

# Sara Heridia

PhD. Candidate

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## Education

- 2020-Current **Emory University**, PhD in Political Science, Expected Spring 2026  
Committee: Jeffrey Staton (chair), Alexander Bolton, Christina Boyd, Zachary Peskowitz  
M.A., Political Science (2023)  
Dissertation: Identity and decision-making on U.S. Immigration Courts
- 2020 **Trinity University**, B.A in Political Science and Latin, Minor in Linguistics  
Cum Laude

## Working Papers

- [1] **Sara Heridia**. Finding Echoes: Judicial Behavior Among Judges with Family Immigration Histories. (*under review*).  
Winner of the 2024 APSA Law and Courts Best Graduate Student Paper Award.  
Winner of the 2025 SPSA Pi Sigma Alpha/Malcom Jewell Best Graduate Student Paper Award.
- [2] **Sara Heridia**. Judicial Behavior at the Intersections of Immigration and Race.
- [3] **Sara Heridia**. Loyalty, Competency, and Diversity: Judicial Selection of U.S. Immigration Judges.
- [4] Alexander Bolton and **Sara Heridia**. How Bureaucracies Circumvent Merit Processes to Hire Ideologically Congruous Judges and Restrain Independence. (*under review*).

## Working Projects

- [1] **Sara Heridia** and Kevin Sparrow. Changing to Vote: How Electoral Reform Can Increase Judicial Legitimacy Among the Black Community.
- [3] **Sara Heridia** and Matthew Martin. How Professional Backgrounds Influence Judicial Behavior in Immigration Courts.

## Awards, Grants

- 2025 Conference Travel Grant, Emory University, \$1000
- 2025 SPSA Pi Sigma Alpha/Malcom Jewell Best Graduate Student Paper Award
- 2024 APSA Law and Courts Best Graduate Student Paper Award
- 2023 Summer Research Grant, Emory University, \$2000
- 2023 American Political Science Association Travel Grant, \$150
- 2022 Fund for Latino Scholarship, American Political Science Association \$500
- 2022 Summer Research Grant, Emory University, \$1500
- 2021 Summer Research Grant, Emory University, \$1350
- 2020-2025 Centennial Scholars Fellowship, Emory University, \$8000

- 2020-Present Laney Graduate Fellowship, Emory University
- 2020 Heart of Trinity Student Service Award, Trinity University
- 2019 Mellon Initiative Mini-Grant for Honors Thesis, Trinity University, \$350
- 2019 Mellon Initiative Fellowship, Trinity University, \$4200
- 2019-2020 Alumna, McNair Scholars Program, Trinity University

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## Conference Presentations

- 2025 APSA Dissertation Workshop: Migration and Citizenship.
- 2025 Judicial Behavior at the Intersections of Immigration and Race. Southern Political Science Association.
- 2024 Finding Echoes: Judicial Empathy Among Judges with Immigration Histories. Conference on Empirical Legal Studies.
- 2024 Judicial Behavior at the Intersections of Immigration and Race. American Political Science Association.
- 2024 Finding Echoes: Judicial Empathy Among Judges with Immigration Histories. Midwest Political Science Association.
- 2024 Finding Echoes: Judicial Empathy Among Judges with Immigration Histories. Southern Political Science Association.
- 2024 How Bureaucracies Circumvent Merit Processes to Hire Ideologically Congruous Judges and Restrain Independence. Southern Political Science Association.
- 2022 Finding Echoes: Judicial Empathy Among Second and Third-Generation Immigration Judges. Global Law & Politics Conference.
- 2022 Changing to Vote: How Electoral Reform Can Increase Judicial Legitimacy Among the Black Community. Junior Law and Politics Research Community.
- 2022 Finding Echoes: Judicial Empathy Among Second and Third-Generation Immigration Judges. American Political Science Association
- 2022 Finding Echoes: Judicial Empathy Among Second and Third-Generation Immigration Judges. Southern Political Science Association.

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## Teaching

### *Emory University*

- Spring 2024 Co-Instructor (with Jeff Staton), Undergraduate Level  
POLS 385: Immigration Law and Politics
- Fall 2023 Grader, Undergraduate Level  
POLS 352: Constitutional Law
- Spring 2023 Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Level  
POLS 208: Research Design

### *Trinity University*

- Fall 2019 Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Level  
FYE 1600: Science Fiction
- Fall 2019 Tutor, Undergraduate Level  
LATN 1402: Elementary Latin II

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## Professional Service and Memberships

2024-2025	Committee Member, Law and Courts Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee
2024	Discussant, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies
2020-2025	Organizer, Judicial Politics Working Group, Emory University
2020-Current	Member of the Immigration Law Lab (run by Jeff Staton), Emory University
2022-Current	Founding Member, Women in Political Science at Emory
2022-Present	Member, Junior Law and Politics Research Group
2022	Discussant, Global Law & Politics Conference
Professional Memberships	American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association

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## Other Research Experience

Fall 2022	Research Assistant, Beth Reingold
Spring 2022,	Research Assistant, Alexander Bolton
Fall 2024	

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## Skills and Languages

Software Proficiencies: R, LaTeX, Python, Git