

Gilles Serra

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Col. Lomas de Santa Fe
Mexico City, 01210, Mexico

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

CIDE (Center for Economics Research and Teaching)
Department of Political Science

- *Associate Professor with tenure*
- *Assistant Professor*

October 2017 – present
September 2010 – September 2017

University of Oxford
Nuffield College
Department of Politics and International Relations

- *Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow (PPRF)*

August 2007 – August 2010

EDUCATION

Harvard University

August 2007

- *Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government*
- Committee: Chris Avery, Robert Bates, Kenneth Shepsle (chair), James Snyder
- Thesis: “Why and when do political parties adopt primary elections? A theoretical and comparative study”

Harvard University

June 2003

- *M.A. in Political Economy and Government*
- *General examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics*, Economics Department
- Committee: Alvin Roth, Kenneth Shepsle (chair), Richard Zeckhauser
- Thesis: “Recommendations from Negotiation Theory to Demobilize the Paramilitaries in Colombia”

ITAM (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México)

June 1999

- *B.S. in Applied Mathematics*
- Committee: Guillermo Pastor (chair), Beatriz Rumbos
- Thesis: “Individuals climbing up their hierarchy: an evolutionary game” [in Spanish]
Awarded *best undergraduate thesis in mathematics, statistics or actuarial sciences* at ITAM

ITAM (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México)

June 1999

- *B.A. in Economics*
- Committee: Alejandro Hernández, César Martinelli (chair)
- Thesis: “Coexistence of ideologues and demagogues: an economic model of political competition in Mexico” [in Spanish]

HONORS AND PRIZES

- Selected as a **country expert (Mexico)**, IE School of International Relations, PREPPS expert survey 2018
- Selected as a **country expert (Mexico)**, University of Amsterdam, NEGex Expert Survey 2018
- Selected as a **country expert (Mexico)**, Varieties of Democracy Expert Survey (V-Dem) 2014, 2015, 2016
- Selected as a **country expert (Mexico)**, Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2015
- First promotion at the **Mexican System of Researchers** (peer-reviewed) 2014
- Admitted to the **Mexican System of Researchers** (peer-reviewed) 2011
- **Excellence in Teaching Economics to Graduate Students**, Harvard University 2003
- **Excellence in Teaching Economics to Graduate Students**, Harvard University 2002
- **Distinction in Teaching, Committee on Undergraduate Education**, Harvard University 2002
- **Best Undergraduate Thesis** in Mathematics, Statistics or Actuarial Sciences, ITAM 1999
- **Honors**, thesis defense for the B.S. in Applied Mathematics, ITAM 1999
- **Honors**, thesis defense for the B.A. in Economics, ITAM 1999
- **Prize to Academic Excellence** (granted for the first time), ITAM 1998
- **First place in economic research**, *La Gaceta de Economía* 1998
- **Second place in essay writing**, essay contest *The Future of ITAM* 1996

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- **CIDE (Center for Economics Research and Teaching)**, research support fund 2014, 2016
- **Latin American Centre, University of Oxford**, conference travel funding 2008
- **Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University**, dissertation completion grant 2006
- **Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University**, seed grant 2006
- **David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University**, travel grant 2006
- **National Bureau of Economic Research**, research grant 2003
- **Social Science Research Council**, Program in Applied Economics, summer workshop 2001
- **Fundación México en Harvard**, graduate scholarship 2001

- **Center for Basic Research in the Social Sciences, Harvard University**, summer fellowship 2000
- **Harvard University**, full tuition and stipend 1999
- **Ford, McArthur and Hewlett foundations**, joint scholarship for Latin American students in the U.S. 1999

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Serra, Gilles. 2019. "Primaries, Conventions, and Other Methods for Nominating Candidates: How Do They Matter?" In *The Oxford Handbook of Public Choice*, edited by Roger Congleton, Bernard Grofman, and Stefan Voigt. Oxford: Oxford University Press (accepted, forthcoming).

Serra, Gilles. 2018. "Should We Expect Primary Elections to Create Polarization? A Robust Median Voter Theorem with Rational Parties." In *The Routledge Handbook of Primary Elections*, edited by Robert G. Boatright. New York: Routledge, 72-94.

Serra, Gilles. 2018. "The Electoral Strategies of a Populist Candidate: Does Charisma Discourage Experience and Encourage Extremism?" *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 30 (1), January: 45-73.

Serra, Gilles. 2017. "Clientelismo y Corrupción Electoral en México: Persistencia a Pesar de los Avances Legislativos." *Revista Mexicana de Estudios Electorales* 17 (primer semestre), enero-junio: 149-174.

- Included in the syllabus "Geografía e Instituciones Electorales", División de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM), México

Serra, Gilles. 2017. "Congressional Negotiations with Costly Voting: Understanding the Reforms to PEMEX in 2006-2008." In *State, Institutions and Democracy: Contributions of Political Economy*, edited by Norman Schofield and Gonzalo Caballero. New York: Springer, 295-326.

Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2016. *Analizar la Política: Comportamiento, Instituciones y Racionalidad*. 2ª edición. Traducción de Gilles Serra. México, Ciudad de México: CIDE.

- I was in charge of the Spanish translation of the second edition of Kenneth Shepsle's book *Analyzing Politics*, for which I also wrote the prologue.

Serra, Gilles. 2016. "La Elección Racional para Analizar la Política en el Mundo de Habla Hispana." En *Analizar la Política: Comportamiento, Instituciones y Racionalidad*, Kenneth A. Shepsle, traducción de Gilles Serra. México, Ciudad de México: CIDE, 17-28.

Serra, Gilles. 2016. "Comprar, coaccionar y desinformar al votante: Problemas duraderos de la democracia mexicana." *Política y Gobierno XXIII* (2), segundo semestre: 409-435.

- Included in the syllabus "Sistema Político Mexicano", Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Serra, Gilles. 2016. "Vote buying with illegal resources: Manifestation of a weak rule of law in Mexico." *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 8 (1), May: 129-150.

- Included in the syllabus "Corruption and Anti-Corruption", Harvard Law School

Serra, Gilles. 2015. "Enduring Challenges to Mexico's Electoral Democracy: Vote Buying and Vote Coercion in Subnational Politics." *Taiwan Journal of Democracy* 11 (2), December: 53-74.

Serra, Gilles. 2015. "No Polarization in Spite of Primaries: A Median Voter Theorem with Competitive Nominations." In *The Political Economy of Governance: Institutions, Political Performance and Elections*, edited by Norman Schofield and Gonzalo Caballero. Switzerland: Springer (May), 211-229.

Serra, Gilles. 2014. "The 2012 Elections in Mexico: Return of the Dominant Party." *Electoral Studies* 34 (June): 349-353.

Serra, Gilles. 2013. "Demise and Resurrection of a Dominant Party: Understanding the PRI's Comeback in Mexico." *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 5 (3), December: 133-154.

- Included in the syllabus "Latin American Political Development", School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona
- Included in the syllabus "Latin American Politics", Department of Political Science, State University of New York at Albany
- Included in the syllabus "Latin American Politics", Department of Political Science, High Point University, North Carolina
- Included in the syllabus "Introduction to Comparative Politics", Department of Political Science, San José State University, California

Serra, Gilles. 2013. "When Will Incumbents Avoid a Primary Challenge? Aggregation of Partial Information About Candidates' Valence." In *Advances in Political Economy: Institutions, Modelling and Empirical Analysis*, edited by Norman Schofield, Gonzalo Caballero and Daniel Kselman. Berlin: Springer (March), 217-248.

- The book and my chapter were reviewed in the *Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas* (149) 2015: 177-181.

Serra, Gilles. 2012. "The Risk of Partyarchy and Democratic Backsliding: Mexico's 2007 Electoral Reform." *Taiwan Journal of Democracy* 8 (1), July: 93-118.

Serra, Gilles. 2011. "La Reforma Electoral en México: ¿Un Retroceso Democrático?," en *Caleidoscopio de la Innovación Democrática en América Latina*, edited by Yanina Welp y Laurence Whitehead. México Distrito Federal: FLACSO (junio), 75-95.

- The book and my chapter were reviewed in *América Latina Hoy*, 61 (August 2012): 233-234.

Serra, Gilles. 2011. "Why Primaries? The Party's Tradeoff between Policy and Valence." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 23 (1), January: 21-51.

- I am quoted for this research in the print version of newspaper *The Washington Post* in the article "Lost in the Smoke-Filled Room: Unexpected Talent," April 14, 2008.
- I am quoted for this research by newspaper *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in the article "Why primaries? Contests may be long, messy, but they give outsiders a chance," April 20, 2008.
- Quoted in the *Diccionario Enciclopédico de Comunicación Política* in its definition of "Elecciones Primarias"
- Included in the syllabus "U.S. National Elections", Yale University
- Included in the syllabus "Partidos políticos e sistemas partidários: uma análise comparativa", Departamento de Ciência Política, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil
- Included in the syllabus "Políticas Electorales", Escuela de Política y Gobierno, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina
- Included in the syllabus "Modelos de Representación", Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

Serra, Gilles. 2010. "Polarization of What? A Model of Elections with Endogenous Valence." *The Journal of Politics* 72 (2), April: 426-437.

- This paper (among others) was plagiarized by an assistant professor at Grinnell College, as narrated by the newspaper *Scarlet and Black*, "Econ Professor resigned due to plagiarism," February 8, 2013.
- Included in the syllabus "Theory of Voting and Elections", Department of Political Science, University of Rochester
- Included in the syllabus "Comparative Politics: Industrialized Democracies", Department of Politics, New York University
- Included in the syllabus "Topics in Political Economy", Tinbergen Institute, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Serra, Gilles. 2009. "Una lectura crítica de la reforma electoral en México a raíz de la elección de 2006." *Política y Gobierno* XVI (2), segundo semestre: 411-427.

- Featured as the academic article of the month by the Mexican Senate's monthly magazine *Divulgación Bibliográfica—Biblioteca Melchor Ocampo*, December 2009.
- Included in the syllabus "Sistema Político Mexicano", División de Estudios Políticos, CIDE

Serra, Gilles. 2004. "A Chance for Peace? Recommendations from Negotiation Theory to Demobilize the Paramilitaries in Colombia." *Harvard Kennedy School Review* 5 (May): 65-83.

Huitrón, Armando y Gilles Serra. 1998. "Crecimiento económico, políticas redistributivas y justicia a la Rawls." *La Gaceta de Economía* 7, año 4 (noviembre): 85-108.

- Winner of the economics research contest organized by *La Gaceta de Economía*.
- Co-authored with fellow undergraduate student Armando Huitrón.

WORKING PAPERS POSTED ONLINE

Serra, Gilles. 2017. "Contagious sincerity: When should we expect partisan primaries in one party to induce partisan primaries in the rival party?" *CIDE Working Papers* DTEP-291 (June).

Serra, Gilles. 2013. "Was Mexico's 2012 Election Undemocratic? Assessing the Fraud Accusations." *CIDE Working Papers* DTEP-259 (October).

Serra, Gilles. 2011. "How Could Pemex Be Reformed? An Analytical Framework Based on Congressional Politics." *CIDE Working Papers* DTEP-233 (November).

- Paper quoted by news magazine *Energía a Debate* as "prophetic" and "indispensable reading" in the article "Reforma de Pemex y el cuidado de la renta petrolera," year 9, no. 59, pp. 22-29, november/december 2013.
- I am quoted for this research by news magazine *The Brazilian Economy: Economy, Politics and Policy Issues* in the article "The hazy future of Mexican oil," Vol. 4, No. 5, May 2012.

Serra, Gilles. 2007. "Primary Elections or Smoke-Filled Rooms: A Theory of Party Democratization in Latin America." Presented at the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association. Montréal, Canada (September 5-8).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Book review:

Serra, Gilles. 2014. "Reseña de *Selecting Women, Electing Women: Political Representation and Candidate Selection in Latin America* de Magda Hinojosa." *Política y Gobierno XXI* (1), primer semestre: 233-239.

Letter to the Editor:

Serra, Gilles. 2012. "Mexico and the Market." *The Economist*, Letters, December 15th.

Letter to the Editor:

Serra, Gilles. 2009. "Barack Obama, Nobel Peace Laureate." *The New York Times*, Letters, October 10th.

Opinion essay:

Serra, Gilles. 1996. "Knocking on the Doors of the Twenty First Century: Challenges for ITAM. [in Spanish]" *Revista Opción* (special issue), December: 229-234.

- o Second-place winner of the essay contest "The Future of ITAM."

Opinion essay:

Serra, Gilles. 1994. "Cuba ha ha ha! Freedom is a joke. [in Spanish]" *Revista Opción* (63), January: 39-42.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Association meetings:

American Political Science Association (APSA)	2006-2010, 2012-2015, 2017-2018
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)	2006, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2018
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2005-2008, 2011-2015, 2017-2018
European Public Choice Society (EPCS)	2009
Public Choice Society (PCS)	2009
Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA)	2006

Departments and Universities:

Center for Economics Research and Teaching (CIDE) , Political Science Department	2009, 2011, 2018
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) , Political Science Department	2017
Center for Economics Research and Teaching (CIDE) , Economics Department	2013
University of California, Berkeley , Political Science Department	2011
University of Toronto , Munk School of Global Affairs	2010
University of Oxford , Nuffield Political Science Seminar	2010
London School of Economics , Political Science and Political Economy Group	2010
Tilburg University , the Dutch Social Choice Colloquium, Netherlands	2009
London School of Economics , STICERD	2008
University of Oxford , politics and sociology post-doctoral seminar	2007, 2008, 2008, 2009
Bocconi University , Economics Department	2007
Rice University , Political Science Department	2007
Tufts University, Fletcher School , Latin American Students Group	2006
University of California, Davis , Political Science Department	2006
SUNY, Stony Brook , Political Science Department	2006
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) , Political Science Department	2006
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) , Economics Department	2006
Harvard University , Economics Department	2002, 2006

Harvard University , Kennedy School of Government	2005
Harvard University , Government Department	2002, 2002, 2003, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) , Mathematics Department	1998

Research centers:

Mexican Central Bank (BANXICO) , Mexico City	2012
Juan March Institute , Madrid, Spain	2012
Oxford Centre for the Study of Inequality and Democracy (OCSID)	2010
Baker Institute for Public Policy , Rice University, Houston	2010
Instituto de Investigación Ortega y Gasset , Madrid, Spain	2008
National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) , Boston	2005

Small meetings:

Stanford-COLMEX-CIDE Joint Workshop on Economic and Political Institutions	2017
International Conference on Political Economy and Institutions , Baiona, Spain	2012, 2014, 2017
Feria Internacional del libro , CDMX, Mexico	2017
Feria Internacional del libro , Guadalajara, Mexico	2016
Southern California Comparative Political Science conference , UCSD, San Diego	2016
Political Economics Symposium: Institutions and Rational Choice , CIDE, Mexico	2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Formal Political Theory (undergraduate course) , CIDE Lectured. Designed the syllabus.	2011 – present
Introduction to Political Science (undergraduate course) , CIDE Lectured. Designed a new syllabus.	2011, 2012
Introduction to Game Theory (executive program) , CIDE Lectured. Designed the class.	2011 – present
Formal Analysis (masters course) , University of Oxford Co-lectured with Professor Raymond Duch.	2010
Mexican Politics (masters seminar) , University of Oxford Co-lectured with Professor Laurence Whitehead.	2009, 2010
Analyzing Politics (undergraduate course) , Harvard University Teaching assistant to Professor Kenneth Shepsle.	2004
Microeconomic Theory II (PhD course) , Harvard University Teaching assistant to Professors Jerry Green, Chris Avery and Nolan Miller.	Spring 2003
Microeconomic Theory I (PhD course) , Harvard University Teaching assistant to Professors Jerry Green, Chris Avery and Nolan Miller.	Fall 2002
Principles of Economics – Macroeconomics (undergraduate course) , Harvard University Lectured.	Spring 2002
Principles of Economics – Microeconomics (undergraduate course) , Harvard University Lectured.	Fall 2001

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Professor Martin Feldstein, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)	2003-2004
Professor César Martinelli, Center for Economics Research (CIE), ITAM	June 1999
Professor Manuel Santos, Center for Economics Research (CIE), ITAM	Fall 1996
Professor Fernando Zapatero, Center for Economics Research (CIE), ITAM	Spring 1996

ANONYMOUS REVIEWS

Requests to evaluate grant applications:

CONACYT, *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología* (2)
NSF, *National Science Foundation* (1)
UIA, *Universidad Iberoamericana* (2)

Requests to referee manuscripts for academic journals:

AJPS, *American Journal of Political Science* (9)
APSR, *American Political Science Review* (11)
APR, *American Politics Research* (1)
BJPS, *British Journal of Political Science* (10)
CESOP, *Revista Legislativa de la Cámara de Diputados* (1)
CPS, *Comparative Political Studies* (5)
Colombia Internacional (1)
CompPol, *Comparative Politics* (2)
Derecho Global, Estudios sobre Derecho y Justicia (1)
GEB, *Games and Economic Behavior* (4)
GyPP, *Gestión y Política Pública* (1)
JELS, *Electoral Studies* (2)
JOES, *Journal of Economic Surveys* (2)
JOP, *Journal of Politics* (8)
JPLA, *Journal of Politics in Latin America* (2)
JTP, *Journal of Theoretical Politics* (8)
LAER, *Latin American Economic Review* (1)
LARR, *Latin American Research Review* (1)
OEP, *Oxford Economic Papers* (1)
Oxford Bibliographies (1)
Party Politics (1)
Perfiles Latinoamericanos (2)
PSRM, *Political Science Research and Methods* (1)
PuCh, *Public Choice* (9)
PyG, *Política y Gobierno* (7)
QJPS, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* (3)
RIS, *Revista Internacional de Sociología* (1)
RMCPyS, *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales* (2)
SCWE, *Social Choice and Welfare* (2)
TJD, *Taiwan Journal of Democracy* (3)

Requests to referee books and book chapters:

Baker Institute, *Rice University* (1)

UIA, *Universidad Iberoamericana* (1)

PERSONAL

Full name: Gilles (pronounced 'jeel') Serra Baños
Nationalities: Mexican (on mother's side) and French (on father's side)
Born in: Mexico City, Mexico
Language fluency: English, French and Spanish
Other interests: Movies, martial arts, meditation

RECOMMENDERS

Professor Christopher Avery (Member of thesis committee)

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government

Center for International Development, Littauer-208, Cambridge, MA 02138

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Professor Robert Bates (Member of thesis committee)

Harvard University, Government Department

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Professor Kenneth Shepsle (Chair of thesis committee)

Harvard University, Government Department

1737 Cambridge Street, CGIS Knafel Building room 312, Cambridge, MA 02138

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Professor James Snyder (Member of thesis committee)

Harvard University, Government Department

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Professor Laurence Whitehead (Official postdoctoral mentor)

University of Oxford, Nuffield College, Politics Group

New Road, Oxford, OX1 1NF, United Kingdom

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