

Tatiana Paula da Cruz

✉ tdacruz@wisc.edu | 🏛 Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison
110 North Hall, 1050 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706

Education

University of Wisconsin–Madison Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science	2024–Present
University of Wisconsin–Madison Master of International Public Affairs, La Follette School of Public Affairs	May 2024
University of Brasília (<i>Brasília, DF, Brazil</i>) Ph.D. in Law, Faculty of Law <i>Dissertation: “The Impact of Inconsistent Precedents on Judicial Legitimacy”</i>	Aug. 2023
University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (<i>Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil</i>) Master of Laws, Faculty of Law <i>Thesis: “Overcoming the Judicial Precedent: An Analysis in Light of the Contradictory”</i>	Dec. 2016
Federal University of Juiz de Fora (<i>Juiz de Fora, MG, Brazil</i>) Bachelor of Laws, Faculty of Law <i>Capstone: “Offenses Resulting from Drunk Driving: The Influence of Media and Social Appeals on Judicial Decisions Between Intent and Driver’s Fault”</i>	Feb. 2014

Professional Experience

The Carter Center, Rule of Law Program <i>Consultant</i>	Summer 2026
- Designed and coordinated a study tour in Brazil focused on rule-of-law institutions and practices, including the program agenda, institutional visits, and meetings with legal experts and practitioners. - Supported the drafting and finalization of a report systematizing the main lessons and insights from the study tour.	
Brazilian Air Force <i>First Lieutenant, Legal Advisor</i>	January 2017 – August 2022
- Served as Legal Advisor to the Air Force Chief Commander’s Office (January 2019–August 2022), managing a team of military legal advisors. - Provided counsel to two successive Chief Commanders of the Brazilian Air Force.	

Research Experience

Project Assistant to Professor Kathryn Hendley (UW–Madison) - Project Lawyers and Democratic Decline (LADD)	<i>Current</i>
Project Assistant to Professor Adeline Lo (UW–Madison)	<i>Summer 2025</i>
Project Assistant to Professor Steven Brooke (UW–Madison)	<i>Summer 2024</i>
Project Assistant to Professor Tana Johnson (UW–Madison)	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Project Assistant to Professor Manny Teodoro (UW–Madison)	<i>Spring 2023 – Spring 2024</i>

Teaching Experience

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Instructor, PS 314: Criminal Law and Justice	Spring 2024 & Summer 2024, 2025, 2026
Instructor, Legal Studies 444: Law in Action	Fall 2023
Instructor, Soc 131: Criminal Justice in America	Spring & Summer 2023
Teaching Assistant, PS 120: Introduction to Comparative Politics	Fall 2022

Awards and Grants

- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Student Research Grant (\$2,200) *Summer 2026*
- Vision in Methodology (VIM) Travel Scholarship (€1,500) *Summer 2026*
- Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Graduate Sabbatical Grant (\$5,000) *Spring 2026*
- UW Madison International Division Pre-Dissertation Research Award (\$5,000) *Summer 2025*
- APSA Religion and Politics Section Small Grants Competition (\$2,850) *Spring 2025*
“Sacred Votes: How Evangelical Churches Influence Electoral Outcomes in Brazil”
- Director’s Achievement Award, La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW–Madison *Spring 2024*
For outstanding academic record, initiative, and professionalism
- University Housing Honored Instructor Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison *Spring 2023*

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Paula da Cruz, T. Trusting the courts: Exploring the link between populism, trust in courts, and democracy in Brazil. *Journal of Politics in Latin America*. [doi:10.1177/1866802X241295784](https://doi.org/10.1177/1866802X241295784)
- Paula da Cruz, T. (2024). The influence of the militarisation of bureaucracies during Bolsonaro’s government on public opinion about the Brazilian Armed Forces. *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. [doi:10.1111/blar.13565](https://doi.org/10.1111/blar.13565)

Book Reviews

- Cruz, T., & Johnson, T. (2024). Review of *Making International Institutions Work: The Politics of Performance*, by Ranjit Lall. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023. *Governance*, 37, 681–683. [doi:10.1111/gove.12861](https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12861)
- Johnson, T., & Cruz, T. (2024). Review of *Legitimacy Politics: Elite Communication and Public Opinion in Global Governance*, by Lisa Dellmuth and Jonas Tallberg. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023. *The Review of International Organizations*. [doi:10.1007/s11558-023-09521-41](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-023-09521-41)

Conference Presentations

- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2026*
- Religion and Democracy: Backsliding and Resilience workshop - University of Louisville 2026
- Visions in Methodology 2026
- Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth) Annual Conference 2026
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting 2023, 2024, 2026
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting 2023, 2024
- Northeast Political Science Association (NEPSA) Annual Conference 2023
- Emerging Scholars Conference in Public Law 2024
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Congress 2024