

# ELY ORREGO TORRES

Department of Political Science, Northwestern University  
Scott Hall 2nd Floor, 601 University Place. Evanston, IL 60208. United States  
corrego@u.northwestern.edu  
[elyorregotorres.com](http://elyorregotorres.com)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Global religion and politics, transnational religious movements, religious freedom and secularism, political theologies, critical theories, post- and decolonial thought, international human rights, Latin American thought, international organizations, international relations theory, ethnographic and interpretive methods.

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Northwestern University, Political Science** expected 2025  
Fields: International Relations and Political Theory  
Dissertation: “Freeing Religion: Deconstructing and Decolonizing Religious Freedom and Secularism in the Americas”  
Committee: Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (chair), Ian Hurd, Kim Marion Suiseeya, Michelle Molina (Religious Studies), Carlos Manrique (University of Los Andes, Colombia).
- M.A. Northwestern University, Political Science.** 2023  
Certificate in Critical Theory.
- M.A. Diego Portales University, Contemporary Thought: Philosophy and Political Thought.** 2018  
Thesis: “Model and Penitent: King David in the Work of Niccolò Machiavelli”.  
Advisor: Miguel Saralegui. Graduated *magna cum laude*.
- B.A. Pontifical University Catholic of Chile, Political Science.** 2011  
Professional Degree: Political Scientist.  
Thesis: “Between *kairós* and *aiónios*: The Time in the Political Theology of Apostle Paul”.  
Advisor: Miguel Vatter.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.** September 2020-June 2022  
**Teaching Assistant.**
- Spring 2022: Introduction to International Relations. Prof. Ian Hurd.
  - Fall 2021: U.S. Foreign Policy. Prof. Daniel Krmaric.
  - Spring 2021/Winter 2022: Politics of Religious Diversity. Prof. Elizabeth Shakman Hurd. Guest lecture on “Exporting Religious Freedom”.
  - Fall 2020: Introduction to Political Theory. Prof. Julia Brown.

**University of Los Lagos, Santiago, Chile.** April 2016-July 2019  
**Instructor of Record.**

- 2019: Political Science II
- 2016, 2018: History of Political Thought.
- 2016, 2018, 2019: Introduction to Political Science.

**Adolfo Ibañez University.** Viña del Mar and Santiago, Chile. March 2014-July 2019  
**Instructor of Record.**

- 2018, 2019: The Rights to Have Rights? Human Rights and Triple Discrimination.
- 2016: The Challenges of Human Rights in the Contemporary World.
- 2015: Violence and Politics.
- 2014: Concepts of Politics.

**University of Talca.** Santiago, Chile. September 2015-January 2016  
**Teaching Assistant.**

- Contemporary Political Theory. Prof. Ricardo Camargo.

**Diego Portales University.** Santiago, Chile. March-July 2014  
**Teaching Assistant.**

- Classical Political Theory. Prof. Miguel Saralegui.

**Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.** Santiago, Chile. March 2009-July 2013  
**Teaching Assistant.**

- 2012: Political Theory III [Contemporary Political Theory]. Prof. Diego Rossello.
- 2011: Introduction to Political Theory. Prof. Diego Rossello.
- 2010: Introduction to Political Theory. Prof. Claudia Heiss.
- 2009-2013: Introduction to Political Theory. Prof. Luis Oro.

**Alberto Hurtado University.** Santiago, Chile. March-July 2013  
**Teaching Assistant.**

- Modern Political Theory. Prof. Luis Oro.

**University of Chile.** Santiago, Chile. October 2011-August 2012  
**Teaching Assistant.**

- 2011: Theory of Science. Prof. Marco Ensignia.
- 2012: History of Political Thought. Prof. Claudia Heiss.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Journal Articles:**

- “Beyond Boundaries: Exploring Transnational Ecofeminist Political Theologies and Solidarities in Latin America.” Forthcoming in *Philosophy and Global Affairs*. Peer-Review Article.
- “Imagining Ecopolis: Visions of Ecofeminist Political Theology and Ecocriticism in Latin America” (with Diego Rossello). Forthcoming in *Social Compass*. Peer-Review Article.

- “Towards the Possibility of an Ecofeminist Political Theology” [In Spanish]. *Síntesis. Revista de Filosofía* II(2) (August-December 2019): 114-131. DOI: 10.15691/0718-5448Vol2Iss2a292. Peer-Review Article. [[Online Version](#)]
- “The *Kairós* of Ecological Justice: Approaches from the Global South.” *Religion & Society* 62 (1-2) (2017): 124-130. ISSN: 0034-3951. [[Online Version](#)]
- “Homo Sacer and Divine Violence: The Non-sacrificable Subjected to Punishment” [in Spanish]. *Revista Pléyade* 2 (2008): 22-32. ISSN: 0718-655X. [Latindex/Dialnet]. Peer-Review Article. [[English Version](#)]

#### **Working Projects:**

- “‘Agonistic’ Democracy in the Americas: Civil Society's Understandings of Religious Freedom and Secularism at the Organization of American States (OAS)”.
- “Model and Penitent: King David in Niccolò Machiavelli's Work”.

#### **Book Chapters:**

- “Religion and International Relations. What are we Talking About?” [in Spanish]. In *The Paradoxes of Religious Freedom in Latin America*. Ely Orrego Torres (ed.), 47-57. Santiago: GEMRIP. 2019. [[Online version](#)]
- “Challenging the Fortune: Machiavelli and the Concept of ‘Miracle’” [in Spanish]. In *The Revolution of Machiavelli. The Prince After 500 Years*. Diego Sazo (ed.), 251-266. Santiago: RIL Editores / CAIP Chile. 2013. [[English Version](#)]

#### **Books/ Booklets:**

- “Global Challenges of Secularism and Religious Freedom” (with Elizabeth Shakman Hurd). Bilingual (English/Spanish). Otros Cruces, 2022. ISBN: 978-956-09375-9-9.
- *Evangelicals and Politics* [redactor] (2019). Santiago: GEMRIP [in Spanish]. [[Online version](#)].

#### **Public-facing Scholarship:**

- “The (Other) Transnationals of Faith”. Under review for *The Brink*, blog of the journal Political Theology.

#### **Edited Volumes and Special Issues:**

- *The Paradoxes of Religious Freedom in Latin America* [editor] (2019). Santiago: GEMRIP [in Spanish]. ISBN: 978-956-09375-1-3. [[Online version](#)]
- “The International Solidarity with Chile: An Approach to the International Commission of Enquiry into the Crimes of the Military Junta in Chile” (with Gonzalo Zúñiga). (December 2011). Documentation and Research Centre, Human Rights and Memory Museum [in Spanish]. [[Online Version](#)]
- “Political Theology: The New Paradigm of Sovereignty and Power.” Introduction, coordination, and editing of dossier "Power and Sovereignty: Political-Theological Readings" [in Spanish]. *Revista Pléyade* 8 (2011): 1-6. ISSN: 0718-655X. [Latindex/ Dialnet]. [[Online version](#)]

#### **Book Reviews:**

- Vatter, Miguel (ed.). “Crediting to God or the God who Needs to be Credited: The Problem of Sovereignty in Political-Theological Code” [in Spanish]. Review of *Crediting God. Sovereignty and Religion in the Age of Global Capitalism* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2011). *Revista Pensamiento Político* 3 (2012): 162-169. ISSN: 0719-0670. [[Online version](#)]

- Vatter, Miguel. *Constitution and Resistance: Essays on Radical Democracy Theory* (Santiago: Ediciones Universidad Diego Portales. 2012) [in Spanish]. *Revista de Ciencia Política* 33 (2) (2013): 559-563. ISSN: 0718-090X. [ISI] [[Online version](#)]

#### **Interviews & Translations:**

- Vatter, Miguel. “Machiavelli and the Republican Conception of Providence.” In *The Revolution of Machiavelli The Prince After 500 Years*. Diego Sazo (ed.), 225-250. Santiago: RIL Editores / CAIP Chile. 2013. (Translated from English to Spanish). [[Online version](#)]
- “The Challenge of Memory in the History of Chile and Latin America: An Interview with Steve J. Stern” (with Gonzalo Zúñiga) [in Spanish]. *Revista Pléyade* 11 (2013): 117-132. ISSN: 0718-655X. [Latindex/Dialnet] [[Online version](#)]
- “Thinking About Politics from Political Theology.” Interview with Miguel Vatter [in Spanish]. *Revista Pléyade* 8 (2011): 185-198. ISSN: 0718-655X. [Latindex/Dialnet] [[Online version](#)]
- McCormick, John P. “From Roman Catholicism to Mechanized Oppression: On Political-theological Disjunctures in Schmitt’s Weimar Thought.” *Revista Pléyade* 8 (2011): 7-18. ISSN: 0718-655X. [Latindex/ Dialnet] (Translated from English to Spanish). [[Online version](#)]

#### **CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS, INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**

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- “Re-imagining the Political Theologies from the Americas: Ecofeminist Perspectives and Transnational Solidarity.” Keynote lecture at *Seminar of Critical Theories*. University Carlos III, Madrid (Spain). November 2023 [in Spanish].
- “Transnational Religious Groups and the Theory and Practice of Religious Freedom in the Americas.” Paper presented at *Religion in Motion: Between Borders and Belonging*. Nijmegen, Netherlands. November 2023.
- “Religious Freedom or the Right to Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) in the Organization of American States (OAS).” Paper presented at *Annual Meeting on Law and Society*. San Juan, Puerto Rico. June 2023.
- “Imagining Ecopolis: Visions of Ecofeminist Political Theology and Ecocriticism in Latin America” (with Diego Rossello). Paper presented at *Latin American Studies Association (LASA)*. Online. May 2023.
- “‘Agonistic’ Democracy in the Americas: Doing Ethnography on Civil Society Groups at the Organization of American States (OAS).” Paper presented at *ISA Annual Convention*. Montreal, Canada. April 2023.
- “‘Agonistic’ Democracy in the Americas: Civil Society’s Understandings of Religious Freedom and Secularism at the Organization of American States (OAS).” Paper presented at *Religiosidades insumisas, protestas sociales y democracias hoy*. University of Los Andes, Bogotá (Colombia). June 2022; ISA Northeast. Baltimore, Maryland. November 2022.
- “Secularism, Religious Freedom and the Rise of Transnational Evangelical Networks in the Organization of American States (OAS).” Paper presented at *International Studies Association (ISA) Midwest*. St. Louis, Missouri. November 2021; *ISA Annual Convention*. Nashville, Tennessee. April 2022.
- “Model and Penitent: King David in Niccolò Machiavelli’s Work.” Paper presented at *American Political Science Association (APSA)*. Seattle, Washington. September 2021.
- “Political Theology and Ecofeminism: Weaving Solidarities Beyond Sovereignty.” Paper presented at *Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)*. Online. April 2021; *American Political*

*Science Association (APSA)*. Online. September 2021; *Latin American Studies Association (LASA)*. Online. May 2022.

- “The Construction of a Secularized Society in Nineteenth-century Latin American: The Case of the Chilean Republic.” Paper presented at *The Venice World Multidisciplinary Conference on Republics and Republicanism*. Online. June 2021.
- “The Republican David of Machiavelli.” Paper presented at the *XIII Congress of the Chilean Political Science Association (ACCP)*. Universidad del Desarrollo, Santiago (Chile). October 2018 [in Spanish].
- “The *Kairós* of Ecological Justice: Approaches from the Global South.” Paper presented at *National Consultation on Church Reformed: Always Reforming. Celebration of the 500th Year of Reformation and 80th Year of Re-Thinking Christianity Movement in India*. Ecumenical Christian Centre, Bangalore (India). April 2017.
- “The Possibility of Political Theology in the Hebrew Bible. Commentary to Yoram Hazony's *The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture*.” Paper presented at *Summer Workshop on Philosophical Investigations on the Hebrew Bible, Talmud, and Midrash*. Herzl Institute, Jerusalem (Palestine/Israel). July 2014.
- “The Moment of People: Machiavelli, Arendt and the ‘Political Miracle.’” Paper presented at Conference *Timeless Machiavelli. 500 years of "The Prince"*. University of the Republic, Montevideo (Uruguay). October 2013 [in Spanish].
- “The *kátechon* and the Possibility of an Impolitical Community.” Paper presented at International Conference *The Political Reflexion Today (with participation of Prof. Roberto Esposito)*. Centro Mediterráneo, University of Granada (Spain). September 2013 [in Spanish].
- “From Constituent Power to Constituted Power: The Moment of Chilean Movement.” Teacher's Conference delivered at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain). September 2013 [in Spanish].
- “The *Kairós* of the Crowd: Power and Redemption in the Messianic Community.” Paper presented at International Colloquium *Biopolitics of the Commons*. Diego Portales University, Santiago (Chile). October 2011 [in Spanish].
- “The Now-time (*Jetztzeit*) as Interruption: Towards a Construction of our History from the Messianic Idea.” Paper presented at III International Conference *Remembering to Walter Benjamin. Justice, History, and Truth*. Centro Cultural Haroldo Conti. Buenos Aires (Argentina). October 2010 [in Spanish].
- “*Mysterion, Dispensatio* and Biopolitics Moment in the Salvation's History.” Paper presented at International Conference *Giorgio Agamben: Political Theology and Biopolitics*. Diego Portales University and the University of Chile. Santiago (Chile). September 2009 [in Spanish]

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Otros Cruces (ex GEMRIP)**. Santiago, Chile.

November 2018-Present

### **Research Coordinator.**

- Coordination and production of research and publications related to religion and politics to be taught in educational formation and training.

**Foundation of His Sacred Majesty**. Chennai, India.

January 2017-December 2017

### **Media and Documentation Officer.**

- Design and development of FHSM publications, activity reports, fundraising flyers, documentation, and other materials.

- Update FHSM's online media platforms.
- Creation of media with storytelling (case studies).

**Revista de Ciencia Política, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.** July 2012-July 2015  
(Academical Journal). ISSN: 0718-090X. Santiago, Chile.

**Editorial Assistant.**

- Reception of academic papers, proof correction in Spanish and English, and managing relations with national and international authors.

**Revista Pléyade, Center for Political Analysis and Research** September 2010-June 2012  
**[Centro de Análisis e Investigación Política (CAIP)].**

(Academical Journal). ISSN: 0718-655X. Santiago, Chile.

**Editor.**

- Proof correction, editing skills, communication with authors, and blind reviews.

**Biopolitics International Network.** Santiago, Chile. January 2009-August 2019

**Coordination Team.**

- Team leading, coordination of the information for the web page and social media platforms; contact with the researchers, implementation of workshops, conferences, and activities diffusion.

**Center for Political Analysis and Research** December 2008-March 2015  
**[Centro de Análisis e Investigación Política (CAIP)].** Santiago, Chile.

**Adjunct Researcher**

- Research on Political Thought, organizing events and training for students, and developing skills through the media (opinion articles).

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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- Sciences Po Fellowship for the academic year 2023-2024. Paris Program Northwestern University.
- Minar Grant. Department of Political Science. 2023.
- Nominated for the WCAS Outstanding Teaching Award, Northwestern University. 2023.
- Global Impacts Graduate Fellowship, Buffet Institute for Global Affairs. 2022-2023.
- Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal (RDSR) Doctoral Fellowship. Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and Fetzer Institute. 2022-2023.
- Northwestern Buffett Graduate Dissertation Research Travel Award. 2022.
- Northwestern Latin American and Caribbean Studies Research Grant Committee. 2022.
- LASA Virtual Congress Registration Grant. 2022.
- ISA Annual Meeting Travel Grant. 2022.
- APSA Annual Meeting Travel Grant. 2021.
- APSA Fund for Latino Scholarship. 2021.
- Minar Grant. Department of Political Science. 2021.
- Minar Grant. Department of Political Science. 2020.
- Department of Political Science Travel Grant. Northwestern University. 2019.
- Mellon Cluster Fellowship in Critical Theory. Northwestern University. 2019.
- Northwestern University Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship. 2019-2024.

- Travel and Participation Grant for *Emerging Leaders Multi-Faith Climate Convergence*. Our Voices/Greenfaith. Rome (Italy). June 2015.
- Travel and Participation Grant for *Summer Workshop for Young Scholars on Philosophical Investigations of the Hebrew Bible, Talmud, and Midrash*. Herzl Institute, Jerusalem (Israel/Palestine). July 2014.
- Travel Grant for Research in Florence (Italy) for M.A. dissertation work. Institute of Philosophy, Diego Portales University. December 2014-March 2015.
- M.A. Scholarship (Academic Excellence). Institute of Philosophy, Diego Portales University. 2013-2014.
- President of the Republic Grant (Academic Excellence) for Undergraduate Studies. The Government of Chile. 2007-2011.
- Academic Excellence Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies. The Government of Chile. 2007-2011.

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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- Graduate Teaching Certificate, Department of Political Science (Northwestern University). 2021-2022.
- Summer School “Dismantling Democracy from Within” (with Prof. Charles Taylor). Central European University. Budapest, Hungary. June-July 2022.
- Diploma in Human Rights, mention in Education. Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH) and Association of Universities Entrusted to the Society of Jesus in Latin America (AUSJAL). May-December 2015.
- Summer workshop on Philosophical Investigations of the Hebrew Bible, Talmud, and Midrash. The Herzl Institute. Jerusalem, Israel/Palestine. July-August 2014.
- Summer School “The Political Reflection Today” (with Prof. Roberto Esposito). University of Granada, Mediterranean Centre. Granada, Spain. September 2013.
- Courses on Pauline Greek, Protestant Culture, and Systematic Theology. Presbyterian Theological Institute. Santiago, Chile. August 2010-July 2011.

### SERVICE

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- Co-organizer conference series of Elizabeth Shakman Hurd. Organized by Otros Cruces in collaboration with the National Office of Religious Affairs (ONAR), Adolfo Ibañez University, and the Academy of Christian Humanism University. Santiago, Chile. March-April 2023.
  - Chair of the Teaching Committee, Department of Political Science (Northwestern University). 2022-2023.
  - Volunteer at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. 2022, 2023.
  - Manuscript Referee for International Journal of Latin American Religions, Revista SAAP.
  - Co-organizer Conference “Biopolitics, Bioscience, and Governability” with Nikolas Rose (keynote speaker). University of Talca and Diego Portales University. 2015.
  - Co-organizer International Colloquium “Biopolitics of the Commons” with Antonio Negri (keynote speaker). Biopolitics International Network and Diego Portales University. 2011.
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## LANGUAGES

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**Spanish:** Native.

**English:** Advanced reading, speaking, and writing skills.

**Italian:** Intermediate reading, speaking, and writing skills.

**French:** Intermediate reading, speaking, and writing skills.

Last updated: January 2024.