIS, QGIS, R (sf, sp packages)
- Network Analysis Gephi, igraph (R), NetworkX (Python)
- Experimental Design Survey experiments, field experiments, A/B testing

Non-Academic Professional Experience

- 2015–2016 **Senior Analyst, Impact Evaluation Office**, *Ministry of Housing*, Peru
- Led a three-person team designing and implementing an impact evaluation of the National Rural Housing Program for communities in the Peruvian highlands affected by extreme weather
 - Designed and implemented a quasi-experimental impact evaluation for the national program "Tambos" serving isolated and impoverished areas of Peru
- 2011–2015 **Coordinator of INFOGOB**, *Electoral National Jury*, Peru
- Led a 15-person team developing the first georeferenced political electoral map of Peru, recognized by the Peruvian National Congress
 - Directed a five-person team developing the research project "80 years of presidential elections in Peru, 1931-2011"
 - Managed the comprehensive electoral database (INFOGOB) dating from 1931
- 2011 **Researcher**, *National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE)*, Peru
- Conducted comprehensive study on poll workers' absenteeism
 - Analyzed electoral participation data to identify socio-demographic patterns

Consultancies and International Collaborations

- 2023 **Country Expert, ATARI Peru Assessment**, *Making Cents International (USAID)*, Peru
- Served as Country Expert, providing democracy, rights, and governance expertise for an assessment of authoritarian influence in Peru
 - Conducted fieldwork and key informant interviews with stakeholders across Lima and other regions of Peru
 - Contributed written sections to the final assessment report submitted to USAID

- 2015–2022 **Consultant Expert in Methodology**, *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women*, Panama
- Member of the ATENEA initiative team promoting women's political participation in Latin America
 - Developed methodology and measure (IPP) to assess women's political participation
 - Estimated the IPP for fourteen countries and two subnational units in Latin America
- 2021–2023 **Consultant Expert in Methodology**, *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*, Peru
- Designed and analyzed pilot experiments for the Anti-Corruption Innovation Laboratory (ACIL)
 - Implemented field experiments in Peruvian municipalities
 - Designed and conducted three surveys and two field experiments
- 2018–2022 **Senior Analyst**, *IDEA Internacional*, Peru
- Produced a longitudinal study of past Peruvian elections that helped the National Elections Jury (JNE) and other electoral institutions respond to unfounded fraud claims during the 2021 general election, showing that the cited irregularities matched patterns present in every past election
 - Specialist in electoral issues and quantitative analysis
 - Designed and implemented platforms to inform voters during election periods
 - Collected and organized Peruvian Congress information for online platforms
- 2010 **Senior Analyst**, *National Congress of Peru*, Peru
- Part of Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú team evaluating Peru's decentralization process (2001-2012)
 - Organized data and measured over 50 socioeconomic indicators for municipalities

Public Engagement and Civic Initiatives

- 2026–Present **Founder**, *Hechos y No Palabras*, *Independent Project*, Peru
- Created and lead a nonpartisan portal that tracks how members of Congress and other political actors have voted on major policy reforms, ahead of the 2026 general election
 - Built with support from Zarái Toledo and student researchers from the PUCP Grupo de Investigación Estado y Sociedad
 - Reached close to 80,000 visits, with more than 100,000 views on social media, and was shared by leading journalists and political analysts, including Rosa María Palacios and Marco Sifuentes
- 2021 **Founder**, *DecideBien*, *Independent Project*, Peru
- Created a voter information platform to help citizens navigate the large number of candidates and information in the 2021 general election. Reached close to one million visits and won the National Digital Democracy Award.

Professional Service & Membership

Manuscript Review

Journals Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Democracy, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Latin American Politics and Society, Latin American Research Review, Journal of Politics, Behavioral Economics, among others.

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)