

Memòria justificativa de recerca de les convocatòries BCC, BE, BP, CTP-AIRE, INEFC i PIV

La memòria justificativa consta de les dues parts que venen a continuació:

- 1.- Dades bàsiques i resums
- 2.- Memòria del treball (informe científic)

Tots els camps són obligatoris

1.- Dades bàsiques i resums

Nom de la convocatòria

Beatriu de Pinós (BP-DGR 2009 Modalitat A)

Llegenda per a les convocatòries:

BCC	Convocatòria de beques per a joves membres de comunitats catalanes a l'exterior
BE	Beques per a estades per a la recerca fora de Catalunya
BP	Convocatòria d'ajuts postdoctorals dins del programa Beatriu de Pinós
CTP-AIRE	Ajuts per accions de cooperació en el marc de la comunitat de treball dels Pirineus. Ajuts de mobilitat de personal investigador.
INEFC	Beques predoctorals i de col·laboració, dins de l'àmbit de l'educació física i l'esport i les ciències aplicades a l'esport
PIV	Beques de recerca per a professors i investigadors visitants a Catalunya

Títol del projecte: ha de sintetitzar la temàtica científica del vostre document.

CONTEXTUAL EFFECTS ON POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Dades de l'investigador o beneficiari

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Número d'expedient

BP-A 00014

Paraules clau: cal que esmenteu cinc conceptes que defineixin el contingut de la vostra memòria.

Comportament polític, efectes contextuais, experiments, participació electoral

Data de presentació de la justificació

28/12/2012

Nom i cognoms i signatura
del/de la investigador/a

Vist i plau del/de la responsable de la
sol·licitud

Resum del projecte: cal adjuntar dos resums del document, l'un en anglès i l'altre en la llengua del document, on s'esmenti la durada de l'acció

In her post-doctoral research stay, Aina Gallego has conducted several research projects with the overarching theme of identifying the effects of contexts on political behavior. She has examined the effects of institutions, the economic situation, or local contexts on outcomes such as voter turnout, vote choice, and positions on salient issues. As detailed below, this work has been published in several journal articles in leading Political Science journals such as *Comparative Political Studies*, *Political Behavior*, and *Electoral Studies* (see attached documents). She has a forthcoming book with Cambridge University Press, the most prestigious book press in Political Science. She has also published book chapters and has several working papers.

In addition to conducting her research, Aina has received extensive training in both substantive areas and research methods. She has participated fully in the Department's academic life by attending seminars and engaging in research projects with other members of the Department.

2.- Memòria del treball (informe científic sense limitació de paraules). Pot incloure altres fitxers de qualsevol mena, no més grans de 10 MB cadascun d'ells.

Aina Gallego has been a post-doctoral researcher at the Political Science Department of Stanford University between July 2010 and December 2012. This report summarizes the main activities she has undertaken in this period of time.

The most important academic results of her postdoctoral stay have been:

- Writing of a book based on the dissertation entitled "Unequal Participation Worldwide" which will be published by Cambridge University Press. This press consistently ranks as the number one academic press in the rankings.
- Publication of the following journal articles and chapters:
 1. Gallego, Aina and Sergi Pardos. "Personality traits and attitudes towards immigration." R&R at the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
 2. Lefkofridi, Zoe, Nathalie Giger, and Aina Gallego. "Congruence and voter turnout." R&R at the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties*.
 3. Anduiza, Eva, Aina Gallego, and Jordi Muñoz. "Turning a blind eye: Experimental evidence of partisan bias in attitudes towards corruption." *Comparative Political Studies*, forthcoming.
 4. Gallego, Aina and Daniel Oberski. 2012. "Personality traits and political participation: The mediation hypothesis." *Political Behavior* 34(3): 425-451.
 5. Gallego, Aina, Guillem Rico, and Eva Anduiza. 2102. "Disproportionality and voter turnout in new and old democracies." *Electoral Studies* 31(1): 159-169.
 6. Anduiza, Eva, Aina Gallego and Laia Jorba. 2012. "Internet use and the political knowledge gap in Spain." *Revista Internacional de Sociología* 70(1): 129-151.
 7. Blais, André, Eva Anduiza, and Aina Gallego. 2011. "Decentralization and Voter Turnout." *Environment and Planning C*, 29(2): 244-263.
 8. Colombo, Clelia, Carol Galais, and Aina Gallego. 2012. "Internet use and political attitudes in Europe" in Eva Anduiza, Mike Jensen and Laia Jorba (Eds.) *Digital Media and Political Engagement Worldwide: A Comparative Study*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 102-117.
 9. Gallego, Aina, Eva Anduiza y Guillem Rico. 2012. "La participación electoral en las elecciones europeas de 2009 en perspectiva comparada" in Mariano Torcal y Joan Font (eds.) *Elecciones europeas 2009*. Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 175-196.
- Several working papers with excellent prospects of being published in important journals:
 1. Gallego, Aina, Daniel Oberski and Andre Blais. "Voting and civic duty in the household." Under review.
 2. Gallego, Aina, Franz Buscha, Patrick Sturgis, Daniel Oberski. "Contextual effects: Longitudinal evidence from Britain."
 3. Gallego, Aina. "Income inequality and pro-social attitudes: A survey experiment."

4. Hierro, Maria Jose, Francesc Amat, and Aina Gallego. "Elites' Group Appeals, National Identification and Redistributive Preferences."
5. Munoz, Jordi, Eva Anduiza, and Aina Gallego. "Why do voters forgive corrupt politicians? Cynicism, noise and implicit exchange."

- Presentation of her work at leading conferences:

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: 2010, 2011

General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research: 2011

Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: 2011

Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology: 2010

Conference "Change in Political Attitudes: Panels and Experiments": 2012

Teaching of four courses on experimental designs in Political Science and the design of survey questionnaires:

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| 6/2012 | Three-day course "Design and analysis of experiments", Universitat Pompeu Fabra (15h). |
| 8/2012 | Eight-day "Questionnaire design", Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro (18h). |
| 12/2011 | One-day course "Design and analysis of experiments" for M.A. students at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (3h). |
| 7/2011 | Three-day course "Design and analysis of experiments" for a research group at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (10h). |

Besides this academic output, she has also been involved in the Department's activities by attending seminars, courses, and different types of events. The post-doctoral research stay has allowed her to improve my methodological skills and substantive knowledge by learning cutting-edge statistical techniques, becoming an expert in the design and analysis of experiments, and by learning to use programs such as R and ArcGIS.

The Department of Political Science is relatively small and tightly knit. She has interacted extensively with professors, graduate students, and visitors and has been mentored by leading scholars such as Jonathan Rodden, Paul Sniderman, and David Laitin. As a result, her academic network of contacts has become much wider and she has known scholars from countries all over the world.

Starting in January 2013 she will work as a JAE-DOC fellow at the Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid and will be a Marie Curie Fellow with a Career Integration Grant.

Finally, the following list discusses some of the main substantive contributions Aina Gallego has done in the last three years.

1. INEQUALITIES IN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

During her stay at Stanford University, Aina Gallego has conducted new research related to her dissertation work. This research is forthcoming as a book published by Cambridge University Press, which is widely recognized as the most prestigious book press in the field of political science. The book describes the levels of unequal participation in a broad comparative perspective, examines possible causes of this phenomenon, and discusses its consequences. It is well-known that highly educated citizens vote at much lower rates than less educated citizens in some countries. However, electoral participation exhibits no such bias in countries as diverse as Spain, Denmark, or South Korea. The author studies how some contextual level characteristics, including the electoral procedures, the party and media systems, unionization, and income inequality affect unequal turnout. Methodologically, she uses an original combination of cross-national survey data and survey experiments.

Because of its important political implications, this research has drawn attention in non-academic circles. In 2010, the European Commission invited the applicant to present the main conclusions of her research on political exclusion at debates attended by policy-makers in Brussels (Conference: "Europe 2020 strategy for inclusive growth"). NGOs focused on electoral reform and the strengthening of political institutions such as ElectionGuide have reviewed papers derived from this work.

2. INSTITUTIONAL DETERMINANTS OF VOTER TURNOUT

The fellow's work has helped achieve a better understanding of the institutional determinants of voter turnout in a comparative perspective. Her research has been conducted in the framework of two large international collaborative projects "Voter Turnout and Abstention in Context" funded by the European Science Foundation and "Civic Active Participation" funded by the 6th European Framework program. Participants included researchers from several countries, such as the US, Canada, Ireland, the UK, Germany, Austria, or Hungary.

The paper "Decentralization and voter turnout" in *Environment and Planning C* (first ISI quartile), argues that decentralization reduces voter participation in national elections and increases participation in regional elections because decentralization modifies the importance of different levels of governments in voters' eyes.

"Disproportionality and voter turnout in new and old democracies" in *Electoral Studies*, solves an important puzzle in electoral research, which is that electoral institutions seemingly have a different effect in new and old democracies. The authors propose a learning theory of electoral systems' effects and find that electoral disproportionality is unrelated to voter participation in early elections after democratization, but the negative effect of disproportionality on voter turnout is increasingly visible as democracies grow older.

The paper "Congruence and voter turnout" in *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* examines the effects of lack of congruence between citizens and parties on voter turnout. The authors find that voter participation decreases as the ideological distance between a voter and the closest viable party increases. The effect is stronger in proportional electoral systems.

3. PERSONALITY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Aina's first major post-dissertation project examined the impact of personality on political behavior. After several decades of neglect, the role of personality in shaping attitudes and behavior in the social, economic, and political realm is increasingly attracting scholarly attention. The first result of this project is the paper entitled "Personality traits and political participation: The mediation hypothesis" published in *Political Behavior*, a top journal ranked as first quartile by ISI web of knowledge. With data from Spain, the authors show that the effects of personality on political participation are entirely mediated by well-known predictors of participation such as political attitudes.

A follow-up paper with André Blais and Daniel Oberski uses personality as an instrument to identify the effects of social pressure on political participation and argues that interactions in the social context are crucial to understand why people vote in elections. This paper is currently under review at a highly ranked political science journal.

4. ATTITUDES TOWARD CORRUPTION

One of the fellow's recent research projects addresses a longstanding problem in democratic theory. Elections should curbe corruption because voters can punish corrupt politicians by withdrawing electoral support. Nonetheless, extensive research has shown that corruption cases have at most a moderate negative influence on politicians' reelection rates.

The paper "Turning a blind eye," published in *Comparative Political Studies* which is a top journal (first quartile ISI), reveals one reason why democratic accountability fails in some contexts: Party supporters are more tolerant towards corruption cases when they affect their own party. The experimental results show that the same offense is judged differently depending on whether the responsible politician is a member of the respondent's party. Furthermore, the degree of partisan bias depends on political sophistication, suggesting that the partisan bias disappears when political awareness is high.

A follow-up of this project, currently a working paper, uses survey experiments to examine three micro mechanisms that could explain the fact that corruption has limited electoral consequences: implicit exchange (voters take into account other elements of the politicians or parties' performance that counterbalance the effects of corruption), noise (voters perceive corruption allegations as partisan tricks with limited credibility), and cynicism (voters think that any politician would behave in a corrupt way).

5. PERSONALITY AND PUBLIC OPINION

A recent paper with Sergi Pardos-Prado from Oxford University in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (first quartile ISI) examines the impact of personality on attitudes towards immigration using, for the first time, a nationally representative sample. The paper finds that two personality traits are a previously overlooked source of individual differences in attitudes towards immigration.

Few studies have used nationally representative samples in contexts other than the US and there is a complete lack of truly comparable survey data. To address this lack of data, Aina and a group of leading European experts in personality and political behaviour (Harald

Schoen, Michele Vecchione, Jan Cieciuch), has started conversations with the European Social Survey Scientific Advisory Board to include scientifically validated measures of personality traits in the ESS. If successful, these efforts will provide the first cross-national dataset on personality and social attitudes

6. ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Aina Gallego has several promising on-going research projects, initiated during her stay at Stanford University, that combine theoretically relevant questions and cutting-edge research methods. The projects reflect the applicant's network of international coauthors, are ambitious, and have good prospects of publication in top journals:

- "Selection or context?: Un-packing the spatial dimension of political preferences" with Franz Buscha (Wesminster University), Patrick Sturgis (Southampton University), and Daniel Oberski (Tilburg University). This paper uses longitudinal data from the British Household Panel Study to study spatial diversity in political beliefs. It tracks changes in preferences before and after moving across constituencies to examine if movers sort themselves into constituencies that exhibit similar political preferences and if their preferences become more similar to the new constituency.

- "Issue positions and vote choice" with Jonathan Rodden (Stanford University): This project uses two survey experiments to study the effect of the bundling of economic and social issues due to the electoral system on vote choice. Moreover, it examines which types of citizens vote against their economic interests when there is policy bundling because they give higher priority to proximity on social and moral issues.

- "Elites' Group Appeals, National Identification and Redistributive Preferences" with María José Hierro and Francesc Amat (Universitat Pompeu Fabra): This project uses survey experiments to estimate the causal effect of national identity on relevant political attitudes, including attitudes towards interpersonal and territorial redistribution.

- "Voter turnout as a social norm: A laboratory experiment" with Andre Blais and Carol Galais (Université de Montreal) and Marc Guinjoan (Universitat Pompeu Fabra): The authors study the act of voting using a laboratory experiment that modifies several aspects of a voting situation, such as the visibility of the action and the possibility that other people sanction non-voting. The project argues that voting must be understood as a social norm, which is internalized by some and sustained through monitoring and sanctions.