

LAIRA ROCHA TENCA

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science

(2021 - Expected June 2027)

University of Brasília, Institute of Political Science (IPOL)

Dissertation: The Legislative Politics of Marriage Equality in Brazil and Peru (1988–2025)

Advisor: Flávia Biroli

M.A. in Political Science and International Relations

2017 – 2019

Federal University of Paraíba

Master's Thesis: Brazil's Discourse at the Organization of American States (2000–2016): A Foucauldian Approach

Advisor: Samir Miranda

B.A. in International Relations

2012 – 2015

Centro Universitário Belas Artes de São Paulo

Undergraduate Thesis: An Economic Analysis of South American Integration (2000–2014).

Advisor: Miguel Arab

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Researcher

2026

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Lima, Peru

Hosted by the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, Económicas, Políticas y Antropológicas (CISEPA)

Faculty Host: Stephanie Rousseau

Fulbright Visiting Scholar (administered by IIE)

2025 – 2026

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Hosted by the Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy and the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC), Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Faculty Hosts: Christina Ewig and Anant Maringanti

Visiting Research Scholar

2024 – 2025

Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, United Kingdom

Hosted by the Gender Institute and the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy

Faculty Host: Jennifer Piscopo

ADVANCED TRAINING

Summer Institute on Sexuality, Culture and Society

2024

University of Amsterdam (UvA), Amsterdam, Netherlands

Selected Participant, an intensive graduate-level training program in sexuality studies, feminist theory, queer studies, and interdisciplinary social research.

Democracy, Autocratization and Gender

2023

Institute of Political Science (IPOL), University of Brasília (UnB), Brazil.

Advanced graduate training course taught by Conny Roggeband on gender politics, democratic erosion, anti-gender mobilization, and contemporary processes of autocratization.

US International Relations and Visions of Latin America: A Cultural-Historical Perspective

2020

Institute of International Relations, University of São Paulo (USP), São Paulo, Brazil.

Advanced graduate training course taught by Jeffrey F. Taffet examining historical and cultural dimensions of U.S.–Latin American relations and hemispheric politics.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Democracy, Inclusion, and Citizenship
- Gender, Sexuality, and LGBTQIA+ Politics
- Democratic Backsliding and Anti-Gender Mobilization
- Feminist Governance and Political Representation
- Lesbian and Queer Politics
- Social Movements and Public Policy
- Latin American and Global South Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Tenca, Laura Rocha. 2025. "Between Progress and Backlash: The Transnational Struggle for LGBTI Rights." *Revista Estudos Feministas* 33(2).

Slaviero, Vanessa; **Tenca, Laura Rocha**; Jéssica M. Rivetti. 2025. "Violence against Women in Politics: Reflections on Its International Conceptualization in Dialogue with Decolonial Feminist Thinking." *OASIS: Observatorio de Análisis de los Sistemas Internacionales* 42: 95–117.

Azevedo Coutinho, Beatriz; **Tenca, Laura Rocha**; Mombelli, Cecilia Soares. 2021. "The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Work of Women Researchers in International Relations." *Conjuntura Austral* 12(59): 73–88.

Tenca, Laura. 2018. "Abortion and Biopolitics: ADPF 442 at the Intersection of Disciplinary Society and the Society of Control." *Revista Praça: Student Journal of the Graduate Program in Sociology at UFPE* 2(2): 28–46.

Book Chapters

Tenca, Laura Rocha. 2025. "Silence and Image: Lesbianity, Religion, and Memory in Brazilian Independent Cinema." In *Para Criar um Outro Mundo Possível: 30 Anos do Seminário Internacional Fazendo Gênero*. São Paulo: Pimenta Cultural.

Tenca, Laura Rocha. 2018. "Passive Revolution in Italy and Bourgeois Revolution in Brazil: A Comparative Analysis of Late Capitalism." In *100 Years of the Russian Revolution: Debates*.

Reference Works and Encyclopedia Entries

Tenca, Laura Rocha. Forthcoming. Entries on "Coloniality of Gender," "Intersex," "Gender and Sexuality," and "Gender Fluidity." In *Dictionary of Key Concepts in Gender and Politics*. Brasília: Brazilian Senate House.

Public Scholarship

Tenca, Laura Rocha, Beatriz Coutinho, Cecilia Mombelli, Kelly Agopyan, and Mariana Correa. 2020. "Why the Pandemic Distances Women from Science." *Outras Palavras*.

Conference Proceedings

Tenca, Laura Rocha. 2024. "Disputes and Discourses Surrounding Same-Sex Marriage in Brazil: Bill 5167/2009 and the Backlash Against the Federal Supreme Court." In *Proceedings of Fazendo Gênero 13: Against the End of the World – Anticolonialism, Antifascism, and Climate Justice*. Florianópolis, Brazil.

Tenca, Laura Rocha. 2020. "Discursive Analysis of South American Integration (2000–2018): Enunciative (Ir)Regularities." In *Proceedings of the V CIAD: Discourse and (Post-)Truth*.

Tenca, Laura Rocha. 2019. "Brazil's Discourse at the Organization of American States (2000–2017)." In *Proceedings of the Third Conference on Brazilian Political Thought*. João Pessoa, Brazil.

Manuscripts Under Review

Tenca, Laura Rocha. "Lesbian Engagement in the State: Institutional Pathways and Democratic Inclusion in Brazil." Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Lesbian Studies*.

Tenca, Laura Rocha. "Parliament Against the Court: Moral Backlash and Counter-Juridification in Brazil's Marriage Equality Debate."

Manuscripts In Preparation

Tenca, Laura Rocha, and Daniel B. Machado. "Institutionalised Resistance Against LGBTQI+ Rights: Uncovering Gatekeeping Strategies in the Brazilian Congress."

Tenca, Laura Rocha, and Nicoli Guimarães. "Legislating Sexuality and Education in Brazil and Peru: Institutional Pathways, Legislative Strategies, and Democratic Contestation."

Tenca, Laura Rocha. "LGBTQIA+ Archives and Political Research: Memory, Knowledge Production, and Democratic Preservation."

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Fellowships

Fulbright **Visiting Scholar Fellowship**, University of Minnesota, United States, 2025–2026.

CAPES **Doctoral Sandwich Fellowship** (PDSE), Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom, 2024–2025.

CAPES **Doctoral Fellowship**, University of Brasília, Brazil, 2021–2027.

CAPES **Master's Fellowship**, Federal University of Paraíba, Brazil, 2017–2019.

Travel Grants

Travel Grant, European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG), 2024.

Travel Grant, Politics & Gender Conference, 2025.

Awards and Honors

Best Paper Award, VI Graduate Student Seminar, Institute of Political Science (IPOL), University of Brasília, 2026.

Most Impactful Film Award, Minneapolis Queer Film Festival, United States, 2026.

First Prize, **Jury Award**, Competitive Audiovisual Exhibition, 13th Fazenda Gênero Conference, Florianópolis 2024.

Mireya Suárez **Award for Human Rights Education**, University of Brasília, 2023.

Annual **Human Rights Award** (Cleia Oliveira Cunha Edition), Regional Council of Psychology of Paraná (CRP-PR), 2022.

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

2026

Invited Speaker, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Grupo de Investigación sobre Estado y Sociedad

Invited Speaker, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University.

Guest Lecturer, Global Studies, University of Minnesota.

Speaker, GWSS Colloquium, Department of Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies, University of Minnesota.

Speaker, Comparative Politics Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota.

2025

Speaker, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC) Colloquium, University of Minnesota

2021

Guest Lecturer, Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUC-PR), Curitiba, Brazil. "Communication, Art, and the Occupation of Public Space." School of Architecture and Design.

Invited Speaker, State University of Paraná (UNESPAR), Curitiba, Brazil. "Sexual Harassment in Public Transportation and Women's Rights." School of Arts.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026

With Nicoli Gonzaga Guimarães. "Legislative Backlash Against LGBTQIA+ Rights in Brazil and Peru: Education as a Site of Contestation." Brazilian Political Science Association (ABCP) Meeting, Federal University of Pará, Brazil, 2026.

With Daniel B. Machado. "Institutionalised Resistance Against LGBTQI+ Rights: Uncovering Gatekeeping Strategies in the Brazilian Congress." European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG), Newcastle University, United Kingdom, 2026.

"Lesbians and Feminist Governance: Institutional Pathways of Political Engagement in Brazil." European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG), Newcastle University, United Kingdom, 2026.

"Lesbian Engagement in the State: Institutional Participation and Democratic Reconstruction in Brazil." IV Graduate Student Seminar, Institute of Political Science (IPOL), University of Brasília, Brazil, 2026.

2025

With Daniel B. Machado. "Advancing and Resisting Change: LGBTQI+ Policies in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies." Politics & Gender Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States, 2025.

"Lesbians in Power: Resistance, Representation, and Institutional Transformation in Post-Bolsonaro Brazil." Lesbian Lives Conference, City University of New York (CUNY), New York, United States, 2025.

"Contesting Democracy: Neoconservative Strategies and Resistance to Same-Sex Marriage in Brazil." VI International Conference on Participation, Democracy and Public Policies (PDPP), Institute of Political Science (IPOL), University of Brasília, Brasília, Brazil, 2025.

2024

"Discursive Strategies of Neoconservative Movements Against Same-Sex Marriage: Analyzing the Role of the Legislative Chamber in Brazil's Gender Wars." Workshop on Gender, Parties, and Parliaments, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, United Kingdom, 2024.

"Comparative Methodology in Gender Analysis and Neoconservative Backlash in Latin America: Approaches and Contributions." European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG), Ghent University, Belgium, 2024.

"Disputes Over Same-Sex Marriage in Brazil and Peru: Strategies, Discourses, and Actors of Neoconservatism." Gender Wars Graduate Methodology Workshop, Gender Wars Research Network, University of Oxford, Online, 2024.

"Disputes and Discourses Surrounding Same-Sex Marriage in Brazil: Bill 5167/2009 and the Backlash Against the Federal Supreme Court." Fazendo Gênero 13: Against the End of the World – Anticolonialism, Antifascism, and Climate Justice, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil, 2024.

2021

With Beatriz Coutinho and Cecilia Soares Mombelli. "The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women Researchers in International Relations." Brazilian Association of International Relations (ABRI) Conference, São Paulo, Brazil, 2021.

"The Impact of São Paulo State Government's Gender Policies on the Achievement of SDG 5." SEE-U: Sustainable Development Goals Global Scientific Conference, Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil, 2021.

2020

"Brazil and the United States: Automatic Alignment, Conservative Alliances, and Sexual Politics." I MaRIAs IRI USP Online Seminar: Thinking Gender in International Relations, University of São Paulo (USP), São Paulo, Brazil, 2020.

2019

"Brazil's Discourse at the Organization of American States (2000–2017)." III Conference on Brazilian Political Thought, Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), João Pessoa, Brazil, 2019.

2018

"Discursive Analysis of South American Integration (2000–2018): Enunciative (Ir)Regularities." V International Colloquium on Discourse Analysis (CIAD), Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar), São Carlos, Brazil, 2018.

2017

"Foreign Policy and Public Policy: Overlapping Concepts." III Seminar on Political Participation and Democracy: The Recent Political Turn in Brazil, State University of Maringá (UEM), Maringá, Brazil, 2017.

"The Concept of Bourgeois Revolution as a Source of Methodological and Analytical Possibilities in Contemporary Sociology." III Graduate Student Seminar of the Graduate Program in Sociology, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2017.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Brasília (UnB), Instructor of Record , Introduction to Political Science	2023
Emancipa Popular Education Network, Volunteer Instructor , Sociology	2023 - 2024
Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), Teaching Assistant , Introduction to Political Science	2018
Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), Teaching Assistant , Introduction to Discourse Analysis	2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Research and Teaching Fellow (CAPES Fellow) 2021 – Present

Institute of Political Science (IPOL), University of Brasília (UnB)

Conducting comparative research on LGBTQIA+ rights, democratic institutions, and gender politics in Brazil and Peru through a CAPES-funded doctoral fellowship. Employs mixed qualitative methods including conducting approximately 30 in-depth interviews with LGBTQIA+ activists, researchers, political elites, and advisors in Brazil and Peru, participant observation, archival research, legislative analysis, and original dataset construction. Taught Introduction to Political Science as Instructor of Record and contributed to undergraduate training and mentoring.

Research Coordinator 2020 – 2022

Gender and International Relations Research Group, University of São Paulo (USP)

Coordinated research activities, institutional partnerships, and strategic planning for a research group focused on gender and international relations. Led a technical cooperation project with the São Paulo State Government on gender policies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), producing policy reports, manuals, and institutional assessments. Developed research on the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women scholars in International Relations.

Researcher 2023 – 2024

Cravinas Legal Clinic for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, University of Brasília, Law School

Conducted research on sexual and reproductive rights, public health, and women's rights through legal analysis, policy research, and documentary review. Contributed to legal briefs, amicus curiae submissions, educational materials, and public engagement initiatives.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Journal of Lesbian Studies

Special Issue: "The Sapphic State: Lesbian Contributions to State Theory, Political Thought and Governance" (United States) | 2025

Etcétera: Politics and Multidisciplinarity (Brazil) | 2025- 2026

Thematic Dossier: "Representation and Participation in a Context of Crisis"

Acta Politologica (Czech Republic) | 2025

Simbiótica: Electronic Journal of Social Sciences (Brazil) | 2026

Conjuntura Austral: Journal of the Global South (Brazil) | 2023

Conference Organization

Section Chair, Gender and Politics in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG), Newcastle University, United Kingdom, 2026.

Conference Organizer, Seminar on Passive Revolution and Contemporary Politics, Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), João Pessoa, Brazil, 2018.

Co-Founder and Organizer, I & II Seminar Series on Gender and International Relations, University of São Paulo (USP), 2020–2022.

Research Leadership and Community Building

Member, Scholars Working Group, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC), University of Minnesota, United States, 2025- 2026.

Founding Coordinator, Gender and International Relations Research Group (MaRIAs IRI USP), University of São Paulo (USP), 2020–2022.

Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Program in Political Science and International Relations, Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), 2017–2019.

Project Coordinator for Research and Academic Dialogue, Coletivo Cássia, 2021–Present

PROFESSIONAL & POLICY EXPERIENCE

Consultant, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Brasília, Brazil, 2023–2026. On labor market policies, employment services, professional qualification, and public policy implementation.

Public Policy Specialist, iFood, São Paulo, Brazil, 2022–2023.

Elected Council Member, Municipal Council for Women's Rights (CMDM), Curitiba, Brazil, 2022–2026

Head of Advocacy, Coletivo Cássia, Curitiba, Brazil, 2021–Present.

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Research Coordinator

2020–2022

Gender and International Relations Research Group (MaRIAs), University of São Paulo (USP)

Research Member

Flora Tristan Research Group, University of Brasília (UnB)

2021–Present

Materialism and Modernity Research Group, Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB)

2015–2017

Center for Discourse Analysis (CIADI), Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB)

2015–2017

LANGUAGES

Portuguese: Native

English: Fluent

French: Professional Working Proficiency

Spanish: Professional Working Proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Brazilian Political Science Association (ABCP)

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Standing Group on Gender and Politics