Miguel Ángel Fernández Plaza

Political scientist · PhD in Political Science, Boston University · Academic Director, Faro UDD, Universidad del Desarrollo

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I study political and electoral behavior, Congress and political parties, and youth political participation in Chile, with data and quantitative methods. In 2023 I testified before Chile's Expert Commission and Constitutional Council.

Positions

2026– **Academic Director, Faro UDD** Oversees the BA and MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE).

2026– **Associate Director, PhD in Public Policy** School of Government, Universidad del Desarrollo.

2024– **Assistant Professor** Universidad del Desarrollo.

2024–2026 **Deputy Academic Director, Faro UDD**

2022– **Researcher, Faro UDD, and Professor of Political Science** Universidad del Desarrollo.

2019–2022 **Teaching Fellow** Boston University.

2015–2023 **Instructor** Universidad del Desarrollo.

2014 **Lecturer and researcher** School of Government, Universidad del Desarrollo; co-founder of its Electoral Studies Group.

Education

2022 **PhD in Political Science** Boston University.

2020 **MA in Political Science** Boston University.

2014 **Master in Public Management** Universidad San Sebastián.

2013 **BA in Political Science and Public Policy** Universidad del Desarrollo; exchange at the University of Victoria, Canada (2011).

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

2026 **From Classroom to Streets: The Effect of Schools on Political Participation Among Chilean Youth** Youth 6(3). With M. P. Raveau, M. Sosa and V. López. doi.org/10.3390/youth6030137

2026 **Participación política y jóvenes: una mirada post Estallido Social en Chile [Political participation and young people: a view after Chile's social uprising]** Revista Enfoques 10(37). With M. J. del Solar and Y. Tala. doi.org/10.33996/revistaenfoques.v10i37.230

2024 **«It's not the what but (also) the how»: characterizing left-wing populism in political texts** Frontiers in Political Science 6. With M. P. Raveau, C. Fuentes-Bravo, J. P. Couyoumdjian and M. J. del Solar. Datos abiertos en Harvard Dataverse. doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2024.1435712

2024 **Reglas electorales y representación de género: el mecanismo «cebra» en la elección de convencionales [Electoral rules and gender representation: the "zebra" mechanism in Chile's 2021 Constitutional Convention election]** Revista Mexicana de Estudios Electorales 8(32). rmee.org.mx/index.php/RMEstudiosElectorales/article/view/471

2024 **Determinantes sociales del consumo combinado de alcohol y medicamentos sin prescripción médica en personas mayores: un estudio poblacional en Chile [Social determinants of combined use of alcohol and non-prescription drugs among older adults in Chile]** Revista Médica de Chile 152(8). With Y. Tala and C. Skewes. doi.org/10.4067/s0034-98872024000800867

2016 **Daño a niños y sus familias por el consumo de alcohol: resultados de una encuesta poblacional [Alcohol's harm to children and families in Chile: a population survey]** Revista Chilena de Pediatría 87(3), 162-168. With R. Florenzano, Á. Echeverría, C. Sieverson and M. Barr. doi.org/10.1016/j.rchipe.2015.06.020

2015 **Alcohol's Harm to Others' Well-Being and Health: a Comparison Between Chile and Australia** Alcohol and Alcoholism 50(3), 346-351. With F. Dussaillant. doi.org/10.1093/alcalc/agv002

2015 **Daño a terceros producido por el alcohol: resultados de un estudio poblacional en Chile [Alcohol's harm to others: a population study in Chile]** Revista Médica de Chile 143, 1242-1251. With R. Florenzano, E. Guzmán, C. Sieverson, Á. Castillo-Carniglia, Á. Echeverría and M. Barr. doi.org/10.4067/s0034-98872015001000002

Books and chapters

2025 **Anatomía del Octubre Chileno: reflexiones a cinco años** Faro UDD Ediciones. Book. faro.udd.cl/files/2024/10/anatomia-del-octubre-chileno-2024-

2024 **Reformar el sistema político de Chile: una exploración al transfuguismo** In Chile y las reformas políticas pendientes. Chapter.

2024 **Más allá de la educación** In Miradas sobre la educación en Chile. Chapter.

2020 **Rumbo a la Casa Blanca** Una guía al sistema electoral de Estados Unidos. Book. gobierno.udd.cl/noticias/2020/09/investigador-de-la-facultad

2019 **Alcohol's harm to others: its effects on personal well-being and health in Chile** In Harm to Others from Drinking. Chapter.

2017 **De la Concertación a la Nueva Mayoría: escenarios para las elecciones de 2017** In Análisis 17. Chapter.

Applied research (non-indexed) (in Spanish)

2026 **Asignar y ejecutar: la inversión regional del Biobío ante el Presupuesto 2027** Boletín Regional no. 74, Faro UDD. With Oscar Monett. faro.udd.cl/files/2026/10/br74-maf-om-presupuesto-gore-1.pdf

2026 **Tres Biobíos: la migración comunal que está reconfigurando la región** Boletín Regional no. 73, Faro UDD. faro.udd.cl/files/2026/09/br73-maf-migracion.pdf

2026 **Optimismo privado, desesperanza pública: la juventud del Biobío frente a su futuro y el del país** Boletín Regional no. 68, Faro UDD. faro.udd.cl/files/2026/07/br68-maf-1.pdf

2026 **Las oposiciones en Chile: un paisaje difuso** Faro en Debate no. 46, Faro UDD. With Jorge Cordero. faro.udd.cl/files/2026/07/fed-46-jc-maf.pdf

2026 **Redistribución de escaños en la Cámara de Diputados** Study with Eugenio Guzmán and Gonzalo Müller, School of Government, UDD. gobierno.udd.cl/noticias/2026/04/la-segunda-gonzalo-muller-c

2026 **Descubrir y comunicar en la vida universitaria** Faro en Debate no. 42, Faro UDD. faro.udd.cl/files/2026/03/fed-42-descubrir-y-comunicar-en-la

2025 **Patrones de voto y disciplina partidaria en el Congreso chileno (2022-2025)** Faro UDD. With Jorge Cordero Frigerio and Raúl Opazo Fuentes. faro.udd.cl/files/2025/03/patrones-de-voto-y-disciplina-part

2025 **Brechas 2025** Faro UDD study. With María José del Solar. Second edition of the 2023 study.

2025 **Elecciones presidenciales 2025: análisis de resultados** Final report. With Eugenio Guzmán, School of Government, UDD. faro.udd.cl/files/2025/12/informe-presidenciales-2025-maf-eg

2025 **Elecciones presidenciales 2025: análisis preliminar** With Eugenio Guzmán, School of Government, UDD. faro.udd.cl/files/2025/11/analisis-preliminar-elecciones-pre

2025 **Primarias oficialistas 2025: participación y resultados** Study with Eugenio Guzmán, School of Government, UDD. faro.udd.cl/files/2025/06/primarias-oficialismo-2025-analisi

2024 **Chile de Cambios N.° 2: percepciones del futuro de la economía** Faro UDD. With María José del Solar. faro.udd.cl/files/2024/05/chile-de-cambios-n-02-percepciones

2023 **Análisis de la elección del Consejo Constitucional 2023** With Eugenio Guzmán, School of Government, UDD. faro.udd.cl/files/2023/05/analisis-elecciones-consejo-consti

2023 **Brechas 2023** Faro UDD study. With María José del Solar. faro.udd.cl/files/2023/03/estudio-brechas-2023-faro-udd.pdf

2022 **Resultados Plebiscito 2022: análisis comunal sobre decisión de voto y participación** School of Government, UDD. gobierno.udd.cl/files/2022/09/An%C3%A1lisis-Plebiscito-2022-

2020 **Informe Plebiscito Constitucional 2020** School of Government, UDD. gobierno.udd.cl/files/2020/10/Informe-Plebiscito-2510-Gobier

2017 **Los gobiernos importan: desempeño y confianza político institucional en América Latina** School of Government, UDD.

2016 **Análisis del cambio de sistema electoral en Chile** Paper, Chilean Society of Public Policy.

2015 **Efectos del cambio de voto obligatorio a voluntario: ¿por qué los votantes chilenos se quedan en casa?** UDD Working Papers 26.

Teaching

Current courses

2026– **Institutions, Politics and Government** PhD in Public Policy, UDD. For the program's first cohort, with guest faculty from Universidad del Pacífico and the University of Cincinnati.

2023– **Politics and Democracy** MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Seminar on the ideas and institutions of democracy. For this course I was named a UDD Professor of Excellence in 2024 and 2025.

2016– **Processes, Institutions and Comparative Politics** Political Science and Public Policy, UDD. Required first-year course since 2016, built on Navegando Sistemas, my own fourteen-chapter textbook.

AI Applied to Innovation MBA, UDD. Four intensive sessions in which teams validate a business idea with AI-built prototypes. Best MBA Professor, 2026.

Student evaluations

2025–2026 **Average 94.2/100 across 5 course sections (194 student responses)** 2025-I 95.9 · 2025-I 90.3 · 2025-II 91.8 · 2025-II 99.2 · 2026-I 96.9

Previous courses

2024–2025 **Principles of Philosophy, Politics and Economics** BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Faro UDD.

2014–2024 **Statistical Analysis** Journalism, School of Communications, UDD.

2016 **Methodology Tutor** Psychology, UDD.

Modules on Data Analysis and on Institutions and Politics UDD diploma programs.

Awards and recognition

2026 **Best Professor, UDD MBA**

2025 **Teaching Excellence Award, UDD, MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

2024 **Teaching Excellence Award, UDD, MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

2024 **Alumni UDD Career Achievement Award**

2022 **Named among 55 public intellectuals under 35 in Chilean public debate, The Clinic**

Projects and teaching innovation

Congress Simulator Each student becomes a member of Congress and negotiates, builds coalitions and votes on a bill from their phone, in a fictional scenario set in Chile, 2027. Used at the XXI Political Science and Public Policy Conference at UDD (2026).

Pequeños Patriotas (Little Patriots) A book, an animated series and a free role-playing video game that introduce children and families to twelve founders of Chilean independence. Written by me, illustrated by my brother Rafael Fernández.

Open course on generative AI A free, self-paced course (in Spanish) on using generative AI responsibly at work: thirteen one-minute videos, nine units and eight ten-minute exercises.

Latin American PPE Network Founded in 2026 by Faro UDD, Universidad de Montevideo, Universidad del Pacífico and PUCE to teach and publish Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Latin America.

Selected talks and testimony

2026 **XXI Conference on Political Science and Public Policy, UDD: ran the Congress simulation** Simulation

2026 **PPE in Latin America and signing of the Latin American PPE Network** Seminar

2026 **From Chile to Switzerland: the Chilean political system for Swiss students** Explaining Chile abroad

2025 **Chilean politics: problems and challenges, seminar for US graduate students** Wofford College

2025 **Political consumption in Chile, interdisciplinary seminar on consumption** Seminar

2024 **Talk with John Henríquez in Buenos Aires** UCEMA, Argentina

2023 **The language of populism, School of Government Conference** Conference

2023 **Democracy under threat** Seminar

2023 **Testimony before the Political System committee of the Constitutional Council** Constitutional process

2023 **World Congress of Political Science** IPSA

2023 **Testimony before the Expert Commission** Constitutional process

Media

More than a decade commenting on elections and politics in Chilean print, radio and television (El Mercurio, La Tercera, La Segunda, TVN, Radio Agricultura, Radio Metropolitan, among others). Details at mafernandez.cl/prensa.