

Zachary Elkins

Department of Government, University of Texas at Austin
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Austin, TX 78712-1704
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Areas of specialization

Comparative Politics • Research Methods • Constitutional Design • Democracy • Institutional Diffusion • Latin America • National Identity

Education

- 2003 PH.D in Political Science, [University of California, Berkeley](#).
Designed by Diffusion: International Networks and the Spread of Democracy. Advisors: David Collier (Chair), Beth Simmons, Henry Brady, Ruth Berins Collier, Trond Petersen.
- 1996 M.A. in Government, [University of Texas at Austin](#)
The Consequences of Mandatory Voting in Brazil. Advisors: Henry Dietz and Lawrence Graham
- 1992 B.A. in Philosophy, [Yale University](#), New Haven, CT.
Existentialism and Psychiatry. Advisor: Maurice Natanson.

Professional Appointments

- 2010-present Associate Professor, Department of Government, [University of Texas at Austin](#)
Faculty Affiliate, [Institute of Latin American Studies](#)
Faculty Affiliate, [Human Dimensions of Organizations](#)
Faculty Affiliate, [College of Law](#)
- 2008-2010 Assistant Professor, Department of Government, [University of Texas at Austin](#)
Faculty Affiliate, [Institute of Latin American Studies](#)
Faculty Affiliate, [Human Dimensions of Organizations](#)
Faculty Affiliate, [College of Law](#)
- 2003-2008 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, [University of Illinois](#), Urbana-Champaign, IL
Faculty Affiliate: [Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies](#)
Faculty Affiliate: [Cline Center for Advanced Social Research](#)

Publications and Creative Works

BOOK

- 2009 Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. [The Endurance of National Constitutions](#). New York: Cambridge University Press. (Preview [Chapter One](#)).

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2022 Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. “[Ideation and Innovation in Constitutional Rights](#).” *Journal of Law and Ethics of Human Rights* 16(2): 217-244.
Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. “[On Disruption and Leximetrics](#).” *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 19(5): 1835-41.

- Elkins, Zachary. "Underestimated but Undeterred: The 27th Amendment and the Power of Tenacious Citizenship." *Political Science and Politics* 56(1): 158-163.
- Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. "Imagining a World without the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *World Politics* 74(3): 327-366.
- 2021 Elkins, Zachary and Svitlana Chernykh. "How Constitutional Drafters Use Comparative Evidence." *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* 24(6): 529-556.
- Elkins, Zachary. "Militant Democracy and the Pre-emptive Constitution: From Party Bans to Hardened Term Limits." *Democratization* 29(1): 174-198.
- Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. "What Can We Learn from Written Constitutions?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 321-343.
- Cozza, Joseph, Zachary Elkins, and Alex Hudson. "Reverse mortgages and aircraft parts: The arcane referendum and the limits of citizen competence." *Electoral Studies* 74.
- Elkins, Zachary. "Term Limit Evasions and the Non-Compliance Cycle." *Constitutional Political Economy* 32: 326-345.
- Jacobs, Alan, Tim Buthe [core authors], and many others including Zachary Elkins [peripheral author]. "The Qualitative Transparency Deliberations: Insights and Implications." *Perspectives on Politics*.
- Elkins, Zachary, Scott Spitzer, and Jonas Tallberg. "Content Analysis." In Alan Jacobs and Tim Buthe (eds.). *Transparency in qualitative research*. [a symposium in *Perspectives on Politics*].
- 2020 Amick, Joe, Terrence Chapman, and Zachary Elkins. "On Constitutionalizing a Balanced Budget." *Journal of Politics* 82(3).
- 2019 Elkins, Zachary. "On the Paradox of State Religion and Religious Freedom" *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.
- 2016 Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "On the influence of Magna Carta and other cultural relics." *International Review of Law and Economics* 47: 3-9.
- 2014 Zachary Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, James Melton, Robert Shaffer, Juan F. Sequeda, and Daniel P. Miranker. "Constitute: The world's constitutions to read, search, and compare." *Journal of Web Semantics* 27-28: 10-18.
- 2013 Cheibub, Jose Antonio, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg. "Beyond Presidentialism and Parliamentarism." *British Journal of Political Science* 44(3): 515-544.
- Elkins, Zachary. "The Weight of History and the Rebuilding of Brazilian Democracy." *Lua Nova: Revista de Cultura e Política* 88: 257-303.
- 2012 Elkins, Zachary, James Melton, Tom Ginsburg, and Kalev Leetaru. 2012. "On the Interpretability of Law: Lessons from the Decoding of National Constitutions." *British Journal of Political Science* 43(2): 399-423.
- Elkins, Zachary. "Diffusion and the Constitutionalization of Europe." *Comparative Political Studies* 43: 1-31.
- 2009 Ginsburg, Tom, Zachary Elkins, and Justin Blount. "Does the Process of Constitution-making Matter." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 5: 201-223.
- 2007 Elkins, Zachary and John Sides. "Can Institutions Build Unity in Multiethnic States." *American Political Science Review* 101: 693-708. [Runner-up for the award of best article of 2007 awarded by the Comparative Democratization Section of APSA in 2008.]
- 2006 Elkins, Zachary, Beth Simmons, and Andrew Guzman. "Competing for Capital: The Diffusion of Bilateral Investment Treaties, 1959-2000." *International Organization* 60(4): 811-846. [Reprinted in: (1) Frank Dobbin, Beth Simmons, and Geoff Garrett (eds.) *International Diffusion of Political and Economic Liberalization* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 220-260; (2) Michael Waibel (ed.) *The Backlash against Investment Arbitration*, pp. 369-407; and (3) *Illinois Law Review* 2008: 265-304, with data and analysis updated to 2006 along with an expanded discussion.]
- 2005 Elkins, Zachary and Beth Simmons. "On Waves, Clusters, and Diffusion: A Conceptual Framework," with Beth Simmons. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 598: 33-51.

- 2004 Simmons, Beth and Zachary Elkins. “The Globalization of Liberalization: Policy Diffusion in the International Political Economy.” *American Political Science Review* 98: 171-190.
- 2003 de Figueiredo, Rui and Zachary Elkins. “Are Patriots Bigots? An Inquiry into the Vices of In-group Pride” *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 171-188.
- 2000 Elkins, Zachary. “Gradations of Democracy? Empirical Tests of Alternative Conceptualizations.” *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 293-300.
- Elkins, Zachary. “Quem Iria Votar? Conhecendo as Consequências do Voto Obrigatório no Brasil” *Opinão Pública* 6 (1): 111-137. [English title: “Who Would Vote? Understanding the Consequences of Mandatory Voting in Brazil”]

NON-PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming Elkins, Zachary. “Effects of a Hard Commitment to Alternation in Power.” *Texas International Law Journal*.
- Elkins, Zachary. “Is the Sky Falling, Part II: Constitutional Crises in Historical Perspective.” in Mark Graber, Sandy Levinson, and Mark Tushnet (eds.) *Constitutional Democracy in Crisis?* [second edition]. Oxford University Press.
- Elkins, Zachary. “Formal Methods of Concept Formation.” in Diana Kapiszewski and Matthew Ingram (eds.) *Data and Methods in the Comparative Study of Legal Institutions*.
- Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg . “Contrariness and Contradiction in Constitutional Law.” In Ran Hirschl and Yaniv Roznai (eds.), *Deciphering the Genome of Constitutionalism: Essays on Constitutional Identity in Honor of Gary J. Jacobsohn*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2022 Elkins, Zachary. “How to Think Conceptually without Really Trying: Notes on the Teaching of Concept Analysis.” In *Teaching Graduate Political Methodology*, edited by Mitchell Brown, Shane Nordyke, and Cameron Thies. Elgar.
- Elkins, Zachary and Alex Hudson. “The Strange Case of the Package Deal: Amendments and Replacements in Constitutional Reform.” in Richard Albert and Richard Stacey (eds.) *The Limits and Legitimacy of Referendums*. Oxford University Press.
- 2021 Elkins, Zachary. “The Mutualism of Human Rights Law and Interest Groups.” The University of Chicago Law Review Online. Included in the symposium, *Measuring Impact in Constitutional Law*. Print version of the article [here](#).
- Elkins, Zachary. “Strong Citizens, Strong Presidents: The Architecture of the Inclusionary Turn in Latin America” in Diana Kapiszewski, Steven Levitsky, and Deborah Yashar (eds.) *The Inclusionary Turn*. Cambridge University Press.
- Amick, Joe, Terrence Chapman, and Zachary Elkins. “How Historical Constitutional Data Informs Current Policy Debates.” *The Political Economist*.
- 2020 Elkins, Zachary. “Concept Regulation in Political Science” in Bertrand Badie, Dirk Berg-Schlosser, and Leonardo Morlino (eds.), *The Sage Handbook of Political Science*.
- Elkins, Zachary and Alex Hudson. “The Constitutional Referendum in Historical Perspective” in David Landau and Hanna Lerner (eds.) *Comparative Constitution Making*. Elgar
- 2019 Elkins, Zachary. “Is the Sky Falling? Constitutional Crises in Historical Perspective.” in Mark Graber, Sandy Levinson, and Mark Tushnet (eds.) *Constitutional Democracy in Crisis?*. Oxford University Press.
- Elkins, Zachary. “Constitutional Transition.” in Roger Congleton, Bernie Grofman, and Stefan Voigt (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Public Choice*. Oxford University Press.
- Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. “One Size Does not Fit All: The Provision and Interpretation of Presidential Term Limits.” In Alexander Baturo and Robert Elgie (eds.) *The Politics of Presidential Term Limits*. Oxford University Press.
- Baughner, Jessie, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg. “Bringing Constitutions into the Classroom.” *Social Education* 82(3):128–132, 154.

2017

- Elkins, Zachary. "Constitutional Revolution in the Andes?" in Rosalind Dixon and Tom Ginsburg (eds.) *Comparative Constitutional Law in Latin America*. Elgar.
- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights as Constitutional Model" in Keri E. Iyall Smith, Louis Edgar Esparza, Judith R. Blau (eds.) *Human Rights Of, By, and For the People: How to Critique and Change the US Constitution*.
- 2016 Elkins, Zachary. "The Logic and Design of a low-commitment Constitution (or, how to stop worrying about the right to secede)." in Sanford Levinson (ed.) *Nullification and Secession in Contemporary Constitutional Thought*.
- Elkins, Zachary. "Comparative Approaches to Constitutional Gun Rights." In Glenn Howard Utter (ed.) *Guns and Contemporary Society: The Past, Present, and Future of Firearms and Firearm Policy*.
- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "Time and Constitutional Efficacy." in Tom Ginsburg and Aziz Huq (eds.) *Assessing Constitutional Performance*. pp. 233-268.
- Elkins, Zachary. "What do Constitution-Makers Say about Foreign Ideas? Lessons from Brazil." in Carlos Aurélio Pimenta de Faria, Denilson Bandeira Coêlho, and Sidney Jard da Silva (eds.), *Difusão de Políticas Públicas*. Editora UFABC: Sao Bernardo do Campo, SP, Brasil.
- 2014 Elkins, Zachary. "Measuring Partial Membership in Categories: Alternative Tools." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 12(1).
- Chernykh, Svitlana, Zachary Elkins, James Melton, Tom Ginsburg. "Constitutions and the Management of Elections." In Norris, P and Frank, RW and Martinez I Coma, F, (eds.) *Advancing Electoral Integrity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "The Content of Authoritarian Constitutions." In Tom Ginsburg and Alberto Simpser (eds) *Constitutions in Authoritarian Regimes*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2013 Elkins, Zachary. "Comparability and the Analysis of National Constitutions." *APSA-CP Newsletter* 23(1).
- Elkins, Zachary. "When Constitutions Shape National Identity." *LASA Forum*.
- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and Beth Simmons. 2013. "Getting to Rights: Treaty Ratification, Constitutional Convergence, and Human Rights Practice." *Harvard International Law Journal*.
- 2012 Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "Comments on Law and Versteeg's 'The Declining Influence of the U.S. Constitution.'" *NYU Law Review*.
- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton, "An epidemiological analysis of constitutional mortality," in Keith Whittington (ed.) *Law and politics : critical concepts in political science. V. 4, Comparative and international issues*. Princeton.
- Cheibub, Jose, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg. "Still the Land of Presidentialism? Executives and the Latin American Constitution," in Detlef Nolte and Almut Schilling (eds.). *New Constitutionalism in Latin America: Promises and Practices*. London: Ashgate.
- Blount, Justin, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg. "Does the Process of Constitution-Making Matter?" In Tom Ginsburg (ed.), *Comparative Constitutional Design*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781139105712.016
- Ginsburg, Tom, Elkins, Zachary, and Melton, James. "Do Executive Term Limits Cause Constitutional Crises?" In Tom Ginsburg (Ed.), *Comparative Constitutional Design*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781139105712.016
- 2011 Cheibub, Jose, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg. "Latin American Presidentialism in Comparative and Historical Perspective." *University of Texas Law Review* 89(7).
- 2010 Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "On the Evasion of Executive Term Limits." *William and Mary Law Review* 52.
- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "Lessons from the Decoding and Coding of National Constitutions." *APSA-CD Newsletter* 9(1).
- 2009 Ginsburg, Tom and Zachary Elkins. "Ancillary Powers of Constitutional Courts." *University of Texas Law Review* 87: 1430-61.

- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and Justin Blount. “[The Citizen as Founder: Public Participation in Constitutional Approval.](#)” *Temple Law Review* 81(2): 361-382 [Published in Spanish in expanded form as, “Ciudadano Como Fundador: la Participacion Publica en el diseno constitucional,” in *Revista Latinoamericana de Política Comparada* 1: 119-153]
- Cheibub, Jose Antonio and Zachary Elkins. “[A Hibridização De Formas Constitucionais: A Constituição Brasileira De 1988 Em Uma Perspectiva Histórica.](#)” In *O Legislativo Brasileiro em Perspectiva Comparada*. Lucio Rennó and Magna Inácio, eds. Editora Editora UFMG. Pp. 55-77.
- Elkins, Zachary. “[Constitutional Networks.](#)” In Miles Kahler (ed.), *Networked Politics: Agency, Power, and Governance*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Pp. 43-63.
- 2008 Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. “[Military Occupations and their Constitutional Residue.](#)” *APSA-CP Newsletter* 19(2): 7-10.
- Ginsburg, Tom, Svitlana Chernykh, and Zachary Elkins. “[Commitment and Diffusion: How and Why National Constitutions Incorporate International Law.](#)” *Illinois Law Review* 101: 201-237.
- Zachary Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. “[Baghdad, Tokyo, Kabul...Constitution Making in Occupied States.](#)” *William and Mary Law Review* 49(4): 1139-1178.
- Elkins, Zachary. “[Is Democracy Contagious?](#)” In Peter Nardulli (ed.) *International Perspectives on Contemporary Democracy*. University of Illinois Press. Pp. 42-62
- 2003 Elkins, Zachary and Beth Simmons. “Globalization and Policy Diffusion: Explaining Three Decades of Liberalization.” In Miles Kahler and David A. Lake (eds.) *Globalizing Authority: Economic Integration and the Changing Structure of Governance*. Princeton, NJ: University of Princeton Press. Pp. 275-304.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

- 2010 Elkins, Zachary. “[Constitutional Engineering.](#)” In Leonardo Morlino (ed.) *The International Encyclopedia of Political Science*. Sage.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2023 Elkins, Zachary. [Review of Donald L. Horowitz. Constitutional Processes and Democratic Commitment.](#) (Yale University Press, 2021). In the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*.
- 2012 Elkins, Zachary. [Review of Tulia G. Falletti’s Decentralization and Subnational Politics in Latin America](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) in *Perspectives on Politics*.
- 2005 Elkins, Zachary. [Review of Marcus Kurtz’s Free Market Democracy and the Chilean and Mexican Countryside](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) in *Comparative Political Studies* 38: 330-332.

POLICY REPORTS

- 2013 James Melton, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg. “[Whither Scotland? An Evaluation of a Proposed Constitutional Plan.](#)”
- 2012 Zachary Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. “[A Review of Iceland’s Draft Constitution.](#)” (Translated into Icelandic.)
- 2011 Zachary Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, and Justin Blount. “[Constitutional Reform in the English-Speaking Caribbean: Challenges and Prospects.](#)” SSRC Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum.
- 2005 Zachary Elkins and Tom Ginsburg. “[The Iraqi Draft Constitution in Comparative Perspective.](#)”
- 2009-2012 Zachary Elkins, Tom Ginsburg, and various graduate students. Some 75-or-so [Option Reports](#) prepared for constitutional drafters and originally posted on constitutionmaking.org, a precursor to *Constitute*.
- 1998 Stiles, Jon, Jonathan Cohen, Zachary Elkins, and Frederick Gey. *Latino Demographic Data Book*. Berkeley, CA: California Policy Studies. 176pp.
- 1997

- Cavalcanti, Maria, Zachary Elkins, Katherine Mock, and O'Neal Spicer. "Problems of Service Delivery in Brazilian Public Security Policy," *In Policymaking in a Redemocratized Brazil*, Volume 2: Public Policy and Social Exclusion. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press. Pp. 47-69.
- 1994 Elkins, Zachary and Adelaide Farrah. "Racing Toward a New Disabilities Strategy in the Americas." *Americas* 46 (4).

SELECTED OPINION PIECES

- 2022 Elkins, Zachary. "Checking in on the 'Embarrassing' Second Amendment: Lessons from Ukraine and Uvalde." Balkinization Blog.
- 2020 Elkins, Zachary. "Employees prefer diverse workplaces but struggle to create them on their own." *Medium.com*
- 2019 Elkins, Zachary. "Compared with what? How to read the Cuban constitutional reforms." *Medium.com*
- Elkins, Zachary. "How Powerful is the U.S. President?" *Vox.com*
- 2017 Elkins, Zachary. "Obamacare is a conservative program." *Medium.com*
- 2015 Elkins, Zachary. "Can you fit an Constitution on an index card?" *Medium.com*
- 2013 Elkins, Zachary. "Rewrite the Second Amendment." *New York Times*, April 5, 2013. p. A23
- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. "Guns Truly are American Exceptionalism." *Bloomberg View*, March 7, 2013
- 2007- Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and Ran Hirschl. Co-founders and co-bloggers of the blog constitutionmaking.org [since merged with *I-connect*, Blog of the International Journal of Constitutional Law].

TEACHING RESOURCES

- 2023 Zachary Elkins. "How Powerful is the American President?" in Lowi, T.J., Ginsberg, B., Shepsle, K.A., Ansolabehere, S., and Han. *American Government: Power and Purpose* 17th edition. WW Norton.
- 2019 JoEllen Ambrose, Jessie Baugher, Zachary Elkins, and Tom Ginsburg. "Bringing the World's Constitutions into the Classroom: *Constitute Teaching Guide*." Chicago: American Bar Foundation.

SELECTED ONLINE AND MULTIMEDIA PROJECTS

- 2014-present *Rights Interactive: The Bill of Rights in Comparative Perspective*. Interactive infographics and visualizations installed in the gallery of the National Constitutions Center and online. [Description | site](#).
- 2013-present *Constitute: The World's Constitutions to Read, Search, and Compare*. Online at constituteproject.org.
- 2013-present *The Constitution Imagery Project*. High-resolution images of Constitutional artifacts and photos. Online at imagine-constitutions.culturalspot.org
- 2013-present *Constituting Brazil*. A film about the making of the Brazilian Constitution. [status: editing in progress]
- 2006-2013 *constitutionmaking.org*. Resources for constitutional drafters, including analytical reports, an edited set of constitutions, and an online forum (blog) [Since merged with *constituteproject.org*]
- 2005-present *The Comparative Constitutions Project*. Data, reports, and infographics. Online at comparativeconstitutionsproject.org.

Works in Progress

BOOKS

- In progress Elkins, Zachary. *Steal this Constitution: Essays in the Drift and Mastery of Constitutional Design*. [Summary](#).

Elkins, Zachary. *Conceptualization and Measurement*.

Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. *Constraining Ambition: How and Why to Induce Rotation in Power*.

EDITED BOOKS

Collier, David (author) and Zachary Elkins (editor). *Working with Concepts: Fundamentals of the Craft, with Commentaries on Innovation in the Field*. [Proposal](#) | [cover](#).

ARTICLES

- Under submission
Elkins, Zachary. “[Concept Mapping in Comparative Law](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Digital Semantics: Formal Methods of Concept Analysis](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Ostensions and the Micro-level Foundations of Policy Diffusion](#).”
- In circulation
Elkins, Zachary. “[On Language and Diffusion](#).”
Elkins, Zachary and John Sides. “[The Vodka is Potent, but the Meat is Rotten: Evaluating Equivalence across Contexts](#)”
Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. “[Why US Presidents are anything but Imperial](#).”
Cruz, Andres Cruz, Zachary Elkins, Roy Gardner, Matt Martin, and Ashley Moran. “[What Kind of Constitution Do Chileans Want? Chilean Consultation Input in Comparative Perspective](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Elements of Inconsistency in Constitutional Design, Intended and Otherwise](#)”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Polarization, Gridlock, and Presidential Power](#).”
Elkins, Zachary and Brian Gaines. “[Showing Your Colors: Political Exhibitionism, Behavioral Patriotism, and Neighborhood Context](#)”
Elkins, Zachary. “[On Olives and Duckbill Platypi: Taxonomical Approaches to Partial Membership](#).”
Elkins, Zachary and John Sides. “[Citizenship Laws and Ethnic Group Incorporation](#).”
Shaffer, Robert and Zachary Elkins. “[On Measuring Textual Similarity](#).”
Elkins, Zachary, Tom Ginsburg, and James Melton. “[Some Considerations in Building Measures of Similarity](#).”
- In draft
Elkins, Zachary and Jill Lepore. “[What Needs Fixing?: Americans’ Appetite for Federal Constitutional Reform](#).”
Elkins, Zachary and Jill Lepore. “[Political Scientists are from Mars, Historians are from Venus: Concept Integration in the Social Sciences](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Scholarly Interventions in Constitution Making](#).”
Elkins, Zachary, Roy Gardner, and Ashley Moran. “[What do you work on? The conceptualization of intellectual products](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Legal Transplants Against Culture](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Legacies of Colonialism in Constitutional Architecture](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[Unbundling the Constitutional Referendum](#).”
Elkins, Zachary. “[What if Government were run as a business?: Organizational structure across sectors](#).”

Honors

- 2015 *Best Comparative Policy Paper of 2014*, awarded by the APSA Public Policy Section. [awarded for “[Micro-level Foundations of Diffusion Theory: Experimental Evidence](#)”]
- 2014 *Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Award*. [awarded for *Constitute*]
- Nominet Trust List: 100 Most Inspiring Examples of Social Innovation*. [awarded for *Constitute*]
- 2013 *Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Prize for Best Dataset* awarded by the Comparative Politics Section of the APSA. [awarded for the *Comparative Constitutions Project*]

- 2012 *Innovating Justice Award*, awarded by the *Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law* [awarded for constitutionmaking.org (now constituteproject.org)]
- Distinguished University Lecturer*. Awarded by the School of Undergraduate Studies.
- 2009 *Best book of 2009*, awarded by the Comparative Democratization Section of APSA. [awarded for *Endurance of National Constitutions*]
- 2007 *Best article of 2007* (runner-up), awarded by the Comparative Democratization Section of APSA. [awarded for “Can Institutions Build Unity in Multiethnic States?”]
- 2005-06 *Graduate Mentor of the Year*, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois [Selected by the Political Science Graduate Student Association]
- 2002-07 *List of Excellent Instructors as Rated by their Students*, University of Illinois [awarded if “course quality” and “Instructor Effectiveness” are both in the top 30 percent of University instructors]
- 2006 *Jon Tolman prize for best paper*, Brazilian Studies Association Conference (BRASA). [awarded for “Sources of Constitutional Reform in Brazil: The Role of Foreign Models”]

Grants

- 2013-present Fellow of H. Malcolm Macdonald Chair in Constitutional and Comparative Law, University of Texas at Austin
- 2012-13 IC2 Innovation Grant (\$25,000)
- 2013-14 Google Ideas (multiple)
- 2008-09 National Science Foundation Grant – renewal of SES 0648288 (\$95,000)
- 2007-08 US Institute of Peace (\$26,000)
- 2007-08 National Science Foundation Grant – SES 0648288 (\$197,000)
- 2005-06 Fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Governance, University of Illinois
- 2003,2004 University of Illinois Research Board Grants

Teaching

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

- (1) *Comparative Constitutional Design*
- (2) *The Politics of Development*
- (3) *Comparative Political Behavior*
- (4) *The Art and Science of Contracting*

GRADUATE COURSES

- (5) *Conceptualization and Measurement*
- (6) *Comparative Constitutional Design*
- (7) *Comparative Political Behavior*
- (8) *Democracy and Democratization*
- (9) *Law and Democracy*
- (10) *Writing and Publishing in Political Science*
- (11) *The Structure of Organizations*

PhD Students, Committee Membership

[based on limited records – apologies for omissions]

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (2003-2008)

(1) James Melton; (2) Justin Blount; (3) Florin Fesnic; (4) Angelica Ghindar; (5) Svitlana Chernykh

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (2008-)

(6) Hector Ibarra-Rueda; (7) Daniel Nogueira-Budny; (8) Stephanie Holmsten; (9) Allison White; (10) Gabriel Cardona-Fox (LBJ); (11) Byung-Jae Lee (12) Rachel Sternfeld; (13) Ilana Lifshitz; (14) Abby Blass; (15) Huseyin Alptekin; (16) Gustavo Rivera; (17) Regina Goodnow; (18) Steven Brooke; (19) Kevin Stuart (20) Riitta-Ilona Koivumaeki; (21) Michelle Whyman (22) Joe Amick; (23) Robert Shaffer; (24) Alex Hudson; (25) Giorleny Altamirano; (26) Byung-Jae Lee; (27) Ryan Lloyd; (28) Luis Camacho; (29) Mathew Rhodes-Purdy; (30) Jonathan Kinkel; (31) Ashley Moran; (32) Carolina Moehlecke; (33) Stephen Joyce; (34) Wenhui Yang; (35) Joseph Cozza; (36) Barea Sinno; (37) Diego Vega; (38) Iasmin Goes; (39) Kyle Shen; (40) Laura de Castro Quaglia; (41) Siyun, Jiang; (42) Matt Martin; (43) Paz Avila.

OTHER UNIVERSITIES (2008-)

(44) Anna Fruhstorfer (Humboldt University, Berlin); (45) Tofigh Maboudi (American University); (46) Ilana Rothkopf (Notre Dame);

Project Administration

2005-present Co-director (with Tom Ginsburg and James Melton), [Comparative Constitutions Project](#)
2012-present Director, [Constitute](#)
2010-present Co-editor (with Ran Hirschl and Tom Ginsburg). Book series on [Comparative Constitutional Law and Policy](#), Cambridge University Press
2008-present Co-director (with Dan Brinks). [Working Group on Law and Democracy](#), University of Texas

Selected Previous Experience

2001 Visiting Scholar, Universidade de Brasilia, Brasilia, Brazil
1996 Visiting Scholar, Instituto Universitario de Pesquisa de Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ), Brazil
1994 Analyst, The Organization of American States, Washington, DC
1992-94 Manager, The Princeton Review, Barcelona, Spain
Summer 1990 Intern, US Agency for International Development, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Professional Service and Affiliations

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

2008-2014 Graduate Admissions
2010-11; Executive Committee
2012-13; 2014-2015; 2015-16; Centennial Speakers Committee
2017-18 IR search committee
2010-12 Charlie Wilson Chair Search Committee
2011-12; 2012-13 Faculty Council
2012-present Faculty Council committee on International Programs and Study Abroad (Chair)
2012-present Institute of Latin American Studies committee on student aid

2012-present Advisory Board Member, Human Dimensions of Organizations
2008-present Affiliate, *Rapport Center on Human Rights, Institute of Latin American Studies, and School of Law*

DISCIPLINE-WIDE SERVICE

2015-present Chair, Committee on Concepts and Methods (IPSA)
2014 Chair, Best Dataset Award Committee
2012-2015 Advisory Board, Committee on Concepts and Methods (IPSA)
2013 Chair, Best Paper Award Committee, APSA Comparative Democratization Section
2012-present Advisory Board, Electoral Integrity Project
2010 MPSA Section Head

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (2002-2008)

2006-07 Graduate Admissions
2004-05; 2007-8 Executive Advisory Board
2002-08 Formal Theory and Empirical Methodology
2002-07 Comparative Politics
2002-03 Teaching and Student Awards
2002-03 Undergraduate Programs
2003; 2004; Comparative Politics Search Committees
2005; 2004-5; 2006-7 Executive Board, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
2006-8 Executive Board, Brazilian Studies Center
2003-2008 Regular instructor for a modular course in Latin American Studies
2005-2008 International Political Economy Research Group
2004-08 Center for the Study of Democratic Governance

REVIEWER

inter alia, American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Journal of Politics; Political Psychology; International Organization; Journal of Peace Research; World Politics; Journal of Theoretical Politics; World Development; Political Behavior; Law and Society; Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies; Political Analysis; NSF

Languages and Foreign Experience

LANGUAGES

English (native); serviceable command of **Spanish** and **Portuguese** (extensive coursework and residency); once-competent but now fading ability in **French** (two years of college coursework); sub-conscious knowledge of **Latin** (five years of high-school coursework)

EXPERIENCE

Born in Bogotá, Colombia. Field work or residency in Brazil, Guatemala, Spain, Cuba, Colombia, and Belize.

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