

JERIK CRUZ

education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

PhD in Political Science (Cambridge, MA; expected 2026)

Dissertation: World Wide Webs: How Migrant Networks and Porous Bureaucracies Forged the Knowledge Economy in the Global South

★ *Awardee for 2024 NSF/APSA Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant*

Fields: Political Economy, Political Methodology, Comparative Politics (*High pass, all general exams*)

Affiliations: Graduate Research Fellow, [MIT GOV/LAB](#)

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Master in Development Studies (Geneva, CHE; 2016)

Awards: Prunier Foundation Scholar, Graduate Institute Scholar, Prix Christophe Pralong

Ateneo de Manila University

A.B in Economics (Honors program), Minor in Philosophy, *Cum Laude* (Manila, PHL; 2009)

research interests

Comparative politics; political economy; economic geography; development; bureaucracy; technology. Computational, historical, and mixed methods. *Area foci:* Southeast Asia and North America.

selected peer-reviewed articles

J. Cruz and 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

M. Montes and J. Cruz. 2020. “[The political economy of foreign investment and industrial development: the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand in comparative perspective](#).” *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy* 20: 16-39

work in progress

“World Wide Webs: How Migrant Networks and Porous Bureaucracies Forged the Knowledge Economy in the Global South” (Job Market Paper)

“From precarity to populism: the politics of democratic erosion in the Philippines” (with [E. La Vina](#))

“The digital developmental state” (with [A. Stokols](#))

The US tariff data project: American trade politics from 1789-2023 (with [I. Kim](#), [G. Kim](#))

OpenAudit: advancing governance research with LLM-processed audit reports (with [P. Tuano](#), [E. La Vina](#))

★ *Winner, 2023 MIT Prize for Open Data*

selected fellowships

Institute for Humane Studies Junior Fellow	2024, 2025
Tagpuan Center, Ateneo de Manila University Fellow for Bridging Cultural Divides	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
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Homer A. Burnell Presidential Fellowship	2020

selected grants and awards	NSF/APSA Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant Award (Total: \$15,400)	2024
	Institute for Humane Studies Fellowships and Research Grants (Total: \$14,000)	2023, 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	Graduate Students in International Political Economy Workshop	2025 (Scheduled)
	Midwest Political Science Association, IL	2023, 2025
	Institute for Humane Studies, Juniors Fellows Conference, NC	2024, 2025
	Qualitative Bayesian Reasoning Network Workshop (Online)	2023, 2025
	Harvard-MIT-Boston University Cambridge Chinese Politics Research Workshop, MA	2024
	Asia School of Business Research Seminar, Kuala Lumpur	2024
	American Political Science Association	2023
selected teaching	MIT-Brown Development Workshop (RI, MA)	2022, 2023
	<i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>	
	Political Science Laboratory: Regression and Causal Inference, Instructor (UG)	Spring 2025
	Quantitative Methods I: Regression Foundations, Teaching Assistant (G)	Fall 2023
	<i>Ateneo de Manila University</i>	
	International Political Economy, Instructor (UG/G)	Spring 2020
	Theory and Practice of Development, Instructor (UG)	Fall 2017, 2018, 2019; Spring 2019
leadership and service	Introduction to Economics, Instructor (UG)	Spring 2017
	Co-Founder and Organizer, MIT Computational Social Science Graduate Student Workshop	2025
	MIT OpenCourseWare Faculty Advisory Committee	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
	Mentor, GradMap Philippines (STEM mentorship network for Filipinos)	2021-2023
selected policy consulting	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair, MIT Political Science Graduate Student Council	2021-2023
	<i>Reviewer:</i> Journal of Southeast Asian Economies, Competition & Change, Philippine Studies: Historical & Ethnographic Viewpoints, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Perspective on Politics	
	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 <i>Political Scientist Consultant, Pintig Lab and COVID-19 FASSSTER project</i>	Manila, PHL 2020-2022
selected policy publications	<p>J. Cruz and E. La Vina. 2024. “The services transition, platform capitalism, and the path to illiberal populism: insights from the Philippines” in <i>Understanding the drivers of political polarization and social exclusion in Southeast Asia</i>. Country Technical Report. New York: Open Society Foundations</p> <p>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 <i>Decentralization, Digitalization, and Development: Strengthening Local Governance for Recovery, Resilience, and the Sustainable Development Goals</i> Manila: United Nations Development Program (lead flagship report chapter)</p> <p>A. Ang, J. Cruz, and N. Custodio. 2019. “<i>The impact of trade on employment in the Philippines: a country report</i>” Country Technical Report. Manila: International Labour Organization</p>	
selected professional experience	<p>Ateneo de Manila University <i>Lecturer</i>, Department of Economics <i>Economist</i> (Business & Government Program), Ateneo School of Government</p>	<p>Manila, PHL 2017-2020 2017-2019</p>
selected additional training	<p>Systems Science for Social Impact, WashU in St. Louis Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University Bayesian Reasoning for Qualitative Social Science, London School of Economics Asia Institute for Political Economy, University of Hong Kong and Georgetown University</p>	<p>2021 (Network Analysis), 2025 (ABM) 2024 2022 2009</p>
IT skills	R, STATA, Python, \LaTeX , HTML, Markdown, GitHub, Qualtrics, MS Office	
languages	English (Native), Tagalog (Native), French (Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate), Mandarin (Beginner)	
references	<div> <p>Ben Ross Schneider Ford International Professor Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Political Science brs@mit.edu</p> <p>Volha Charnysh Ford Career Development Associate Professor Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Political Science charnysh@mit.edu</p> <p>Tasha Fairfield Chair in Comparative Politics Department of Political and Social Sciences European University Institute tasha.fairfield@eui.eu</p> </div> <div> <p>In Song Kim Associate Professor Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Political Science insong@mit.edu</p> <p>Kenneth Oye Professor Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Political Science oye@mit.edu</p> <p>Philip Arnold Tuaño (work reference) President Philippine Institute for Development Studies Former Dean, Ateneo School of Government ptuano@ateneo.edu</p> </div>	