

Mishella Romo Rivas  
LASA Slate

### **Bio**

Mishella Salome Romo Rivas is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Politics at Princeton University and a Fulbright scholar in Brazil. Originally from Ecuador, Mishella became interested in the study of Latin America given her native country's perennial experience with interrupted presidencies and economic instability. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Jurisprudence, as well as a Master of Arts in Law and Governance from Montclair State University. She completed a Master of Arts in Politics at New York University. Her work, which takes on a mixed-method approach, has focused on understanding the politics of horizontal accountability and the Pink Tide in Latin America. As a scholar of new democracies and Latin American courts, she is interested in explaining why some judicial institutions have become more empowered than others and why that empowerment has had inconsistent effects on democratic politics and stability over the past several decades. As such, her doctoral dissertation examines the causes of judicial empowerment as well as the conditions under which accountability efforts improve public satisfaction with democracy or yield mistrust of political institutions writ large.

To explore these questions effectively, Mishella's work integrates insights from scholarship in judicial politics, presidentialism, and political behavior, as these focus on the key actors and institutional contexts in which the politics and consequences of accountability unfold. Mishella has presented her work at the annual meetings of the Latin American Studies Association, the American Political Science Association, the Northeastern Political Science Association, and the Southern Political Science Association. She has also written and co-authored papers that have been published by the American Political Science Association, the National Political Science Honor Society, Latin American Perspectives, and the Oxford Handbook of Latin American Social Movements. Mishella has received support and funding for her research from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the American Political Science Association's Diversity Fellowship Program (DFP) and Princeton's Program for Quantitative and Analytical Political Science (QAPS).