

Zara C. Albright

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Princeton University Princeton NJ
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Program in Latin American Studies 2025-
Lecturer in Latin American Studies

University of Notre Dame Non-Residential
Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow, International Security Center 2025-2026

Boston University Boston MA
Global China Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, Global Development Policy Center 2023-2024

Visiting Appointments:

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) Ecuador 2024
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Núcleo Milenio sobre los Impactos de China en América Latina 2023

EDUCATION

Boston University Boston MA
Ph. D. in Political Science 2025
Exam Fields: International Relations, Methodology
Dissertation: Beyond the Great Powers: How South American States are Navigating US-China Competition in the 21st Century

Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta GA
M.S. in International Affairs 2019
B.S. in International Affairs (Highest Honors, International Plan Designation) 2018

PUBLICATIONS - PEER-REVIEWED

Latin American Small States in the Belt and Road Initiative: Narrating Status Amidst US-China Tensions (with Tom Long and Diego Telias). 2026. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*. DOI: [10.1080/09557571.2026.2637109](https://doi.org/10.1080/09557571.2026.2637109)

Defining the Belt and Road: How Ideas and Interests Shaped Argentina's Approach to the Initiative. 2025. *Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional* 68 (2): e023. DOI: [10.1590/0034-7329202500223](https://doi.org/10.1590/0034-7329202500223)

Bridging the Pacific: Chile and Uruguay's Positioning in the Face of China's Rise (with Diego Telias). 2025. *The Pacific Review*. DOI: [10.1080/09512748.2025.2601135](https://doi.org/10.1080/09512748.2025.2601135)

The Political and Pragmatic Determinants of Chinese Development Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2008-2019. 2025. *Latin American Politics and Society* 67 (2): 78-97. DOI: [10.1017/lap.2024.54](https://doi.org/10.1017/lap.2024.54)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Between the Great Powers: South American Non-Alignment in an Era of US-China Competition
Book Manuscript.

Securitizing China? How Discourse Shapes Latin American Foreign Policy in the Shadow of US-China Competition
Under review. Presented at ISA 2024.

The Limits of Hedging: South American Strategies for US-China Competition
Manuscript in progress. Presented at ISA 2025, LASA 2025.

Elite Interviews and Inductive Theory-Building: Insights from China-Focused Fieldwork in South America
Manuscript in progress. Presenting at ISA 2026.

PUBLICATIONS - POLICY

China-Latin American and the Caribbean Economic Bulletin. 2021 (With Rebecca Ray and Kehan Wang), 2022 (Lead author, with Rebecca Ray and Nathan Liu), 2023 (Lead author, with Rebecca Ray and Nathan Liu), and 2024 (with Rebecca Ray and Enrique Dussel-Peters) editions. *Boston University Global Development Policy Center*.

How to Stop a Boom from Busting: A Policy-Oriented Research Agenda for Capitalizing on China's Demand for Transition Materials in Latin America (with Alex Clark, Juan Luis Dammert Bello, and Rebecca Ray). 2023. *Boston University Global Development Policy Center*. Available from the [Global Development Policy Center](#).

Can Escazú Turn Mining Green in the Lithium Triangle? Lofty Promises Meet a Thirsty Industry in the Desert (with Rebecca Ray and Kehan Wang). 2021. *LASA Forum* 52 (3): 42-47. Available from the [Latin American Studies Association](#).

PUBLICATIONS - OP-EDS

Pulling China In: The Political Goals and Project Needs Behind Latin America's Loans From China. 2024. *The China Global South Project*. Available from the [China Global South Project](#).

Lithium Rush: The Risks and Rewards of a China-Led Commodity Boom for Latin America and the Caribbean's Transition Materials. 2023. *The China Global South Project*. Available from the [China Global South Project](#).

Shifting Trade Winds between China and Latin America and the Caribbean as Free Trade Agreement Negotiations Progress (with Rebecca Ray). 2023. *The China Global South Project*. Available from the [China Global South Project](#).

New Data Shows China's Economic Relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean is Evolving (with Rebecca Ray). 2022. *The China Global South Project*. Available from the [China Global South Project](#).

Opinion: Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile need a responsible lithium boom (with Rebecca Ray and Kehan Wang). 2021. *Diálogo Chino*. Available from [Dialogue Earth](#).

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES

Conference Presentations

Latin American Studies Association	2022, 2024-2026
International Studies Association	2024-2026
Seminario Internacional de la Red Académica de América Latina y el Caribe sobre China	2023, 2025
American Political Science Association	2024
Association of Chinese Political Studies	2024
Midwest Political Science Association	2023

Invited Talks

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies	March 2026
Princeton Program in Latin American Studies Seminar	February 2026
Latin American Politics Workshop, Princeton University	October 2025
Topics in Politics Workshop, Boston University	April 2025
Science, Technology, and International Relations Workshop, Georgia Tech	April 2025
Topics in Politics Workshop, Boston University	December 2024
MBTU Business School, Invited Talk on China-Latin America Relations	August 2024
Núcleo Milenio sobre los Impactos de China en América Latina	December 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Princeton University – Lecturer in Latin American Studies

Latin American Perspectives on the Rise of China (LAS 323/POL 461): Fall 2025

Latin American Theories of International Relations (LAS 357/POL 471): Spring 2026

Boston University – Instructor of Record

Introduction to International Relations (IR 271): Summer 2023

Boston University – Teaching Fellow

Introduction to International Relations (IR 271): Fall 2021, Spring 2022 (Lead TF), Fall 2022 (Lead TF)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (PO 151): Spring 2023

Georgia Institute of Technology – Teaching Assistant

Economics in Latin America (INTA 4340): Summer 2019 in Argentina
The Political Economy of Development (INTA 3303): Summer 2019 in Argentina
Soccer and Global Politics (INTA 3242): Summer 2019 in Argentina
International Institutions (INTA 3101): Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Guest Lectures

Qualitative Methods Seminar (PO 842, Ph.D.): Boston University, November 2024
Pardee School Honors Program (IR 401, Undergraduate): Boston University, November 2024
Introduction to Comparative Politics (PS 249, Undergraduate): University of Tennessee, September 2024
Socioeconomics of Institutions (Masters): FLACSO Ecuador, March 2024
Globalization, Development, and Governance (IR 789, Masters): Boston University, October 2023

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Boston University, Global Development Policy Center	Boston MA
Graduate Research Assistant, Global China Initiative	September 2020 – August 2023
Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta GA
Research Faculty (Extension Professional), Enterprise Innovation Institute	July 2019 – July 2020
United Nations	Santiago, Chile
Research Intern, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	January – April 2018
Georgia Department of Economic Development	Atlanta GA
Research Intern, International Trade Division	August – December 2017

RELATED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Bridging the Gap New Era Workshop, University of Denver	2024
Fast & Furious & Fair: Equitable and Nimble Grading, Boston University Center for Teaching and Learning	2023
Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan	2022

GRANTS AND AWARDS

External

APSA Foreign Policy Section Graduate Student Travel Grant	2024
APSA Travel Grant	2024
Beca LASA 2024, Núcleo Milenio sobre los Impactos de China en América Latina	2024
LASA Endowment Fund Grant	2022
Possible Women Foundation International Scholarship	2016

Internal - Boston University

Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant	2025
Center for Innovation in Social Science Summer Mini-Grant	2024
Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship	2023-2024
Scott Palmer Research Grant, Center for Latin American Studies	2023-2024
Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, Department of Political Science	2021-2022
Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future Graduate Summer Fellowship	2021

Internal - Georgia Institute of Technology

Naren Raghuraman Fellowship	2019
Herbert P. Haley Fellowship	2018-2019
International Plan Scholarship	2018
Faculty Honors	2015-2018

SERVICE

To the Discipline

Latin American Studies Association, Panel Organizer	2026
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International Studies Association, Panel Organizer and Discussant 2026
Association of Chinese Political Studies, Discussant 2024

Boston University

Department of Political Science, Representative to the Director of Graduate Studies 2024-2025
BU Graduate Workers Union (BUGWU, SEIU Local 509), Department Representative 2021-2024
Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, Ph. D. Student Representative 2022-2023
Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer Range Future, Graduate Summer Fellows Application Reviewer 2022
Graduate Student Speaker Series Committee, Political Science Department 2020-2023

Georgia Institute of Technology

Institute Strategic Plan Working Group: Connect Globally 2020
GT 1000 Freshman Seminar Team Leader 2017, 2018
School of Modern Languages Student Advisory Committee 2016-2017
Ivan Allen College Dean's Student Advisory Board 2015-2018

Reviewer for: Business and Politics, Revista de Ciencia Política

RESEARCH AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Languages: Spanish (Fluent), Mandarin Chinese (Novice), English (Native)

Field Experience: Argentina (2019 & 2024), Chile (2018 & 2023), Ecuador (2024), Uruguay (2019)

Programming and Software: R (Intermediate/Advanced), L^AT_EX (Intermediate), NVivo (Novice)

Qualitative Methods: Semi-structured interviews, process tracing, case studies, survey design, text analysis

Quantitative Methods: Hypothesis testing, linear regression, maximum likelihood estimation, causal inference, time series methods, survey data analysis