

CRITICAL DEBATE

# A Unified Canon? Latin American Graduate Training in Comparative Politics

Nicolás Taccone<sup>1</sup>, Inés Fynn<sup>2</sup> and Ignacio Borba<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nicolás Taccone is a PhD candidate in political science, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, <sup>2</sup>Inés Fynn is an assistant professor at the Universidad Católica del Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay and <sup>3</sup>Ignacio Borba is a PhD student in political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago

**Corresponding author:** Nicolás Taccone; Email: [nicolas\\_taccone@brown.edu](mailto:nicolas_taccone@brown.edu)

(Received 5 December 2023; revised 27 June 2024; accepted 27 June 2024; first published online 06 November 2024)

## ABSTRACT

In Latin American comparative politics, a tension exists between North Americanization and parochialism. While certain academic scholarship is published in Scopus-indexed journals that engage with “mainstream” Global North literature, other works are found in non-indexed outlets, focusing solely on their home countries and fostering parochial scientific communities. To assess this tension in graduate program curricula, we compiled an original dataset of comparative politics readings from 21 universities across nine Latin American countries. Our network analysis reveals a centralized structure influenced by mainstream readings, challenging the expectation of parochialism. In addition to the mainstream content, universities tend to incorporate readings from regional journals to facilitate cross-case comparisons. However, these materials are inconsistently shared, resulting in fragmentation of content from Latin American sources. Our findings contribute to and challenge the North Americanization versus parochialism debate, showing that future scholars receive similar mainstream training but encounter diverse regional materials during their PhD studies.

**Keywords:** Graduate training; comparative politics; North Americanization; parochialism; Latin America

## Introduction

Political Science (PS) in Latin America has experienced significant institutional growth since the second half of the twentieth century. The growth has manifested as the expansion of graduate and undergraduate programs, increased research funding availability, the establishment of national and regional political science associations, and growing academic publications and influence by local scholars. Within the subfield of comparative politics (CP), particularly concerning academic production, a heated debate has emerged between two contrasting tendencies: North Americanization vs. parochialism. While some Latin American scholars actively seek to publish and engage with mainstream literature from the Global North, others primarily concentrate their research on their home countries (Tanaka 2017; Freidenberg 2017; Codato et al. 2020; Lucca 2021).<sup>1</sup>

Scholarship on PS’s institutionalization in the region has predominantly concentrated on case study research, examining countries such as Brazil, Argentina, El Salvador, Chile, Ecuador, Costa

<sup>1</sup>Following Tanaka and Dargent (2015) and Lucca (2021), within this context, the term “North Americanization” does not refer to the geographic region comprising Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Instead, it conceptually embodies the notion of the Global North, with a primary emphasis on the United States while also considering Western Europe.

Rica, Uruguay, and Mexico, among others (Amorim and Santos 2015; Calvo et al. 2019; Artiga-González 2006; Fuentes and Santana 2005; Heiss 2015; Mejía Acosta et al. 2005; Alfaro Redondo and Cullel 2005; Barrientos del Monte 2015; Buquet 2012).<sup>2</sup> Notably, this scholarship often lacks a systematic comparative component, making it difficult to draw generalizable conclusions about the institutionalization process mentioned above. Furthermore, these studies have yet to explore a previously overlooked dimension of institutionalization: doctoral students' training in comparative politics within Latin American universities.

The CP subfield in Latin America holds significant importance, making notable contributions to mainstream Global North political science literature (Munck 2007). Most Latin American political scientists specialize in comparative politics (Freidenberg and Malamud 2017). Since the 1990s, numerous young political scientists from Latin America have pursued academic training in the United States (Freidenberg and Malamud 2013; Bulcourf and Cardozo 2017). However, with the growth of the discipline and graduate programs in the region, many students are opting for local training in Latin America in addition to those studying abroad. These changes in the region's institutional educational landscape raise important questions about the nature of CP training received by graduate students. Do future Latin American comparative politics scholars receive similar training? Is there a single canon for instructing CP in the region?

To investigate PhD students' training systematically, we built an original dataset of the comparative politics readings<sup>3</sup> that they encounter in 21 universities across nine Latin American countries. These universities offer courses in comparative politics within their political science doctoral programs. In total, our dataset comprises 1886 individual readings—our unit of analysis is *a reading*. This dataset facilitated a network analysis to determine the existence of a unified canon for teaching CP in Latin American doctoral programs. Additionally, we employed descriptive statistics to gain deeper insights into various reading characteristics (including reading type, outlet, methodology, language, and authors' gender and region of origin), shedding light on the nature of the canon being imparted in these programs.

Among various reading characteristics, we devoted special attention to the *type* of readings to assess the presence of the tension between North Americanization and parochialism within PhD-level CP materials. *Mainstream* readings are those published in Scopus-indexed outlets.<sup>4</sup> Scopus-indexed publications undergo rigorous peer review and must engage with substantive comparative literature. They employ widely accepted theoretical and methodological frameworks within the discipline to contribute to academic knowledge. Therefore, regardless of whether these readings examine one or multiple cases, we classify them as mainstream. Typical examples include articles from prestigious US-based journals like the *American Political Science Review* or *Comparative Political Studies*, as well as publications from leading European book publishers such as Oxford or Cambridge University Press.<sup>5</sup>

In contrast, *parochial* readings focus exclusively on their respective Latin American universities' home countries. We categorized readings as parochial if they were not published in Scopus-indexed sources *and* solely concentrated on the country where the university is located.

Not all readings neatly fit into the categories of mainstream or parochial, though. We have identified a distinct third category, which we conceptualize as *regional* readings. Unlike mainstream materials, these readings do not engage in explicit dialogue with the established Global North literature and, as a result, are not indexed in Scopus database outlets. However,

<sup>2</sup>For exceptions, please refer to Altman (2006) and Freidenberg (2017).

<sup>3</sup>In this article, we use the terms "readings," "content," and "materials" interchangeably.

<sup>4</sup>Scopus is a reputable indexing database with full-text links produced by Elsevier Company, an international publishing business. Some PS investigations that have utilized Scopus include Marengo (2014); Codato et al. (2020); Universitas Islam Negeri (2022); and Jokić et al. (2019).

<sup>5</sup>Importantly, mainstream readings are not exclusively sourced from US or European publishers. For instance, the *Revista de Ciencia Política* (Santiago) and *Dados: Revista de Ciências Sociais* are notable examples of mainstream outlets in Spanish and Portuguese, respectively.

unlike parochial materials, regional readings extend beyond a university's home country. Instead, they involve cross-case comparisons to contribute to academic knowledge within the discipline. Books or chapters published by the Fondo de Cultura Económica in Mexico or the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in Peru, along with articles in Argentine journals like *Revista POSTData* or *Desarrollo Económico*, are frequently used as regional sources.

Our findings challenge the conventional dichotomy of North Americanization versus parochialism underscored by previous scholarship, offering a more nuanced interpretation within the context of doctoral curricula in CP. Across the region's graduate programs, we have identified a reasonably unified canon for the teaching of comparative politics. While acknowledging some curriculum variations among universities, our analysis reveals a predominantly centralized network structure. This centralization can be attributed to the widespread inclusion of mainstream CP readings, primarily originating from the Global North, and shared by most universities.

Contrary to expectations set by existing literature, universities almost entirely exclude parochial materials from their curricula. Instead, they favor the inclusion of regional readings that embrace a comparative approach, often sourced from Latin American journals. This finding challenges the ongoing debate regarding the tension between parochialism and North Americanization, which fails to recognize the presence of regional readings. However, these readings are not consistently shared among universities. Consequently, unlike mainstream content, doctoral students in Latin America are not consistently exposed to similar regional materials. While most PhD students in Latin America engage with mainstream CP works by scholars like Gary W. Cox and Adam Przeworski, they typically do not consume similar materials originating from the region.

The article is organized as follows. Section two provides an overview of political science's institutionalization in Latin America, focusing on comparative politics and the North Americanization versus parochialism debate. Section three details our data collection process and methods for investigating the presence of a unified canon for teaching comparative politics in the region. Section four presents our network analysis results, followed by section five, which offers descriptive statistics for a deeper understanding of the network. The last section summarizes the main findings, discusses their implications, and suggests future research directions.

## **Comparative Politics Institutionalization in Latin America: Between Autonomy and Northern Influence**

From its origins in the mid-twentieth century to the present day, political science in Latin America has undergone a process of institutionalization, gradually consolidating as an independent field of study. This process, which entails the discipline's transition from a vocation to a profession (Bejarano 2015; Tanaka 2017), has been studied through different dimensions, such as academic offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels, regional journals' publication impact, and the development of scientific and professional networks, among others (Durán-Martínez et al. 2023; D'Alessandro 2013; Bulcourf 2012; Altman 2012; Bulcourf and Cardozo 2017).

Historically, the development of PS in Latin America has had a solid link to democratization processes (Barrientos del Monte 2013; Ravecca 2019). During the 1970s, the discipline experienced a "golden age," cut short by the re-emergence of authoritarian regimes (Altman 2006). However, with the return of democracy in the 1980s–1990s, PS's institutionalization resumed its trajectory in the region. This resurgence was driven by scholars' interest in understanding democratic transitions and changes in the international context following the end of the Cold War (Barrientos del Monte 2013). For instance, prior to democracy's "third wave" (Huntington 1991), Latin American students interested in politics had to study law or sociology due to the lack of academic offerings in PS (Bejarano 2015; Tanaka 2017). The relatively recent

establishment of undergraduate and graduate programs in universities across the region reflects the increasing trend in institutionalization (Tanaka and Dargent 2015; Altman 2012).

While political science's institutionalization has made significant progress in Latin America, there is still considerable variation among countries in the region. This variation can be attributed to divergent historical contexts and academic politics (Altman 2006; Bulcourf and Cardozo 2017; Amorim Neto and Santos 2015). In some countries, the establishment of bachelor's degree programs in PS is relatively recent; in others, there exists a wide array of master's and doctoral programs.<sup>6</sup> The level of institutionalization ranges from countries with well-established national political science associations and universities offering a broad spectrum of degrees and research programs, such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, and, to a lesser extent, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Venezuela. In contrast, some countries like Bolivia lack these attributes (Varnoux Garay 2005; Barrientos del Monte 2013; Freidenberg 2017).

The growing institutionalization of PS is also evident in the academic production from and about the region. Notably, the subdiscipline of Latin American comparative politics has historically made significant contributions to the Global North's "mainstream" literature in political science (Munck 2007). The institutionalization of PS in Latin America has provided intellectuals with the necessary research infrastructure to "give voice" to a distinctive Latin American perspective when examining political phenomena. Guillermo O'Donnell's work (1973, 1986, 1993, 1994) stands out as a prime example of this phenomenon.

Scholars have underscored a tension between two extremes in Latin American comparative politics academic production: North Americanization vs. parochialism (Tanaka 2017; Lucca 2021). While some Latin American scholarship has significantly influenced (and been influenced by) the Anglo-Saxon "mainstream" literature in PS, not all academic work on the region engages with this body of scholarship (Munck 2007; Freidenberg 2017). Some Latin American researchers, especially younger scholars who have studied abroad, actively seek publication in US or European academic journals and dialogue with the mainstream literature from the Global North. However, many Latin America-based scholars tend to focus their research on their own countries (Lucca 2021; Chasquetti 2010; Rocha 2012), resulting in the formation of parochial scientific communities (Tanaka 2017; Codato et al. 2020). Traditionally, research projects in each country primarily center on national (or sub-national) cases; therefore, comparative political analyses involving multiple Latin American countries remain relatively scarce (Rocha 2012; Chasquetti 2017; Basabe-Serrano and Huertas-Hernandez 2018).

The North Americanization of CP in Latin America is rooted in the origins of the subfield, which has been intrinsically connected to developments in the Global North, particularly in the United States and continental Europe (Munck 2007; Calvo et al. 2019). Global North scholars have historically influenced the work of Latin American social scientists (Munck and Snyder 2019).<sup>7</sup> Driven by both greater financial resources and intellectual curiosity in the study of Latin America than their Western European counterparts, US universities have attracted many young Latin American political scientists since the 1990s who pursued advanced academic training in the United States (Bulcourf and Cardozo 2017). Within PS, most of these academics have specialized in comparative politics. While some have opted to build their professional or academic careers in the United States, many have returned to Latin America after completing their PhD studies (Freidenberg and Malamud 2013).<sup>8</sup> Upon their return, Latin American comparative politics naturally absorbed some of the themes, methods, and research design strategies predominating in

<sup>6</sup>For instance, while Mexico offers 72 undergraduate programs in political science, Uruguay only offers two (Bulcourf and Cardozo 2017).

<sup>7</sup>For example, Karl Marx's and Antonio Gramsci's written production were relevant to many Latin American social scientists. Moreover, Cardoso's and Falleto's work on dependency and development (1979) was influenced by European intellectuals, as well as José Carlos Mariátegui's books and essays (Munck and Snyder 2019).

<sup>8</sup>Specifically, Freidenberg and Malamud (2017) explore the intellectual trajectories of scholars from Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay.

the North (Bulcourn and Cardozo 2017). These migration processes have bolstered the transnational networks of scholars, both formal and informal, between the South and the North (Munck and Snyder 2019).<sup>9</sup>

Nonetheless, Northern influences have not uniformly impacted all scientific communities across Latin America. As articulated by Weyland (2015, 128), compared to other regions, “there is much less of a clear-cut separation between politics and political science in Latin America.” For example, changes in government or regime transitions can redefine leadership roles within universities, thus affecting their intellectual pursuits and research initiatives (Munck and Snyder 2019). Consequently, the distinct socio-political contexts in each country have given rise to a fragmented landscape within the field of PS, characterized by varying levels of institutionalization and diverse research agendas (Barrientos del Monte 2013). A clear manifestation of this fragmentation is a parochialism of academic production, whereby research programs predominantly confine their focus to domestic cases (Codato et al. 2020).

In sum, while part of Latin American CP directly converses with the Global North scholarship to analyze political phenomena, other research programs focus primarily on their respective home countries. This dichotomy has resulted in a noticeable tension often referred to as “North Americanization versus parochialism” (Tanaka 2017; Freidenberg 2017; Codato et al. 2020; Lucca 2021). Given the active involvement of Latin American-based scholars in training graduate students in the region, this article explores whether this tension is mirrored in the curricula of PhD programs.

## Data and Methods

To investigate the training of doctoral students, we constructed an original dataset encompassing the assigned readings in CP at 21 universities across nine Latin American countries. This dataset facilitated a network analysis, revealing the connections between universities based on their assigned readings. Our dataset includes various dimensions of these readings, such as author information (region of origin and gender) and reading details (type, outlet, method, and language), all of which we utilize to characterize the resultant network. In total, we collected data for 1886 readings, with each reading serving as our unit of analysis.

We conducted an extensive online search to identify universities potentially offering a PhD program in PS. Subsequently, we emailed these universities to gather the necessary information for constructing our dataset.<sup>10</sup> Specifically, we contacted the political science departments<sup>11</sup>—reaching out to doctoral program directors and coordinators—and requested the reading list for the comprehensive exam in comparative politics.<sup>12</sup> When that exam was not part of the doctoral program, we asked for syllabi for the core or general seminar on comparative politics. When that type of seminar was not offered either, we asked for syllabi for two or three seminars covering essential topics in comparative politics. In all instances, we requested the most updated version of the materials.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup>For instance, some US universities offer research visits to Latin American scholars for an academic semester (Munck and Snyder 2019).

<sup>10</sup>As we began contacting the universities, we discovered that certain institutions did not offer a PhD in Political Science, such as the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (El Salvador). We also discovered that some universities did have a PhD in Political Science but lacked a comprehensive exam or any course on comparative politics, like the Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico). For these reasons, we excluded all these universities from our study.

<sup>11</sup>Some universities do not have a PS Department, as evidenced by Table A.1. In those cases, we contacted the appropriate department responsible for overseeing political science curricula.

<sup>12</sup>In some instances, we accessed the data through informal channels, i.e., contacting colleagues we are acquainted with and requesting their assistance in obtaining the information. Examples include the UNSAM and PUCP. In other cases, we accessed the data directly through the university’s website, e.g., the USB.

<sup>13</sup>Some universities promptly provided the requested information after our initial contact. In contrast, others responded after multiple follow-up emails, ranging from our second to fifth attempt. Some universities never responded. List of universities that did not respond by country: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, and the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil); Universidad del Rosario

We collected data for 21 universities spanning nine Latin American countries, including six from Argentina,<sup>14</sup> four from Brazil,<sup>15</sup> three from Colombia,<sup>16</sup> two from Chile,<sup>17</sup> two from Mexico,<sup>18</sup> one from Uruguay,<sup>19</sup> one from Peru,<sup>20</sup> one from Ecuador,<sup>21</sup> and one from Venezuela<sup>22</sup> (see Table A.1 in the Appendix for the specific university departments, graduate programs, and consulted materials). Our sample of universities may present certain biases. For example, Argentine universities are overrepresented, while Mexican universities are underrepresented. Moreover, it is plausible that universities with more substantial financial resources were more responsive to our emails, likely due to having more administrative personnel available for public inquiries. Nonetheless, our sample includes both public and private universities from a diverse range of countries, making it sufficiently large and varied to draw generalizable conclusions about the state of comparative politics doctoral education across Latin America.<sup>23</sup>

Based on our novel dataset, we conducted a network analysis to explore the similarities and differences in CP content provided by Latin American universities to their doctoral students. Our primary goal was to assess whether a unified model for training future comparativist scholars exists in Latin America. Graphically, each node represents a university, and connecting lines indicate shared readings between two or more universities. This analysis visually represents each university's position within the broader network, reflecting the extent of shared readings.

To evaluate whether the tension between North Americanization and parochialism is reflected in PhD program curricula, we categorized assigned readings into three types: *mainstream*, *regional*, and *parochial*. This categorization stems from the intersection of two analytical criteria. First, we determine if the reading is published in a Scopus-indexed outlet. Second, if the reading is not published in a Scopus outlet, we then assess whether it employs a comparative approach. Figure 1 illustrates our approach for categorizing these various types of readings.

We operationalized readings as *mainstream* if they were published in outlets (journals, books, etc.) indexed in Scopus, a widely recognized database for scholarly research. Scopus-indexed publications undergo rigorous peer review, ensuring a high standard of excellence. Therefore, we consider readings published in Scopus-indexed outlets as mainstream because they are likely to engage with the most relevant theoretical debates in the discipline to meet the criteria of excellence. In essence, regardless of whether these readings examine one or multiple cases, they are inherently in dialogue with the comparative literature on the topic, which we deem sufficient for classification as mainstream. For example, consider a recent book by Pérez Bentancur, Piñeiro, and Rosenblatt (2020) that studies Uruguay's *Frente Amplio*. While this book centers on the Uruguayan case, we classified it as mainstream because it was published in a Scopus-listed outlet

---

(Colombia); Universidad de Occidente (Guatemala); Universidad de Asunción (Paraguay); Universidad de Belgrano and Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Argentina); Universidad de Guadalajara, Universidad Internacional de América, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, and El Colegio de Veracruz (Mexico); Universidad Central de Venezuela and Universidad Rafael Belloso Chacín (Venezuela).

<sup>14</sup>Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, UTDT; Universidad Nacional de Entre Ríos, UNER; Universidad Católica Argentina, UCA; Universidad del Salvador, USAL; Universidad Nacional de San Martín, UNSAM; and Universidad Católica de Córdoba, UCC.

<sup>15</sup>Universidade de São Paulo, USP; Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, UERJ; Universidade de Brasília, UnB; and Universidade Federal do Paraná, UFRP.

<sup>16</sup>Universidad de Los Andes, UniAndes; Universidad Nacional de Colombia, UNC; and Universidad del Externado, UExternado.

<sup>17</sup>Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, PUC; and Universidad Diego Portales, UDP.

<sup>18</sup>Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, CIDE; and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM.

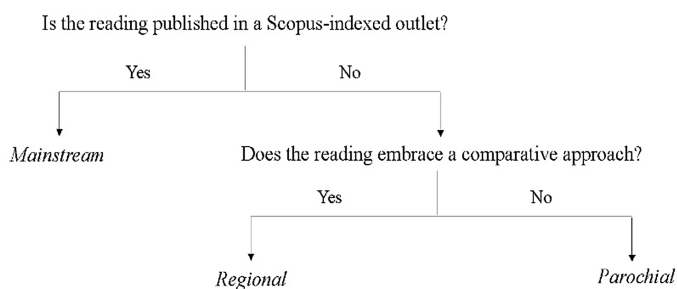
<sup>19</sup>Universidad de la República, UdelAR.

<sup>20</sup>Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, PUCP.

<sup>21</sup>Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO.

<sup>22</sup>Universidad Simón Bolívar, USB.

<sup>23</sup>Out of the 21 universities in our sample, 10 are public (UNER, UNSAM, USP, UERJ, UNB, UFRP, UNC, CIDE, UNAM, USB) and 1 are private (UTDT, UCA, USAL, UCC, UniAndes, UExternado, PUC, UDP, UdelAR, PUCP, FLACSO).



**Figure 1.** Operationalization of Reading Types.

Source: Own elaboration.

(Cambridge University Press). Furthermore, it references other cases and directly engages with the comparative scholarship on the topic.

We operationalized readings as *regional* if they were *not* published in Scopus-indexed outlets *but did* employ a comparative approach when studying political phenomena. This categorization highlights a previously overlooked middle ground within the tension discussed in the literature. Although “mainstream” and “parochial” are relevant categories, they do not encompass the whole universe of assigned materials in CP within Latin American universities. The “regional” category helps address this gap by acknowledging materials that take a comparative perspective but do not meet the criteria for mainstream classification.

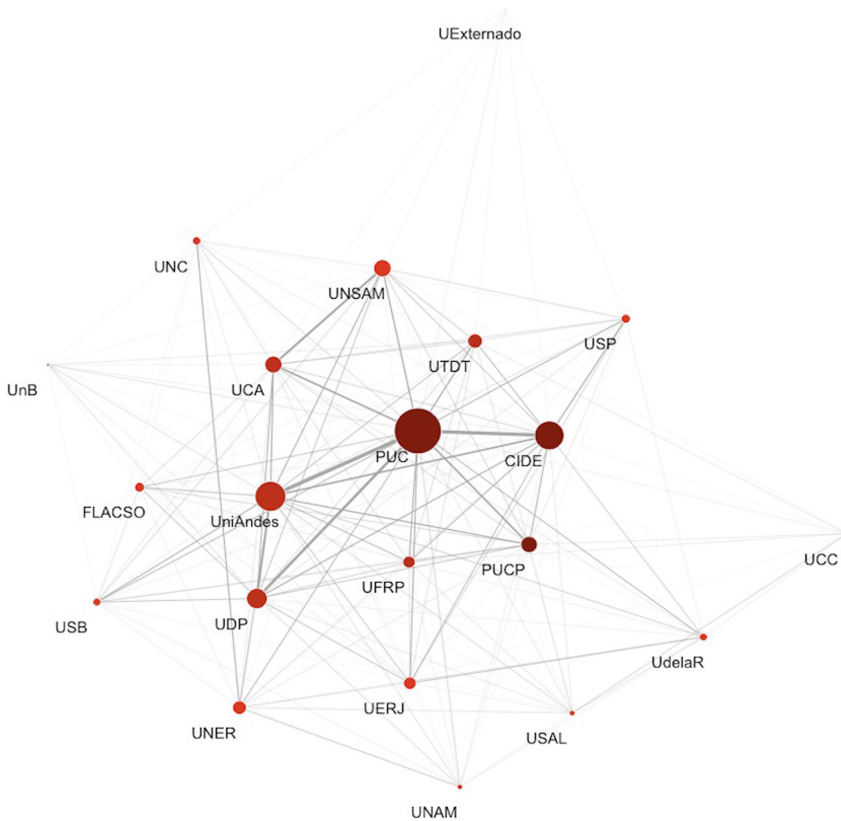
Finally, we operationalized readings as *parochial* if they were *not* published in Scopus-indexed outlets *and* exclusively focused on the home country of the university. Both conditions are individually necessary and jointly sufficient for classifying a reading as parochial. This rigorous operationalization strategy ensures that all designated parochial readings genuinely exhibit parochial tendencies. While the absence of a Scopus listing initially indicated that these readings may not be in dialogue with other cases through established scholarship, the additional criterion of being case studies about the same country as the assigning university confirms their parochial nature.

### Latin American Graduate Training in Comparative Politics: A Unified Canon?

Figure 2 presents our network analysis’ results, with nodes representing universities and lines indicating shared readings.<sup>24</sup> The analysis reveals a reasonably centralized structure (Borgatti et al. 2009), suggesting a well-defined center formed by PUCP, CIDE, and PUC, around which the rest of the universities tend to converge—except for the UExternado, which stands apart. A subgroup of universities (UFRP, UTDT, UDP, UCA, and UniAndes) is positioned closer to the center of the network. The remaining universities are dispersed further from one another and from the central cluster. However, they still surround the center, forming a third (FLACSO, UERJ, UNSAM, UNER, USB, USAL, UNAM, UNC, USP) and fourth (UdelaR, UnB, UCC) layer of a concentric circle. In summary, all universities in the network are clustered around the three most central institutions (PUCP, CIDE, and PUC).

Conceptually, the prominence of each university relies on its *position* and *size* within the network (Alonso and Carabali 2019). These two indicators are crucial for assessing whether the canon is unified or not. The *degree of centrality*—the most widely used indicator in network analysis (Borgatti et al. 2009)—gauges the total number of readings shared by “university X” with

<sup>24</sup>The thicker a line between two universities, the more readings they share.



**Figure 2.** Latin American Universities' Connections across Comparative Politics Readings.  
Source: Own elaboration.

the other more central universities, determining each university's *position* within the network.<sup>25</sup> A higher centrality value, standardized on a scale from 0 to 1, indicates a more central position within the network.<sup>26</sup> With a degree of centrality of 1, the PUCP, CIDE, and PUC are the network's three most central universities, followed closely by a subgroup of five universities with a degree of centrality equal to or higher than 0.9 (UFRP, UTDT, UDP, UCA, and UniAndes).<sup>27</sup> As the shade of red becomes lighter in the figure, the universities' degree of centrality decreases.

The *size* of each node reflects the total number of readings a university has in common with *any* other university. For instance, the PUC's node is the biggest because, in total, it shares the greatest number of readings with other universities (118 readings).<sup>28</sup> In contrast, universities like UnB or UNAM are represented by tiny nodes because they barely share readings with other universities (respectively, they only share 10 and 14 readings with others).

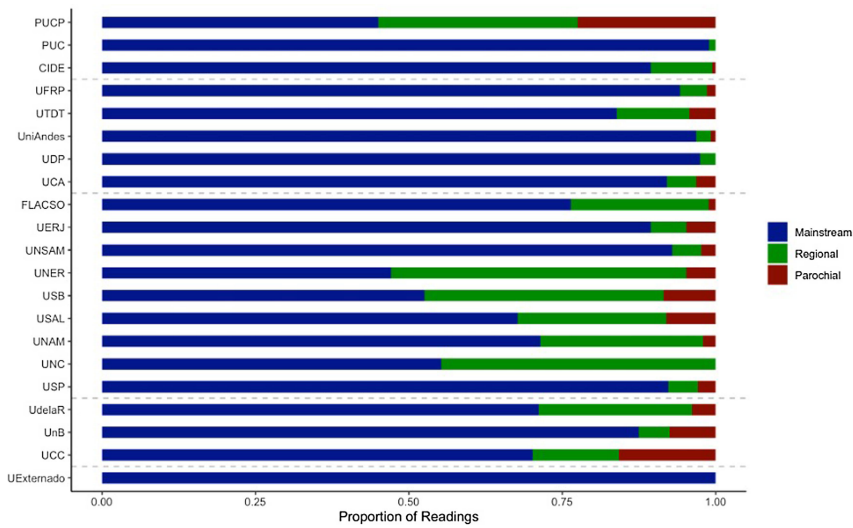
It is worth noting that a higher degree of centrality for a university does *not* necessarily imply a larger node size. Put differently, a higher degree of centrality indicates that a university shares

<sup>25</sup>We estimated other metrics (*authority score* and *closeness*) to ensure our results were consistent across different central tendency indicators (see Table A.2).

<sup>26</sup>Considering that not all universities offer the same number of readings in CP (for instance, the PUC offers 185 while the UCC offers 57), we built a standardized measure of their total quantity of offered materials to mitigate the overrepresentation of universities with the larger number of readings in the network (Csárdi and Nepusz 2006).

<sup>27</sup>Table A.2 summarizes the estimated statistical metrics to interpret the network.

<sup>28</sup>Refer to Table A.2 for detailed information on each university's total number of readings, total number of shared readings, and percentage of shared readings.



**Figure 3.** Types of Readings per University.  
*Source:* Own elaboration.

more readings with the more central universities of the network—*not* with any other university. The PUCP is an excellent example of this phenomenon. While it has a degree of centrality of 1, the highest possible value, its node size is relatively small. This is because it shares many readings with the other central universities in the network (e.g., PUC and CIDE) but only a few with more peripheral universities. A counterexample would be the UniAndes, which shares a great proportion of readings with other universities (hence, its node is large), but has relatively fewer readings in common with the network’s most prominent universities (hence, it is not at the center of the network).

In sum, our network analysis reveals a fairly cohesive model for instructing CP in the region, evident from the centralized arrangement of universities in the visualization. The next section will further evaluate the network’s underlying characteristics, devoting special attention to the types of readings incorporated and shared by universities to assess whether the North Americanization versus parochialism tension manifests in CP PhD curricula.

### Reading Types’ Impact on Network Structure: Mainstream Dominance, Regional Engagement, and Scarce Parochialism

Universities present three possible types of readings: mainstream, regional, or parochial. Mainstream readings belong to the well-established canon of comparative politics, indicated by their inclusion in outlets indexed in Scopus. Regional readings are not published in Scopus-indexed outlets but offer a comparative approach when studying political phenomena. Parochial readings are neither published in Scopus-indexed outlets nor engaged in comparative analysis—they are exclusively focused on their home countries.

Figure 3 shows the proportion of different types of readings per university, organized by the most to the least central universities in the network.

Most of the comparative politics readings offered in the region are mainstream (80%). The vast majority of universities focus their curricula on mainstream content, with 19 out of 21 universities in our sample offering over 50% of mainstream readings. Mainstream readings are predominantly

authored in English (76%) by scholars from the Global North (78%).<sup>29</sup> The most common outlets for mainstream materials are Cambridge University Press for full books or selected book chapters (~24%) and the American Political Science Review for journal articles (~4%).<sup>30</sup> Their primary methodology is analytical narrative (42%),<sup>31</sup> followed by observational quantitative (26%) and qualitative (19%) methods.<sup>32</sup> Moreover, 85% of mainstream authors are men.<sup>33</sup> As we move further away from the central universities in the network, the proportion of mainstream readings decreases.

Contrary to expectations from the literature, only 5% of the offered materials, on average, are parochial. Parochial readings are the least commonly offered type of readings by all universities, both central and peripheral, thus demonstrating a consistent pattern of low parochialism across all institutions in the network. Unlike mainstream content, parochial readings are overwhelmingly produced in Spanish or Portuguese (94%) by Latin American scholars (95%). Like mainstream content, analytical narrative remains the primary research method (61%), followed by observational quantitative (24%) and qualitative (9%) methods. Again, men are the predominant authors, accounting for 90% of parochial materials. Siglo XXI Editores from Mexico and Editorial Alianza from Spain each account for approximately 5% of parochial publications, making them the most common outlets for this type of material.<sup>34</sup>

Instead of exclusively studying their home countries through parochial materials, universities are more inclined to incorporate readings that facilitate cross-case comparisons from regional journals. These types of readings—which we refer to as *regional*—represent, on average, 15% of the total proportion of readings. These materials are typically published in regional sources such as the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (Fondo Editorial), comprising approximately 18% of them, or Desarrollo Económico from Argentina, accounting for around 7%.<sup>35</sup> The proportion of regional readings in university curricula increases as we move away from the center of the network, where mainstream readings tend to be more prevalent.<sup>36</sup> Put differently, regional readings are most common among peripheral vis-à-vis central universities.<sup>37</sup> While they are also predominantly authored by men (87%) and heavily rely on analytical narrative (64%), they offer a more mixed picture than mainstream and parochial readings in other relevant dimensions. For instance, they rely more on qualitative (18%) than quantitative (7%) methods.<sup>38</sup> Moreover, they are neither overwhelmingly written in Spanish/Portuguese (61%) nor English (39%), and their authors are almost evenly distributed from the United States (30%), Europe (27%), and Latin America (35%).

So far, we have uncovered two main findings. First, our network analysis reveals notable centralization within the network structure. Second, universities offer distinct types of readings, primarily mainstream, with a non-trivial proportion of regional materials and a negligible amount of parochial content. Now, the question arises: are these two outcomes interconnected? In other

<sup>29</sup>Table A.3 summarizes the language per type of reading. Table A.4 synthesizes the authors' region of origin per type of reading.

<sup>30</sup>See the list of top ten outlets for mainstream readings in Table A.7.

<sup>31</sup>*Analytical narrative* clusters readings that critically describe and explain political phenomena without necessarily a well-outlined research design but through an inductive and depth knowledge of cases. O'Donnell's work on "brown areas" (1993) and "delegative democracy" (1994) are examples of readings within this category.

<sup>32</sup>Table A.5 summarizes the methods used per type of reading.

<sup>33</sup>Table A.6 synthesizes the authors' gender per type of reading.

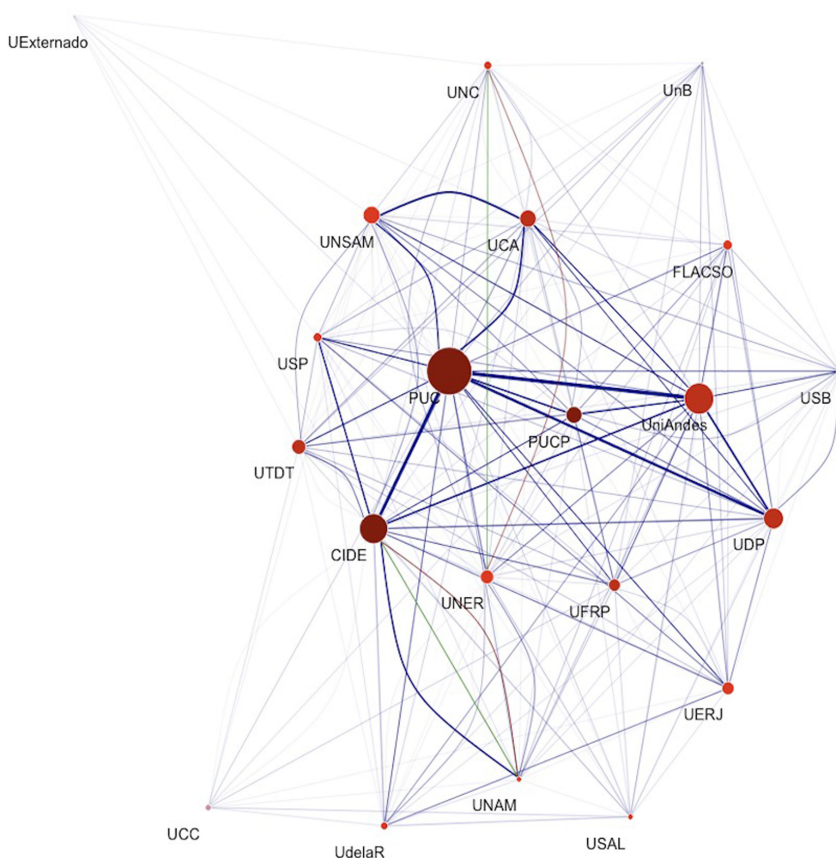
<sup>34</sup>See the list of top ten outlets for parochial readings in Table A.8.

<sup>35</sup>See the list of top ten outlets for regional readings in Table A.9.

<sup>36</sup>The PUCP and the UExternado break this pattern. The PUCP has a high proportion of regional readings (33%) and is one of the most central universities in the network. The UExternado has 0% of regional readings (100% mainstream) and is the most peripheral university in the network.

<sup>37</sup>In some cases, like the UNER (48%) or UNC (45%), regional readings constitute almost half of their total assigned materials.

<sup>38</sup>Unlike regional readings, we found a grater prevalence of quantitative methods in parochial content. This can be attributed to the tendency of parochial content to rely on survey and legislative data for quantitative examination of their study phenomena. In contrast, regional readings frequently utilize the comparative method to analyze two or more cases of interest.



**Figure 4.** Latin American Universities' Connections per Type of CP Reading.  
 Source: Own elaboration.

words, does the sharing of specific types of readings among universities significantly influence the overall network structure?

Figure 4 shows the connections between universities based on the type of shared reading. Mainstream readings are represented by blue lines, regional readings by green lines, and parochial readings by red lines. The thicker the line in the visualization, the greater the interconnections between universities. Notably, the figure displays a prevalence of mainstream literature connecting the universities, evident in the abundance of blue lines. In contrast, the network exhibits limited sharing of regional readings, indicated by the sparse green lines, and even scarcer sharing of parochial readings, with virtually no red lines in the visualization.

Figure 5 zooms into specific connections between all universities regarding shared mainstream readings. This heatmap employs varying shades of blue to represent the intensity of mainstream readings shared between pairs of universities. Deeper blue indicates higher overlap. Numbers within each dyad range from 0 to 1; 0 indicates no shared mainstream readings, while 1 denotes complete overlap. More central universities in the network (e.g., CIDE, UniAndes, and PUC) share a significant number of mainstream materials, as indicated by the prevalence of darkest shades of blue in the upper part of the heatmap. These connections are the key to the network's centralized and reasonably cohesive structure. In contrast, peripheral universities (e.g., UdelaR or UnB) tend to have less overlap in their mainstream curricula, evidenced by the prevalence of

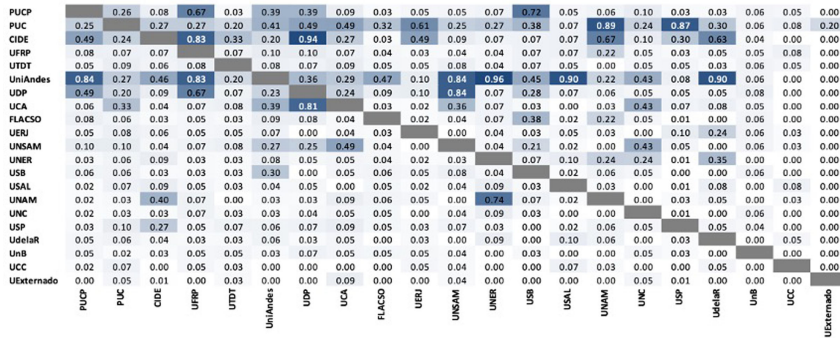


Figure 5. Shared *Mainstream* Readings across Universities.

Source: Own elaboration.

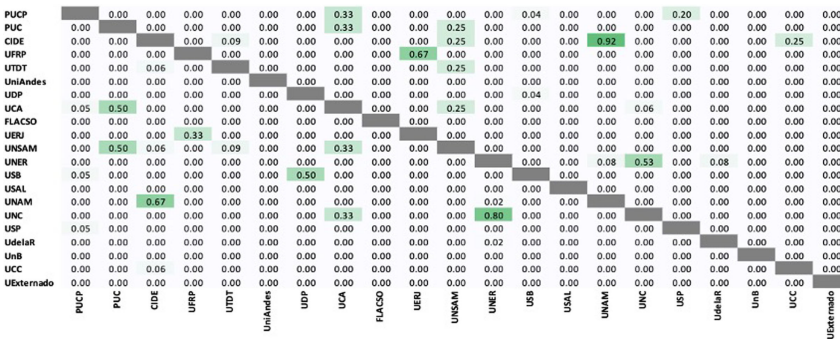


Figure 6. Shared *Regional* Readings across Universities.

Source: Own elaboration.

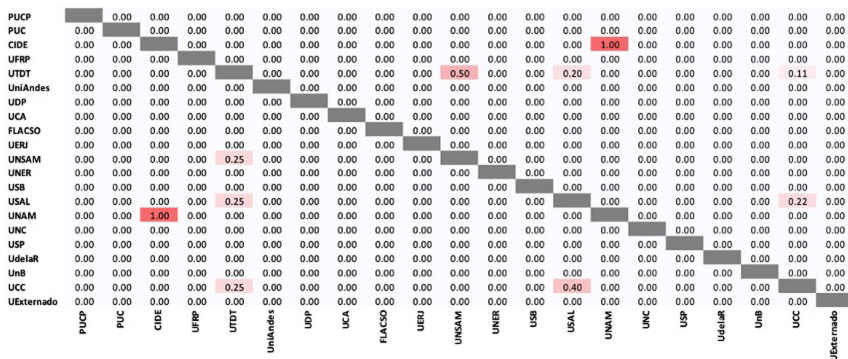
lighter shades of blue in the lower portion of the heatmap. Importantly, all universities share at least one mainstream reading with another university.<sup>39</sup>

The cells or dyads should be interpreted as the proportion of shared readings of a university in the Y-axis over a university in X-axis. For example, take the dyad on column 1, row 6 (cell value: 0.84). That means that the UniAndes shares 0.84 of its mainstream materials with the PUCP, over the PUCP's total mainstream materials. The same interpretation criterion applies to the upcoming heatmaps, Figures 6 and 7.

Figure 6 reveals that, unlike mainstream content, regional readings are infrequently shared among universities, leading to a fragmentation of materials from Latin American sources. Put differently, this heatmap indicates that only a small proportion of regional readings are shared among a few universities, with no discernible clear or systematic pattern, as evidenced by the sparsely shaded green areas. Both central and peripheral universities in the network are occasionally connected in a seemingly random manner when it comes to regional content. Indeed, not even universities within the same country tend to share regional content, except for the two Mexican universities in our sample (CIDE and UNAM). These results suggest that future scholars encounter diverse materials *from* Latin America during their PhD studies.

Finally, Figure 7 illustrates the shared parochial readings among universities. The limited proportion of shared parochial readings is unsurprising, given their rarity in CP materials.

<sup>39</sup>This predominance of mainstream literature is also reflected in the readings' top ten ranking. Gary Cox, Sydney Tarrow, Kathleen Thelen, and Juan Linz, among others, are all well-recognized Global North scholars who made invaluable contributions to the field (see Table A.10).



**Figure 7. Shared *Parochial* Readings across Universities.**

Source: Own elaboration.

Furthermore, parochial readings focus solely on a university's home country, making them less likely to be shared with others. The heatmap shows only five pairs of universities sharing parochial materials, evident from the extremely few red areas. As expected, each pair comprises universities from the same country.<sup>40</sup>

## Discussion

This article represents the first comprehensive analysis of graduate-level comparative politics teaching in Latin America. To achieve this goal, we have compiled an original dataset consisting of comparative politics readings from 21 universities across nine Latin American countries. Our findings reveal a reasonably cohesive model for instructing comparative politics at the doctorate level in the region. Without neglecting relevant contrasts between universities, the network displays a clear centralized structure, indicating that most universities share a similar set of readings.

Our research contributes to an existing body of scholarship that emphasizes a central tension between North Americanization and parochialism in Latin American comparative politics (Tanaka 2017; Freidenberg 2017; Codato et al. 2020; Lucca 2021). Our network analysis, complemented by an examination of reading characteristics, offers a nuanced perspective on this ongoing debate within the literature. We found that the relatively uniform canon for teaching CP in the region's graduate programs is explained by the inclusion of mainstream readings from the Global North, which are widely shared among universities. Contrary to expectations, our findings reveal that parochial content is nearly absent in these curricula.

Additionally, our findings challenge the aforementioned debate by highlighting the presence of an overlooked yet relevant category of academic content within university curricula: regional readings. These readings are typically drawn from regional sources and involve comparative analyses that extend beyond each university's home country. Nevertheless, there is no consistent distribution of these regional readings among universities, as each institution tends to select its own set of such materials. As a result, doctoral students are not consistently exposed to similar CP readings originating from Latin America.

Is there a unified model of teaching comparative politics at the graduate level in the region, after all? In a broader sense, yes, as our network analysis has demonstrated. However, the more precise answer is both *yes* and *no*, depending on the type of readings under scrutiny. *Yes*, there is a unified model because emerging Latin American scholars receive similar mainstream training in comparative politics influenced by the Global North. And *no*, there is not a unified model because

<sup>40</sup>Such pairs are: UNAM-CIDE (Mexico); and USAL-UCC, USAL-UTDT, UNSAM-UTDT, and UCC-UTDT (Argentina).

they consume diverse regional materials sourced from Latin American outlets. Essentially, while the mainstream canon imported from the Global North brings universities' CP curricula closer together, the inclusion of regionally produced content sets them apart.

Drawing insights from Svampa (2021), establishing a comparative politics canon rooted in Latin America could be pivotal in preventing the marginalization of regional academic production. To foster inter-country academic connections, the next step could involve establishing a uniform collection of regional readings shared across universities. By consolidating and disseminating a uniform selection of sound regional readings, Latin American comparative politics can maintain autonomy in the materials studied in graduate programs.

Rather than advocating a normative stance in favor of mainstream readings, we propose that integrating various types of readings could enrich the training of doctoral students in Latin America. Both parochial and regional readings offer distinct advantages for studying comparative politics in the region. For instance, they can provide a "dense knowledge" of cases, as highlighted by several scholars (Bejarano 2015; Tanaka and Dargent 2015; Munck and Snyder 2019). Indeed, Global North scholars often utilize these materials to gain unique insights into the cases they study. While mainstream readings are essential for engaging PhD students with the core debates in the discipline, both regional and parochial materials are equally valuable for fostering the study of comparative politics from Latin America. This combination of assigned materials may help address the tension identified in the literature (Tanaka 2017; Lucca 2021) between North-produced and localized academic knowledge.

Future research could assess an alternative operationalization strategy to classify the type of readings, addressing potential measurement biases. While Scopus is a widely accepted source, it might present certain publication biases, such as prioritizing English-speaking publications or not fully capturing research that provides "dense knowledge" of cases. Furthermore, to enhance our understanding of the topic, future research may expand the sample of universities studied to ideally encompass all comparative politics materials offered in Latin American PhD programs. Exploring the complete universe of CP materials would provide a more comprehensive view of doctoral students' training in the region.

Additionally, investigating the evolution of CP curricula over time is a promising avenue of research. In this regard, we conducted an exploratory analysis of the evolution of the CP materials from two central universities in the network: PUC and PUCP.<sup>41</sup> We examined their materials from 2008 and 2012, respectively, to assess whether and how they have adapted and updated their curricula over the years.<sup>42</sup> Their past materials exhibit minimal changes compared to their current ones, indicating that both universities maintain central positions within the network when analyzing their older curricula.<sup>43</sup> Importantly, PhD programs in the region are relatively new, having emerged only in recent years, with no presence in the 1990s or early 2000s. Therefore, conducting a longitudinal analysis that could potentially reveal significant variations in the offered CP materials would require these programs to have been in place for a longer duration. Looking ahead, examining the evolution of the types of readings, together with their methodologies, language, and authorship, among other dimensions, would enrich our understanding of the discipline's trajectory in the region.

Moreover, new research could delve into the professional and institutional profiles of universities. Such analyses could uncover potential relationships between universities' institutional characteristics (such as professors' training and country of origin, proportion of women in departments, and research funds availability) and their position within the network, as well as the types of readings offered.

<sup>41</sup>We excluded the CIDE from this analysis because its PhD program began in 2017.

<sup>42</sup>The PUC's and the PUCP's PhD program started in 2007 and 2010, respectively.

<sup>43</sup>See Figure A.1. for the network including the older materials of the PUC and the PUCP, and Table A.11. for the network's metrics.

Last but not least, future studies would benefit from cross-regional comparisons of graduate training in comparative politics. This approach could involve contrasting not only countries or regions within the Global South (e.g., Latin America with Africa or South Asia) but also between the Global South and the Global North (e.g., Latin America with the United States). Such comparisons could provide us with key insights into the academic training of future comparativists worldwide.

**Acknowledgements.** We thank Richard Snyder, Eva Rios, Rafael Piñeiro, and Tomas Dosek for their thoughtful and encouraging comments. We also thank Luciano Sigalov for his excellent research assistance. We are grateful to all the program directors and/or administrative staff who shared the requested materials for this paper with us.

## References

- Alfaro Redondo, Ronald, and Jorge Vargas Cullell. 2005. Ciencia política en Costa Rica: búsqueda de identidad disciplinaria. *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 25, 1: 124–135. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2005000100009>.
- Alonso, Julio, and Jaime Carabali. 2019. Breve tutorial para visualizar y calcular métricas de redes (grafos) In R (para economistas). Universidad Icesi. Cali: Universidad Icesi.
- Altman, David. 2006. From Fukuoka to Santiago: Institutionalization of Political Science in Latin America. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 39, 1: 196–203. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096506220341>.
- Altman, David. 2012. Where Is Knowledge Generated? On the Productivity and Impact of Political Science Departments in Latin America. *European Political Science* 11, 1: 71–87. <https://doi.org/10.1057/eps.2010.82>.
- Amorim Neto, Octavio, and Fabiano Santos. 2015. La ciencia política en Brasil en la última década: la nacionalización y la lenta superación del parroquialismo. *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 35, 1: 19–31. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2015000100002>.
- Artiga-González, Álvaro. 2006. Las elecciones 2006 en perspectiva. *ECA: Estudios Centroamericanos* 61, 688–89: 237–60.
- Barrientos Del Monte, Fernando. 2013. La ciencia política en América Latina: una breve introducción histórica. *Convergencia* 20, 61: 105–33.
- Barrientos Del Monte, Fernando. 2015. Crecimiento e institucionalización de la ciencia política en México. *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 35, 1: 95–120. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2015000100006>.
- Basabe-Serrano, S., and S. Huertas-Hernandez. 2018. The state of political science research on Latin America. *Revista Española de Ciencia Política* 47, 153–170.
- Bejarano, Ana María. 2015. Migraciones intelectuales de sur a norte y de norte a sur.” In *Qué implica hacer ciencia política desde el sur y desde el norte*, ed. Martin Tanaka and Eduardo Dargent. Lima: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. 137–46.
- Borgatti, Stephen P., Ajay Mehra, Daniel J. Brass, and Giuseppe Labianca. 2009. Network Analysis in the Social Sciences. *Science* 323, 5916: 892–95. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1165821>.
- Bulcourn, Pablo. 2012. El arte de nombrar: Guillermo O'Donnell y el desarrollo de la ciencia política en América latina. *Temas y Debates* 16 (24): 123–43.
- Bulcourn, Pablo, and Nelson D. Cardozo. 2017. La ciencia política en América Latina: un análisis comparado de su desarrollo. In *La ciencia política sobre América política. Docencia e investigación en perspectiva comparada*, ed. Flavia Freidenberg. Santo Domingo: Editorial FUNGLODE.
- Buquet, D. 2012. El desarrollo de la Ciencia Política en Uruguay. *Política. Revista De Ciencia Política* 50, 1: 5–29. <https://doi.org/10.5354/0719-5338.2012.22647>.
- Calvo, Ernesto, A., Sofia Elverdín, Gabriel Kessler, and M. Victoria Murillo. 2019. Investigando las influencias internacionales en las ciencias sociales argentinas. *Revista Latinoamericana de Metodología de Las Ciencias Sociales (Relmecs)* 9, 2: e055. <https://doi.org/10.24215/18537863e055>.
- Chasquetti, Daniel. 2010. El lento camino de la política comparada en Uruguay. In *La enseñanza de la ciencia política en las Universidades de América Latina*, 103–18. Rosario: Editorial Ciudad Gótica.
- Chasquetti, Daniel. 2017. Una explicación sobre la supervivencia de la política comparada en la región. In *La ciencia política sobre América política. Docencia e investigación en perspectiva comparada*, ed. Flavia Freidenberg. Santo Domingo: Editorial FUNGLODE.
- Codato, Adriano, Rafael Madeira, and Maiane Bittencourt. 2020. Political Science in Latin America: A Scientometric Analysis. *Brazilian Political Science Review* 14, 3: e0007.
- Csárdi, Gabor, and Tomás Nepusz. 2005. The Igraph Software Package for Complex Network Research. *InterJournal Complex Systems*: 1695.
- D'Alessandro, Martín Omar. 2013. Las desventajas de la política comparada en América Latina: énfasis en el caso argentino. *Revista Debates* 7, 3: 89. <https://doi.org/10.22456/1982-5269.40389>.
- Durán-Martínez, Angélica, Jazmin Sierra, and Richard Snyder. 2023. La economía política de la investigación en ciencias sociales en América Latina. *Estudios Sociológicos de El Colegio de México* 41, Especial: 259–364. <https://doi.org/10.24201/es.2023v41nEspecial.2394>.

- Freidenberg, Flavia**, ed. 2017. *La ciencia política sobre América Latina: docencia e investigación en perspectiva comparada*, 1st ed. (Santo Domingo: Editorial FUNGLODE).
- Freidenberg, Flavia, and Andrés Malamud**. 2013. Politólogos on the Run: Contrasting Paths to Internationalization of Southern Cone Political Scientists. *Latin American Politics and Society* 55, 1: 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1548-2456.2012.00181.x>.
- Freidenberg, Flavia, and Andrés Malamud**. 2017. Politólogos en fuga: patrones divergentes de emigración y retorno en el Cono Sur. In *La ciencia política sobre América política. Docencia e investigación en perspectiva comparada*, ed. Flavia Freidenberg. Santo Domingo: Editorial FUNGLODE. 635–665.
- Fuentes, Claudio, and Graciela Santana**. 2005. El “boom” de la ciencia política en Chile: escuelas, mercado y tendencias. *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 25, 1: 16–39. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2005000100002>.
- Heiss, Claudia**. 2015. Ciencia política en Chile: ¿una disciplina consolidada? *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 35, 1: 47–70. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2015000100004>.
- Huntington, Samuel P.** 1991. Democracy’s Third Wave. *Journal of Democracy* 2, 2: 12–34. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jod.1991.0016>.
- Jokić, Maja, Andrea Mervar, and Stjepan Mateljan**. 2019. The Development of Political Science in Central and Eastern Europe: Bibliometric Perspective, 1996–2013. *European Political Science* 18, 3: 491–509. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41304-018-0191-6>.
- Lucca, Juan Bautista**. 2021. La ciencia política comparada en México: un retrato cualitativo. *Revista Uruguaya de Ciencia Política* 30, 2: 123–148.
- Marengo, André**. 2014. The Three Achilles’ Heels of Brazilian Political Science. *Brazilian Political Science Review* 8, 3: 3–38. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1981-38212014000100019>.
- Mejía Acosta, Andrés, Flavia Freidenberg, and Simón Pachano**. 2005. La ciencia política en Ecuador: un reflejo de su fragilidad democrática (1978–2005). *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 25, 1: 147–161. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2005000100011>.
- Munck, Gerardo L.** 2007. Agendas y estrategias de investigación en el estudio de la política latinoamericana. *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 27, 1: 3–21. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2007000200001>.
- Munck, Gerardo L., and Richard Snyder**. 2019. Comparative Politics at a Crossroad: Problems, Opportunities and Prospects from the North and South. *Política y Gobierno* 26, 1: 139–58.
- O’Donnell, G., Schmitter, P. C., and Whitehead, L.**, Eds. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Comparative Perspectives* (Vol. 3). JHU Press.
- O’Donnell, Guillermo A.** 1973. *Modernization and Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism: Studies in South American Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- O’Donnell, Guillermo A.** 1993. On the State, Democratization and Some Conceptual Problems: A Latin American View with Glances at Some Postcommunist Countries. *World Development* 21, 8: 1355–69. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X\(93\)90048-E](https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X(93)90048-E).
- O’Donnell, Guillermo A.** 1994. Delegative Democracy. *Journal of Democracy* 5, 1: 55–69. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jod.1994.0010>.
- O’Donnell, Guillermo A., and Philippe C. Schmitter**. 2013. *Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Pérez Bentancur, Verónica, R. Rafael Piñeiro, and Fernando Rosenblatt**. 2020. *How Party Activism Survives: Uruguay’s Frente Amplio*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ravecca, Paulo**. 2019. *The Politics of Political Science: Re-Writing Latin American Experiences*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Rocha, Cecilia**. 2012. La ciencia política en Uruguay (1989–2009): temas, teorías, y metodología. *Revista Uruguaya de Ciencia Política* 21: 97–127.
- Svampa, Maristella**. 2021. *Debates latinoamericanos: indianismo, desarrollo, dependencia, populismo*, 2nd ed. (Buenos Aires: Edhasa).
- Tanaka, Martin**. 2017. De la crítica política a la ciencia política: notas hacia un balance. In *La ciencia política sobre América política. Docencia e investigación en perspectiva comparada*, ed. Flavia Freidenberg. Santo Domingo: Editorial FUNGLODE.
- Tanaka, Martin, and Eduardo Dargent**, eds. 2015. *¿Qué implica hacer ciencia política desde el sur y desde el norte?* Lima: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.
- Universitas Islam Negeri, K. H., Saifuddin Zuhri Purwokerto, and Sulkhan Chakim**. 2022. Bibliometric Analysis: Symbolic Power Publication Trends in Scopus. Com. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences* 5, 2: 153–163. <https://doi.org/10.31014/aior.1991.05.02.355>.
- Varnoux Garay, Marcelo**. 2005. La ciencia política en Bolivia: entre la reforma política y la crisis de la democracia. *Revista de Ciencia Política (Santiago)* 25, 1: 92–100. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0718-090X2005000100006>.
- Weyland, K.** 2015. The Present Opportunities for Latin American Political Science. *Qué implica hacer ciencia política desde el sur y desde el norte*, 121–135.

## Appendix

Table A1. Sample of Universities

Country	University	Acronym	Department	Graduate Program	Consulted Materials
Argentina	<i>Universidad Nacional de San Martín</i>	UNSAM	School of Politics and Government	Political Science	Syllabus of Contemporary Political Science II
	<i>Universidad Torcuato Di Tella</i>	UTDT	Department of Political Science and International Studies	Political Science	Syllabus of Comparative Politics Seminar
	<i>Universidad Católica de Córdoba</i>	UCC	Faculty of Political Science and International Relations	Politics and Government	Syllabus of Intergovernmental Relations and Multilevel Politics
	<i>Universidad Católica Argentina</i>	UCA	Faculty of Social Sciences	Political Sciences	Syllabus of Democracy, Development, and Inequality
	<i>Universidad del Salvador</i>	USAL	Faculty of Social Sciences	Political Science	Syllabi of Political Theory, and Actors and Anti-System Parties
	<i>Universidad Nacional de Entre Ríos</i>	UNER	Faculty of Education Sciences	Social Sciences	Syllabus of Comparative Political Systems in Latin America
Brazil	<i>Universidade de São Paulo</i>	USP	Department of Political Science	Political Science	Syllabi of Political Institutions in Latin America, and Comparative Politics: Institutions
	<i>Universidade Federal do Paraná</i>	UFRP	Department of Political Science	Political Science	Syllabi of Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Systems, and Contemporary Political Science
	<i>Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro</i>	UERJ	Institute of Political and Social Studies	Political Science	Syllabi of Political Institutions, and Parties and Political Strategies
	<i>Universidade de Brasília</i>	UnB	Political Science Institute	Political Science	Syllabi of Comparative Politics, and Politics and Institutions
Colombia	<i>Universidad de los Andes</i>	UniAndes	Department of Political Science and Global Studies	Political Science	Reading list of comprehensive exams
	<i>Universidad Nacional de Colombia</i>	UNC	Faculty of Law and Political and Social Sciences	Political Studies and International Relations	Syllabus of Method and Comparative Analysis
	<i>Universidad del Externado</i>	UExternado	Academic Unit on Finance, Government, and International Relations	Political Studies	Syllabus of Comparative Politics
Mexico	<i>Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas</i>	CIDE	Division of Political Studies	Political Science	Syllabi of Political Economy, and Political Institutions
	<i>Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México</i>	UNAM	Faculty of Social and Political Sciences	Political and Social Sciences	Syllabus of Comparative Politics

(Continued)

**Table A1.** (Continued)

Country	University	Acronym	Department	Graduate Program	Consulted Materials
Chile	<i>Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile</i>	PUC	Political Science Institute	Political Science	Reading list of comprehensive exams
	<i>Universidad Diego Portales</i>	UDP	School of Political Science	Political Science	Reading list of comprehensive exams
Ecuador	<i>Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales</i>	FLACSO	Political Studies	Political Science	Syllabi of The State, Society, and Politics, and The Quality of Democracy
Peru	<i>Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú</i>	PUCP	School of Government and Public Policy	Political Science and Government	Reading list of comprehensive exams
Uruguay	<i>Universidad de la República</i>	UdelaR	Faculty of Social Sciences	Political Science	Syllabi of Political Systems I, and Political Systems II
Venezuela	<i>Universidad Simón Bolívar</i>	USB	Department of Social Sciences	Legal and Political Sciences	Syllabus of Political Sociology

Source: Own elaboration. The departments' name, graduate program, and consulted materials translation from Spanish or Portuguese to English is ours.

**Table A2.** Latin American Universities' Degree of Connectivity Measures

University	Degree of Centrality	Authority Score	Closeness	Total # Readings	Total # Shared Readings	% Shared Readings
PUCP	1.00	1.00	0.95	200	42	21
CIDE	1.00	0.96	1.00	180	74	41.11
PUC	1.00	0.96	1.00	185	118	63.78
UFRP	0.95	0.94	0.95	69	31	44.92
UTDT	0.95	0.92	0.95	93	37	39.78
UDP	0.90	0.91	0.91	78	52	66.66
UniAndes	0.90	0.91	0.91	125	77	61.6
UCA	0.90	0.89	0.91	63	43	68.25
FLACSO	0.85	0.87	0.87	89	25	28.08
UERJ	0.85	0.85	0.87	104	32	30.76
UNSAM	0.85	0.83	0.87	85	44	51.76
UNER	0.80	0.83	0.83	104	35	33.65
USB	0.80	0.83	0.83	59	20	33.89
USAL	0.75	0.77	0.80	62	15	24.19
UNAM	0.75	0.76	0.80	49	14	28.57
UNC	0.75	0.76	0.80	38	21	55.26
USP	0.75	0.76	0.80	104	23	22.11
UdelaR	0.70	0.72	0.77	52	20	38.46

(Continued)

**Table A2.** (Continued)

University	Degree of Centrality	Authority Score	Closeness	Total # Readings	Total # Shared Readings	% Shared Readings
UnB	0.65	0.70	0.74	80	10	12.5
UCC	0.50	0.52	0.67	57	16	28.07
UExternado	0.35	0.36	0.61	10	3	30
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>89.80</b>	<b>35.80</b>	<b>39.26</b>
SD	0.16	0.15	0.10	48.75	26.84	16.26
Sum	–	–	–	1886	752	–
Max	1.00	1.00	1.00	200	118	68.25
Min	0.35	0.36	0.61	10	3	12.5

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A3.** Language per Type of Reading

	Mainstream		Parochial		Regional	
	English	Spanish or Portuguese	English	Spanish or Portuguese	English	Spanish or Portuguese
CIDE	0.74	0.26	0.00	1.00	0.11	0.89
FLACSO	0.63	0.37	0.00	1.00	0.20	0.80
PUC	0.96	0.04	–	–	1.00	0.00
PUCP	0.71	0.29	0.07	0.93	0.12	0.88
UCA	0.93	0.07	0.00	1.00	0.33	0.67
UCC	0.93	0.08	0.33	0.67	0.63	0.38
UdelaR	0.57	0.43	0.00	1.00	0.08	0.92
UDP	0.83	0.17	–	–	0.00	1.00
UERJ	0.95	0.05	0.00	1.00	0.83	0.17
UExternado	0.80	0.20	–	–	–	–
UFRP	0.98	0.02	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
UNAM	0.40	0.60	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
UnB	0.90	0.10	0.17	0.83	0.50	0.50
UNC	0.33	0.67	–	–	0.00	1.00
UNER	0.16	0.84	0.00	1.00	0.02	0.98
UniAndes	0.85	0.15	0.00	1.00	0.33	0.67
UNSAM	0.91	0.09	0.00	1.00	0.75	0.25
USAL	0.67	0.33	0.20	0.80	0.00	1.00
USB	0.77	0.23	0.00	1.00	0.26	0.74
USP	0.98	0.02	0.33	0.67	1.00	0.00
UTDT	0.90	0.10	0.00	1.00	0.64	0.36
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>0.61</b>

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A4.** Authors' Country of Origin per Type of Reading

	Mainstream				Parochial				Regional			
	US	Europe	Lat. Am.	Other	US	Europe	Lat. Am.	Other	US	Europe	Lat. Am.	Other
CIDE	0.68	0.20	0.07	0.05	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.33	0.22	0.44	0.00
FLACSO	0.53	0.19	0.24	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.10
PUC	0.66	0.19	0.15	0.01	–	–	–	–	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50
PUCP	0.59	0.12	0.27	0.02	0.09	0.05	0.82	0.05	0.28	0.20	0.52	0.00
UCA	0.61	0.23	0.07	0.09	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.33	0.33
UCC	0.61	0.11	0.26	0.03	0.13	0.00	0.88	0.00	0.29	0.29	0.43	0.00
UdelaR	0.65	0.22	0.11	0.03	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.46	0.00
UDP	0.59	0.29	0.11	0.01	–	–	–	–	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00
UERJ	0.55	0.25	0.16	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.83	0.17	0.00	0.00
UExt.	0.50	0.20	0.30	0.00	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
UFRP	0.54	0.25	0.13	0.08	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
UNAM	0.47	0.26	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.15	0.23	0.62	0.00
UnB	0.61	0.19	0.14	0.06	0.33	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00
UNC	0.30	0.20	0.40	0.10	–	–	–	–	0.00	0.29	0.71	0.00
UNER	0.40	0.25	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.10	0.32	0.58	0.00
UniAndes	0.64	0.27	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.67	0.33	0.00	0.00
UNSAM	0.62	0.18	0.11	0.09	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.50
USAL	0.28	0.56	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.60	0.00
USB	0.74	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.26	0.39	0.35	0.00
USP	0.57	0.22	0.13	0.08	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.20	0.20	0.40	0.20
UTDT	0.55	0.17	0.24	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.36	0.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.08</b>

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A5.** Methodology per Type of Reading

	Methodology					
	Analytical narrative	Experimental	Mixed	Observational qualitative	Observational quantitative	Others
a) Mainstream readings						
CIDE	0.35	0.01	0.12	0.24	0.28	0.00
FLACSO	0.46	0.00	0.03	0.25	0.25	0.01
PUC	0.31	0.01	0.13	0.27	0.27	0.02

(Continued)

Table A5. (Continued)

	Methodology					
	Analytical narrative	Experimental	Mixed	Observational qualitative	Observational quantitative	Others
PUCP	0.52	0.00	0.13	0.24	0.10	0.00
UCA	0.60	0.02	0.02	0.12	0.17	0.07
UCC	0.21	0.00	0.18	0.21	0.38	0.03
UdelaR	0.32	0.00	0.08	0.14	0.43	0.03
UDP	0.43	0.00	0.18	0.16	0.21	0.01
UERJ	0.29	0.03	0.10	0.13	0.45	0.00
UExternado	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.44	0.00
UFRP	0.38	0.00	0.17	0.11	0.22	0.12
UNAM	0.49	0.00	0.03	0.26	0.23	0.00
UnB	0.51	0.00	0.04	0.09	0.14	0.22
UNC	0.38	0.00	0.05	0.48	0.10	0.00
UNER	0.53	0.00	0.11	0.26	0.09	0.02
UniAndes	0.47	0.00	0.13	0.15	0.17	0.09
UNSAM	0.44	0.01	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.00
USAL	0.48	0.00	0.10	0.14	0.26	0.02
USB	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.16	0.00
USP	0.37	0.02	0.12	0.04	0.45	0.00
UTDT	0.19	0.10	0.06	0.14	0.48	0.01
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.03</b>
	Parochial					
	Analytical narrative	Experimental	Mixed	Observational qualitative	Observational quantitative	
b) Parochial readings						
CIDE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
FLACSO	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
PUC	–	–	–	–	–	
PUCP	0.83	0.00	0.10	0.07	0.00	
UCA	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	
UCC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.86	
UdelaR	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
UDP	–	–	–	–	–	
UERJ	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.33	
UExt.	–	–	–	–	–	
UFRP	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
UNAM	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
UnB	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

(Continued)

Table A5. (Continued)

	Parochial					
	Analytical narrative	Experimental	Mixed	Observational qualitative	Observational quantitative	
UNC	–	–	–	–	–	
UNER	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
UniAndes	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
UNSAM	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	
USAL	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	
USB	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	
USP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	
UTDT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.75	
Average	0.61	0.06	0.01	0.09	0.24	
	Methodology					
	Analytical narrative	Experimental	Mixed	Observational qualitative	Observational quantitative	Others
c) Regional readings						
CIDE	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.06	0.00
FLACSO	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.15	0.00
PUC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00
PUCP	0.90	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.00
UCA	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00
UCC	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.17	0.00
UdelaR	0.54	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.23	0.00
UDP	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UERJ	0.67	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.00
UExt.	–	–	–	–	–	–
UFRP	0.33	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.33
UNAM	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.08	0.00
UnB	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
UNC	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.06
UNER	0.73	0.00	0.04	0.21	0.00	0.02
UniAndes	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00
UNSAM	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
USAL	0.87	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00
USB	0.96	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
USP	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00
UTDT	0.55	0.09	0.09	0.18	0.09	0.00
Average	0.64	0.00	0.05	0.18	0.07	0.05

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A6.** Authors' Gender per Type of Reading

	Mainstream		Parochial		Regional	
	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man
CIDE	0.17	0.83	0.00	1.00	0.22	0.78
FLACSO	0.13	0.87	0.00	1.00	0.20	0.80
PUC	0.11	0.89	–	–	0.00	1.00
PUCP	0.21	0.79	0.11	0.89	0.09	0.91
UCA	0.12	0.88	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
UCC	0.18	0.83	0.00	1.00	0.38	0.63
UdelaR	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.15	0.85
UDP	0.12	0.88	–	–	0.00	1.00
UERJ	0.10	0.90	0.20	0.80	0.00	1.00
UExternado	0.10	0.90	–	–	–	–
UFRP	0.15	0.85	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
UNAM	0.20	0.80	0.00	1.00	0.31	0.69
UnB	0.17	0.83	0.33	0.67	0.00	1.00
UNC	0.19	0.81	–	–	0.24	0.76
UNER	0.14	0.86	0.60	0.40	0.24	0.76
UniAndes	0.10	0.90	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
UNSAM	0.16	0.84	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
USAL	0.12	0.88	0.00	1.00	0.27	0.73
USB	0.10	0.90	0.20	0.80	0.17	0.83
USP	0.21	0.79	0.33	0.67	0.00	1.00
UTDT	0.29	0.71	0.00	1.00	0.27	0.73
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.87</b>

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A7.** List of Top Ten Outlets for Mainstream Readings

Outlet	Proportion (%)
Cambridge University Press	23.3
Oxford University Press	5.4
Princeton University Press	4.5
American Political Science Review	4.1
John Hopkins University Press	3.1
Comparative Political Studies	2.9
Yale University Press	2.7

(Continued)

**Table A7.** (Continued)

Outlet	Proportion (%)
Annual Review of Political Science	2.4
Journal of Democracy	2.3
World Politics	2.2

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A8.** List of Top 10 Outlets for Parochial Readings

Outlet	Proportion (%)
Siglo XXI	4.9
Fondo de Cultura Económica (FCE)	4.6
Alianza	4.6
Paidós	3.2
Desarrollo Económico	2.5
Westview Press	1.8
POSTData	1.4
Prometeo	1.4
CLACSO	1.4
Ediciones Universidad Salamanca	1.4

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A9.** List of Top Ten Outlets for Regional Readings

Outlet	Proportion (%)
Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP)	18.4
Desarrollo Económico	7.1
Siglo XXI	4.1
FCE	3.1
PUCP	3.1
DESCO	3.1
POSTData	2.0
Prometeo	2.0
CLACSO	2.0
Fundación Friedrich Ebert	2.0

Source: Own elaboration.

**Table A10.** List of Top Ten Assigned Readings

Reading	Author	Count
<i>Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy</i>	José A. Cheibub	16
<i>Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral Systems</i>	Gary W. Cox	14
<i>Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics</i>	Kathleen Thelen	12
<i>Power in Movement: Social Movement and Contentious Politics</i>	Sidney Tarrow	10
<i>Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Research Agenda</i>	Gretchen Helmke and Steven Levitsky	10
<i>Delegative Democracy</i>	Guillermo O'Donnell	10
<i>Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies</i>	Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter	9
<i>Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World</i>	Barrington Moore Jr.	8
<i>La Quiebra de las Democracias</i>	Juan J. Linz	8
<i>The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism</i>	Gosta Esping-Andersen	7

Source: Own elaboration. When the reading was offered in different languages across universities, we counted it as the same text. For example, *La Quiebra de las Democracias* (count = 8) was offered six times in Spanish and two in English.

**Table A11.** Latin American Universities' Degree of Connectivity Measures

University	Degree of Centrality	Authority Score	Closeness
CIDE	1.00	0.97	1.00
PUC	1.00	0.97	1.00
PUCP	1.00	1.00	0.96
USP	1.00	0.95	0.92
UFRP	0.95	0.95	0.96
UTDT	0.95	0.93	0.96
PUC 2008	0.91	0.92	0.92
PUCP 2012	0.91	0.89	0.92
UCA	0.91	0.90	0.92
UDP	0.91	0.92	0.92
UniAndes	0.91	0.92	0.92
FLACSO	0.86	0.89	0.88
UNAM	0.86	0.82	0.81
UNER	0.86	0.88	0.88
UNSAM	0.86	0.85	0.88
UERJ	0.82	0.82	0.85
UnB	0.82	0.80	0.79
USB	0.82	0.84	0.85

(Continued)

