

Katia Davila

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science	Current
University of Houston	Houston, TX
Master of Arts in Political Science	2026
University of Houston	Houston, TX
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Global Studies	2022
University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Gender and Politics, Urban and Local Politics, Representation, and Elections

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant January 2023 - Present

University of Houston Department of Political Science *Houston, TX*

- Assistant to Prof. Kelley Littlepage
January 2026 - Present
 - Compile foundational literature for a project on international trafficking in human organ transplantation.
- Assistant to Prof. Zachary Zwald
January 2023 - December 2025
 - Researched academic literature and reports on military uses of AI, human trust formation, AI accuracy, and factors shaping judgment and decision-making.
 - Analyzed how different AI performance influences human trust in high-stakes military contexts.
 - Examined Russian and Chinese disinformation and misinformation campaigns, identifying key narratives and their psychological impacts.
 - Collected data on recent, active political parties across multiple European and Southeast Asian countries for comparative analysis.

Teaching Assistant Aug 2022 - Present

University of Houston Department of Political Science *Houston, TX*

- Led several instructor-approved lectures in multiple political science courses.
- Responsible for the administration and grading evaluations for several lower-division and upper-division undergraduate classes. Courses included:
 - Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2022; Spring 2023)
 - Introduction to International Relations [asynchronous] (Fall 2022, 2024)
 - Nuclear Weapons: International and National Security Implications (Fall 2022, 2024, 2025)
 - Causes of War (Spring 2023, 2025)
 - Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties (Spring 2026)

- Conducted data collection and analysis for a study on Spanish children's development brokering for their parents.
- Organized and transcribed Spanish audio recordings into comprehensive documents, ensuring data accuracy and clarity for analysis.
- Streamlined the recruitment process by scheduling, coordinating, and managing interviews for prospective research assistants.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STEM Crew Leader and Summer Camp Counselor

Aug 2020 - July 2022

Girlstart

Austin, TX

- Led activities focused on science, technology, engineering, and math, modifying as needed to accommodate any unique scenarios.
- Developed, practiced, and organized curriculum and materials for hands-on STEM activities each week.
- Facilitated classroom management techniques while acting as a positive role model for groups of up to 25 elementary students.
- Ensured all after-school policies were followed and students were safe.

Student Space Assistant

Sept 2019 - Nov 2019

IRRIS

Austin, TX

- Ensured accuracy of coding and data entry for UT's state audit through rigorous project oversight.
- Coordinated with various departments and faculties to schedule meetings and gather critical facility data.
- Managed inspections of campus spaces, verifying usage, capacity, and occupancy for compliance reporting.

PUBLICATIONS

Cortina, Jeronimo, and **Katia Davila**. 2025. "Latino Political Participation and Representation." In *Political Science*, by Jeronimo Cortina and Katia Davila. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/obo/9780199756223-0380>.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Davila, K. "How Campaign Funding and National Donor Involvement Impacts Who Runs for School Boards."

Paper presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association. 2026. Chicago, IL.

Davila, K. "The Far Right." Speaker presentation at Genocide Awareness Day. 2025. San Jacinto, TX.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Secretary - Political Science Graduate Student Organization

May 2025 - Present

University of Houston Department of Political Science

Communications Chair - Political Science Graduate Student Organization

May 2023 - May 2025

University of Houston Department of Political Science

Sargent-At-Arms - Alpha Phi Omega

December 2021 - May 2022

University of Texas at Austin