

M. PAZ AVILA

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Texas. Austin, May 2025 (expected)

Fields: Public Law and Comparative Politics

Dissertation: Constitutional Legitimacy in a Land of Constitutional Change

Committee: Daniel Brinks (chair), Zachary Elkins, Ran Hirschl

Master of Arts in Political Science, University of Texas. Austin, 2021

Advisor: Daniel Brinks

Master of Laws in Legal Theory, New York University. NY, 2016

Advisor: Jeremy Waldron

Master of Laws in Constitutional Law, Universidad Simon Bolivar. Ecuador, 2011

Bachelor of Laws, Universidad del Azuay. Ecuador, 2008

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Works in Progress

- (Under review) Constitutional Legitimacy in a Land of Constitutional Change presented at:
 - APSA Annual Conference, Philadelphia 2024
 - The International Society of Public Law ICON-S, Madrid, 2024
 - The Graduate Conference on Constitutional Change. UT Austin Law School, 2024
 - Junior Law and Politics Research Community, Austin, 2023
- The Democratic Alternative to the Judicial Review of Constitutional Amendment
- Constitutional Identity and Presidential Term Limits in Latin America presented at:
 - Constitutional Studies Series, UT Law School, Austin 2022
 - Global Summit on Constitutionalism, Austin 2021
- (Under review) The Metaphysics of Sovereignty in Kant's Political Philosophy

Peer-Review Articles

- The Rights of Indigenous People: Between Diversity and International Human Rights in *American University International Law Review* 28.4 (2013): 943-974 (*in Spanish*)

Book Reviews

- Between Constitutional Change and Constitutional Veneration. Reviewing Richard Albert's book "Constitutional Amendments: Making, Breaking, and Changing Constitutions" in *Revista Díkaion, Universidad de la Sabana, Colombia*, 2024. (Forthcoming)
- Mapping Constitutional Dismemberment, Reviewing Richard Albert's book "Constitutional Amendments: Making, Breaking, and Changing Constitutions," in *National Law School of India Review*, 2021

Books, Co-editor (*all in Spanish*)

- Avila, M. Paz, and Ramiro Avila. “Freedom of Expression: Debates, Scope and New Challenges” Quito: OHCHR and UNESCO, 2011
- Avila, Ramiro, and Avila, M. Paz, et al. “Criminal Code Proposal: The Constitutional Rights in the Criminal Law” *Ministry of Justice and Human Rights*, 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Austin, 2018 - current

Instructor

Constitutional Principles: Core Texts (Spring 2025)

Teaching Assistant

- U.S. Foreign Policy (Spring 2022)
- American Government and Elections (Fall 2022)
- Foundations of International Relations and Global Studies (Spring 2021)
- Constitutional Interpretation (Fall 2021)
- American Government (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
- Urban Politics (Fall 2018)

Invited Speaker

- Guest Lecturer at the University of Texas Law School Summer Seminar, 2024, 2025
- Discussant of the Keynote Speaker at the Global Summit on Constitutionalism UT Austin School of Law, 2023
- Presented at the Colloquium of Comparative Constitutional Law and Politics, 2023
- Discussant at the Conference Ditching a President: Constitutional Design of the Executive Branch in Latin America, UT Austin Law School, 2022
- Guest Lecturer at the Public Law Workshop, Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Dominican Republic 2020

University of San Francisco de Quito, School of Law, 2013

Lecturer

- Taught introductory courses in Constitutional Law and State and Politics.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- University of Texas at Austin:
 - Graduate School Continuing Fellowship AY 2023-2024, Fall 2024
 - Provost Priority Fellowship AY 2018-2023
 - Government Department Fellowship AY 2018-2023.
 - Professional Development Award 2024
 - Summer Fellowships 2020-2024
- New York University School of Law: Dean’s Award Merit Scholarship, 2016
- Georgetown University Law School: LL.M Merit scholarship, 2016 (declined)
- Cornell University Law School: LL.M Merit scholarship, 2016 (declined)
- American University: Best paper award and fully funded merit scholarship for the Program of Advanced Studies in Human Rights, 2012

- Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar: Merit scholarship, AY 2009-2010
- Universidad del Azuay: Merit scholarship, top 1% of 300 Law School rank, 2007

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Boston College Law School, Boston, MA. 2015 - 2017

Visiting Scholar

- Conducted research on constitutional transplantation under the supervision of Professor Paulo Barrozo
- Audited courses, including Universal History of Legal Thought, Philosophy of International Law, Economic and Social Rights, Cosmopolitan Law, International Human Rights

New York University School of Law, New York, NY. 2015-2016

Research Assistant.

- Investigated the application of the proportionality principle in legal resolutions at the Inter-American System of Human Rights under the supervision of Professor Wojciech Sadurski

National Council of Higher Education, Quito, Ecuador. 2013

Legal and Academic Adviser, Graduate Studies Committee

- Provided legal and academic analysis of graduate program proposals submitted by private and public universities for the National Council's Board approval

Inter-American Court of Human Rights, San Jose, Costa Rica. Fall 2012

Visiting Professional

- Developed legal arguments for cases considered by the Court
- Researched the jurisprudence of International Courts in Human Rights

Constitutional Court of Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador

*Constitutional Clerk for Justice Nina Pacari Vega** 2010 - 2012

*First Indigenous Constitutional Justice, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs, former Senator

- Researched and wrote court opinions for cases considered by the Court
- Supervised a team of four legal analysts

Secretary of Justice and Human Rights, Quito, Ecuador. 2009-2010

Legal Analyst and Researcher

- Formulated executive bill proposals for Congress' approval
- Coordinated projects with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) related to Indigenous People's Rights

LEADERSHIP AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Texas at Austin, Government Department

- Served as a member of the Public Law Search Committee, Fall 2024
- Organized the Public Law Lunches Series, Fall 2023-Fall 2024
- Co-organized Women in Political Science WIPS, 2019-2022
- Co-organized the Public Law Conference, 2019-2022
- Mentored first year PhD students, 2020-2022

New York University

- Graduate Editor of the *Journal of International Law and Politics* 2015-2016
Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Reviewed articles for the *USFQ Law Review* and mentored incoming Law School students

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research IQMR, Syracuse, NY 2020

- Summer course on Qualitative Research Methods
Witherspoon Institute, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 2019
- Summer course on Moral Foundations of Law
American University, Washington College of Law, Washington D.C. 2012
- Advanced Program in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Interviewed by the **Houston Chronicle** (2023) on the representation of women of color in politics: [link](#)
- Interviewed by **Ecuavisa** (2021), the largest TV Network in Ecuador, to comment on the resolution of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador allowing abortion in cases of rape: [link](#)

SKILLS

Qualitative Methods, Spanish (native), English (advanced), and Quechua (basic)