Emily Elia, Ph.D.

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Employment

University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Fem-LEAD (ERC Starting Grant), September 2024 - Present

Education

Rice University, Houston, Texas

Ph.D., Political Science, May 2024

Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning, May 2024

M.A., Political Science, May 2020

Dissertation: *Evading Electoral Accountability: How Political Elites Maintain Electoral Support in Contexts of Corruption.*

Committee: Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer (chair), Jonathan Homola, Randy T. Stevenson, Mark P. Jones, Mallesh M. Pai

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

B.A., Political Science and Spanish (Double Major), May 2018

Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Blount Scholar, Honors College

Research Interests

Comparative politics, Latin American politics, politics of the Global South, electoral accountability, representation, corruption, gender, elite behavior, voting behavior, survey experiments

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Elia, Emily. "Corrupt but Competent: The Impact of Elite Performance on Corruption Voting in Argentina." Forthcoming at *Government and Opposition.*

Elia, Emily, Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer, and Sofia B. Vera. 2026. "Corruption, Partisanship, and Voting: A Survey Experiment during the Brazilian Presidential Election." *Survey Research Methods* 20(3): 299-311.

Elia, Emily. 2025. "Can the Fairer Sex Save the Day? Voting for Women After Corruption Scandals in Latin America." *Political Behavior* 47: 97-117.

Elia, Emily and Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer. 2022. "Corruption perceptions, opposition parties, and reelecting incumbents in Latin America." *Electoral Studies* 80: 102545.

Book Chapters

Elia, Emily. 2024. "Corruption, Gender, and Elections: The Presence of Female Candidates on Party Lists After Corruption Scandals in Chile and Uruguay." In *Handbook on Gender and Corruption,* ed. Tiffany D. Barnes and Emily Beaulieu Bacchus.

Under Review

Elia, Emily, Aksel Sundström, and Stephen Dawson. "Environmental Crises, Gender, and Incumbency Punishment."

Elia, Emily and Jana Schwenk. "Expecting the Worst: How Prior Beliefs Shape Electoral Accountability for Corruption."

Elia, Emily and Jana Schwenk. "Gender, Policy Domains, and Corruption: Testing Stereotype-Based Electoral Sanctions."

Works in Progress

Elia, Emily, Kendall D. Funk, Jennifer M. Piscopo, and Aksel Sundström. "Disaster Preparedness, Corruption, and Women in Power."

Elia, Emily and Gustavo Guajardo. "Draining the Swamp: Political Outsiders and the Credibility of Anticorruption Appeals."

Monika Bauhr, **Elia, Emily**, and Jana Schwenk. "Women as Corruption Fighters or Corruption Abstainers? Experimental Evidence from Chile."

Elia, Emily, Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer, and Sofia B. Vera. "Measuring Corruption Perceptions with Surveys: The Need for Better Instruments."

Elia, Emily. "Who Fights Corruption? Anticorruption Bill Proposals in the Argentine Chamber of Deputies."

Elia, Emily. "All Competencies Created Equal? Gender Differences in Performance Voting in Argentina and Chile."

Dawson, Stephen, **Emily Elia**, and Aksel Sundström. "Climate Crises and Women in Politics: Evidence from Brazil."

Grants and Awards

Helge Ax:son Johnson Stiftelse Grant **(40000 SEK, eq.$4130)** 2026
with Jana Schwenk

Kungl.Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället Grant **(45000 SEK, eq.$4718)** 2025
with Jana Schwenk

Stiftelsen Lars Hiertas Minne Research Grant **(30000 SEK, eq.$2683)** 2025
with Jana Schwenk

Social Sciences Research Institute Dissertation Improvement Grant **($5000)** 2022
Rice University

James T. Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship, Rice University **($5000)** 2022
Rice University

Social Sciences Research Institute Pre-Dissertation Improvement Grant **($2845)** 2021
Rice University

Social Sciences Research Institute Travel Grant, Rice University 2019, 2021, 2023

APSA Travel Grant, American Political Science Association 2023

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association 2019

Rice University Dean's Scholarship **($10000)** 2018

Rice University Department of Political Science Graduate Fellowship 2018-2023

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Gender and the Environment Module, SK1224 Environmental Policy Spring 2026
Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

POLI 370 Corruption in Politics — Spring 2024
Department of Political Science, Rice University

POLI 354 Latin American Politics — Spring 2023
Department of Political Science, Rice University

Thesis Supervision
Bachelor's Thesis Supervisor: 2 students — Fall 2025
Master's Thesis Supervisor: 7 students — Spring 2025, 2026
Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

Teaching Assistant
POLI 212 Introduction to Comparative Politics — Fall 2020
Department of Political Science, Rice University
Instructor of Record: Jonathan Homola

POLI 338 Policy Analysis Course Grader — Fall 2021
Department of Political Science, Rice University
Instructor of Record: Paul Treacy

Examiner
Master's Thesis Examiner — Spring 2025-Present
Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

Invited Talks and Workshops

Presenter, "Disaster Preparedness, Corruption, and Women in Power," Uppsala University Gender & Politics Seminar Series, Department of Government, *Scheduled November 2026*

Panelist, "Popular Movements in the Context of the Far Right in Latin America: Lessons from Argentina," University of Gothenburg, Department of Languages and Literature, January 2026

Panelist, Uppsala University Research Environment on Sexual Corruption (UU-RESC) International Workshop, "Measuring Voter Perceptions of Likely Perpetrators," December 2025

Presenter, International Studies Association Corruption Workshop, "Corruption perceptions, opposition parties, and reelecting incumbents in Latin America," April 2021

Conference Presentations

2026: GEPOP Internal Conference, Quality of Government Institute Internal Conference, MPSA, EPSS, ECPG, APSA
2025: Quality of Government Institute Internal Conference, MPSA, Politics & Gender Conference, EPSA, Italian Political Science Association Annual Conference, APSA
2023: Texas Comparative Circle, MPSA, IPSA, APSA, Women in Legislative Studies Annual Conference
2022: Texas Comparative Circle
2021: SPSA, APSA
2020: SPSA, Texas Comparative Circle
2019: LAPOP-El Público y la Democracia en las Américas

Public Impact

Speaker, KickBack - The Global Anticorruption Podcast, "Emily Elia on Gender and Electoral Accountability in Latin America," November 2025

Member of the Gender, Inclusion, and Corruption Working Group within the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC (Association for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption), December 2025-Present

Service

Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg
Organizer, Early Career Scholars Professional Development Series (Spring 2026-Present)

Quality of Government Institute, University of Gothenburg
Best Paper Award Selection Committee (Spring 2026)

Fem-LEAD ERC Starting Grant, University of Gothenburg
Postdoctoral Research Fellow Hiring Committee (November-December 2025)

Women in Legislative Studies
Research Assistant (August 2021-May 2024)

Graduate Student Ambassador, Rice University
Member of Ambassador Leadership Council (April 2021-May 2024)

Center for Teaching Excellence Graduate Liaison, Rice University
Graduate Liaison for the Department of Political Science (August 2021-May 2023)

Political Science Graduate Student Association, Rice University
Co-Founder and President (April 2020-January 2021)

Reviewer
American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Political Behavior; Political Science Research and Methods; Research and Politics; Electoral Studies; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Journal of Women, Politics, & Policy; European Journal of Politics and Gender; Politics, Groups, & Identities; Survey Research Methods; Governance; Political Research Exchange

Skills

Programming: R, STATA, Qualtrics, LaTeX
Language: Spanish (advanced proficiency), Swedish (beginner), English (native)
Fieldwork: Buenos Aires, Argentina (September 2022-December 2022)
Technical Skills: Manifesto Project (MARPOR) coder (2020; 2024)

Affiliations

Quality of Government Institute, University of Gothenburg
American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
European Political Science Society
European Consortium for Political Research
Phi Beta Kappa

References

Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer
Thomas Cooke & Mary Elizabeth Edwards Chair in Government & Democracy
Rice University
schwindt@rice.edu

Aksel Sundström
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University of Gothenburg
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Jonathan Homola
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University of California, Los Angeles
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Jennifer M. Piscopo
Professor of Gender and Politics
Royal Holloway University of London
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