Harvard Center for International Development
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Cambridge, MA 02138

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JERIK CRUZ

positions

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government (Sept. 2026 - Present)
Postdoctoral Fellow, Reimagining the Economy Project & Harvard Center for International Development

education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sept. 2020 - Sept. 2026)
Ph.D. in Political Science
Dissertation: World Wide Webs: How Migrant Networks and Porous Bureaucracies Forged the Knowledge Economy in the Global South
Fields: Political Economy, Quantitative Methods
Awards: NSF/APSA Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, MIT Presidential Fellowship

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, CHE)
Master in Development Studies

Ateneo de Manila University (Manila, PHL)
A.B in Economics (Honors program), Minor in Philosophy

research interests

Comparative & international political economy; bureaucracy; industrial policy; technology; development. Computational and historical methods. *Area focus:* Southeast Asia, North America.

work in progress

"World Wide Webs: How Migrant Networks and Porous Bureaucracies Forged the Knowledge Economy in the Global South" (Job Market Paper)
⋆ *2026 Best Paper in Comparative Policy, American Political Science Association*
⋆ *2026 Best Paper in Science, Technology & Environmental Politics, American Political Science Association*

"From precarity to illiberalism: the political economy of democratic erosion in the Philippines" (with Rico La Vina)

"Bayesian inference and typological thinking: an integrated framework for typological & computational research"
⋆ *2026 Emerging Methodologist, American Political Science Association QMMR Section*

The 'dark matter' of industrial policy: mapping the global landscape of IP agencies with LLMs, 1989-2010

The US tariff data project: American trade politics from 1789-2023 (with In Song Kim and Geondo Kim)

The digital developmental state (with Andrew Stokols)

OpenAudit: advancing governance research with LLM-processed government audit reports (with Uriel Galace)
⋆ *2023 MIT Prize for Open Data*

selected publications

Forthcoming in 2027. "The problem of typological updating: guardrails for conceptual innovation." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research.* 25(2)

with E. de la Cruz. 2023. "Platforming populism: the services transition, precarious urbanization, and digital platforms in the rise of illiberal populism in the Philippines ." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society.* Special Issue: *The Power of Platforms* 16(12): 269-288

with M. Montes. 2020. "The political economy of foreign investment and industrial development: the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand in perspective." *Journal of the Asia-Pacific Economy* 25(1): 16-39.

selected fellowships

Southeast Asia Research Group SEAREG Fellow	2026
APSA Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section Emerging Methodologist	2026
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing Scholar	2025
Tagpuan Center, Ateneo de Manila University Fellow for Bridging Cultural Divides	2025

Institute for Humane Studies Junior Fellow 2024, 2025
Harvard Kennedy School Program on Science, Technology, and Society Predoctoral Fellow 2023
Mercatus Center, George Mason University Adam Smith Fellow 2023
Southeast Asia Research Group Pre-Dissertation Fellowship 2022
Ronald Coase Institute Ronald Coase Institute Fellowship 2020

selected grants and awards

APSA Public Policy Section Best Comparative Policy Paper Award 2026
APSA Science, Technology, & Environmental Politics Section Paul Sabatier Best Paper Award 2026
Institute for Humane Studies Humane Studies Fellowship (Total: $5,000) 2026
Microsoft AI Economy Institute 2nd Global Research Call (with A. Stokols, H. Vo) (Total: $75,000) 2025
NSF/APSA Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant Award (Total: $15,400) 2024
MIT GOV/LAB MIT GOV/LAB Seed Grant (Total: $10,000) 2022, 2024
MIT Center for International Studies Summer Study Research Grant (Total: $7,600) 2023, 2024
MIT School of Science and MIT Libraries MIT Open Data Prize 2023
Ateneo de Manila University Research Council Conglomerates and Inclusive Growth ($65,000) 2018
International Development Research Centre Economics of Tobacco Control Initiative ($200,000) 2018

selected presentations

SEAREG Winter Conference 2026 (Scheduled)
International Political Economy Society 2026
American Political Science Association 2023, 2025, 2026
Midwest Political Science Association, IL 2023, 2025, 2026
El Colegio de México, Mexico City 2026
University of Oxford, Saïd Business School Research Seminar 2025
Asia School of Business Research Seminar, Kuala Lumpur 2024
Harvard-MIT-Boston University Cambridge Chinese Politics Research Workshop, MA 2024

selected teaching

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Political Science Laboratory: Regression and Causal Inference, Instructor (UG) Spring 2025
Quantitative Methods I: Regression Foundations, Teaching Assistant (G) Fall 2023

Ateneo de Manila University

International Political Economy, Instructor (UG/G) Spring 2020
Courses in Economics and Development Economics, Instructor (UG) 2017-2019

leadership and service

Co-Editor, STEP Ahead Newsletter, APSA Science, Technology & Environmental Politics Section 2026
Co-Founder and Organizer, MIT Computational Social Science Graduate Student Workshop 2025
Committee for the MIT Open Data Prize, MIT Open Data Prize 2024, 2025
Board Member and Communications Chair, 70 Amherst Graduate House Government 2023-2025
Mentor, MIT Political Science Graduate Mentorship Program 2022-2023, 2024-2025

Reviewer: Perspective on Politics, Competition & Change, Journal of Contemporary Asia

selected policy work

Open Society Foundations New York, USA
Consultant, Asia-Pacific Program 2023

The Asia Foundation Manila, PHL
Lead Technical Advisor, Coalitions for Change Program 2023

United Nations Development Program — Manila, PHL
Political Scientist Consultant, Pintig Lab and COVID-19 FASSSTER project — 2020-2022

selected policy publications

J. Cruz and E. La Vina. 2024. "The services transition, platform capitalism, and the path to illiberal populism: insights from the Philippines" in *Understanding the drivers of political polarization and social exclusion in Southeast Asia*. New York: Open Society Foundations

J. Cruz and E. La Vina. 2022. "From Dependency to Autonomy: Local Governance, Fiscal Capacity, and the Outlook for Philippine Local Governments in the post-COVID era," in Decentralization, Digitalization, and Development: Strengthening Local Governance for Recovery, Resilience, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Manila: United Nations Development Program (lead flagship report chapter)

A. Ang, J. Cruz, and N. Custodio. 2019. "The impact of trade on employment in the Philippines: a country report" Country Technical Report. Manila: International Labour Organization.

selected professional experience

Action for Economic Reforms — Manila, PHL
Fellow, Industrial Policy Team — 2018-Present
Advocacy Strategist, Tax Reform Team — 2012-2014

Ateneo de Manila University — Manila, PHL
Lecturer, Department of Economics — 2017-2020
Economist (Business & Government Program), Ateneo School of Government — 2017-2019

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development — Geneva, CHE
Research Assistant — 2015

selected additional training

Systems Science for Social Impact, WashU in St. Louis — 2021 (Network Analysis), 2025 (ABM)
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University — 2024
Bayesian Reasoning for Qualitative Social Science, London School of Economics — 2022
Asia Institute for Political Economy, University of Hong Kong and Georgetown University — 2009

computing

R, STATA, Python, LaTeX, HTML, Markdown, GitHub, Qualtrics, MS Office

languages

English (Native), Tagalog (Native), French (Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate), Mandarin (Beginner)

references

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