Nico Ravanilla

CONTACT

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of California San Diego
Associate Professor, School of Global Policy & Strategy, 2023–present

University of California San Diego
Assistant Professor, School of Global Policy & Strategy, 2016–2023

Stanford University
Postdoctoral Fellow, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, 2015–2016

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Joint Ph.D., Department of Political Science & Ford School of Public Policy, 2015
M.A., Department of Economics, *Fulbright Scholar*, 2010

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Philippines
M.A., School of Economics, *Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Gamma Mu*, 2007
B.S., School of Economics, *Cum Laude*, *GP Sicat Best Thesis* 2003

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

School of Global Policy & Strategy, UC San Diego

Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs (incoming)	*2027 –*
Shadowing the Associate Dean for Student Affairs	*2026 – 2027*
Committee Lead, Core Curriculum Redesign	*2026 – 2027*
Representative to the UC San Diego Academic Senate Assembly	*2026 –*
Alternate Representative to the UC San Diego Academic Senate Assembly	*2023 – 2025*

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

[18] Ravanilla, Nico. *2026.* "The Philippines in 2025." *Asian Survey* 66(2): 312–322.

[17] Sexton, Renard and **Ravanilla, Nico**. *Forthcoming.* "The Posturing Premium: How Empty Threats Can Benefit Leaders in Weak Countries." *American Journal of Political Science.*

[16] Ravanilla, Nico, Dotan Haim, and Matthew Nanes. *2026.* "How Street-Level Bureaucrats' Traits Affect Community Leaders' Assessments of the Government." *Journal of Politics* 88(1).

[15] Haim, Dotan, Matthew Nanes, and **Nico Ravanilla**. *2025.* "How Does Community Policing Affect Police Attitudes? An Experimental Test and a Theory of Bureaucrat-Citizen Contact." *American Political Science Review* 119(4): 1983–2001.
· Winner, 2023 APSA Southeast Asian Politics Group Best Paper Award (Open Category)

[14] Ravanilla, Nico. *2024.* "The Extraordinary Effect of Religious Sect Endorsements on Vote Choice: Evidence from Iglesia ni Cristo's "Vote as One" Teaching." *Comparative Political Studies* 58(13): 2755–2794.

[13] Ravanilla, Nico and Allen Hicken. *2023.* "Poverty, Social Networks, and Clientelism." *World Development* 162(106128).

[12] Nanes, Matthew, **Nico Ravanilla**, and Dotan Haim. *2023.* "Fire Alarms for Police Patrols: Experimental Evidence on Co-Production of Public Safety." *Journal of Politics* 85(3): 1017–1032.

[11] Ravanilla, Nico and Allen Hicken. *2023.* "When Legislators Don't Bring Home the Pork: The Case of Philippine Senators." *Political Science Research & Methods.* 11(4): 785–803.

[10] Ravanilla, Nico, Michael Davidson and Allen Hicken. 2022. "Voting in Clientelistic Social Networks: Evidence from the Philippines." *Comparative Political Studies.* 55(10): 1663–1697.

[9] Ravanilla, Nico, Renard Sexton and Dotan Haim. 2022. "Deadly Populism: How Local Political Outsiders Drives Duterte's War on Drugs in the Philippines." *Journal of Politics.* 84(2): 1035–1056.

· Winner, 2019 APSA Southeast Asian Politics Group Best Paper Award (Open Category)

[8] Haas, Nicholas, Katherine Haenschen, Tanu Kumar, Costas Panagopoulos, Kyle Peyton, **Nico Ravanilla**, and Michael Sierra-Arévalo. 2022. "Organizational Identity and Positionality in Randomized Control Trials: Considerations and Advice for Collaborative Research Teams." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 55(4): 749–753.

[7] Ravanilla, Nico, Dotan Haim and Allen Hicken. 2022. "Brokers, Social Networks, Reciprocity, and Clientelism." *American Journal of Political Science.* 66(4): 795–812.

[6] Blair, Graeme, Jeremy M. Weinstein, Fotini Christia, Eric Arias, Emile Badran, Robert Blair, Ali Cheema, Ahsan Farooqui, Thiemo Fetzer, Guy Grossman, Dotan Haim, Zulfiqar Hameed, Rebecca Hanson, Ali Hasanain, Dorothy Kronick, Benjamin Morse, Robert Muggah, Fatiq Nadeem, Lily Tsai, Matthew Nanes, Tara Slough, **Nico Ravanilla**, Jacob Shapiro, Barbara Silva, Pedro C.L. Souza, Anna Wilke. 2021. "Community policing does not build citizen trust in police or reduce crime in the Global South." *Science* 374(6571):eabd3446.

· Winner, 2026 Margaret Levi Award for the Advancement of Comparative Methodology, APSA Comparative Politics Section (Metaketa IV)

[5] Haim, Dotan, **Nico Ravanilla** and Renard Sexton. 2021. "Sustained government engagement improves subsequent pandemic risk reporting in conflict zones." *American Political Science Review.* 115(2): 717–724.

[4] Ravanilla, Nico. 2019. "The Philippine Elections: Has Politics Changed Under Duterte?" *Asian Politics & Policy.* 11(4): 674–678.

[3] Hicken, Allen, Stephen Leider, **Nico Ravanilla** and Dean Yang. *2018.* "Temptation in Vote Selling: Evidence from a Field Experiment in the Philippines" *Journal of Development Economics.* 131(–): 1–14.

[2] Hicken, Allen, Stephen Leider, **Nico Ravanilla** and Dean Yang. 2015. "Measuring Vote Selling: Field Evidence from the Philippines." *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings.* 105(5): 352–56.

[1] Ravanilla, Nico and Eduard DP Robleza. 2005. "The Contribution of OFW Remittances to Income Inequality: A Decomposition Analysis." *Philippine Review of Economics.* 42(2): 27-54.

· Winner, 2003 GP Sicat Award for Best Thesis; Winner, 2004 Anthony Aguirre Award for Best Thesis in Economics

Book Chapters

[3] Haim, Dotan, Matthew Nanes and **Nico Ravanilla**. 2024. "Community Policing in the Philippines: Communication, Trust, and Service Provision." In *Crime, Insecurity, and Community Policing: Experiments on Building Trust*, eds. Graeme Blair, Fotini Christia and Jeremy Weinstein. Cambridge University Press.

[2] Ravanilla, Nico. 2019. "The Multimember Plurality System in the Philippines & Its Implications." In *Strong Patronage, Weak Parties: The Case for Electoral System Redesign in the Philippines*, ed. Paul Hutchcroft. Manila: Anvil, 162–181.

[1] Atkinson, James, Allen Hicken and **Nico Ravanilla**. 2015. "Pork & Typhoons: The Influence of Political Connections on Disaster Response." In *Building Inclusive Democracies in ASEAN*, eds. Ronald Mendoza, Edsel Beja Jr., et al. Manila: Anvil, 74–96.
· Winner, 2016 Outstanding Book Award, Philippine National Academy of Science and Technology

Working Papers

[14] "Mitigating Adverse Political Selection: Long-Term Experimental Evidence from a Leadership Training for Aspiring Politicians in the Philippines." *Revise & Resubmit, American Political Science Review.*

[13] "Winning "hearts and minds" in moments of crisis? Evidence from the Philippines during Covid-19" With Dotan Haim and Renard Sexton. *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Politics.*

[12] "Roving Tax Bureaucrats: Bureaucratic Quality, Tenure, and the Costs of Rotation." With Renhao Ye. *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Politics.*

[11] "Not All Political Dynasties Are Equal: How Organizational Structure Shapes Dynastic Persistence."

[10] "Generative AI and Labor Displacement in the Global South: Evidence from Philippine Business Process Outsourcing."

[9] "The Positional Value and Redistributive Consequences of the Ballot Grid: Evidence from the Philippine Party-List Switch from an Alphabetical to a Randomized Ballot Grid." With Lucas Zeng.

[8] "Clash of Ideologies: How Citizens Respond to U.S. and China's Rhetoric About Domestic Politics in Southeast Asia." With Damian Boldt.

[7] "Patrons, Bosses, and Brokers: A Theory of Local Development in the Philippines' Patronage Democracy."

[6] "Which Principals Matter? Accountability When Local Officials Answer to Both Bureaucrats and Politicians." With Matthew Nanes and Dotan Haim.

[5] "The Paradox of the Right-Wing Immigrant: Moral Salience and the Single-Issue Favorability Premium among Filipino Americans." With Sharon Quinsaat.

[4] "The Endurance and Erosion of Support for Mano Dura: Electoral Evidence from the War on Drugs in the Philippines." With Enrico La Vina.

[3] "How Political Connections Shape Corruption in Procurement." With Felix Hartmann.

[2] "The Effects of a Social Accountability Initiative on Public Works Provision: Evidence from the Philippines." With Eitan Paul, Allen Hicken and Ronald Mendoza.

[1] "Motives in Pork Distribution: Partisan Bias or Patronage?"

Regional & Policy Engagement

Consulting & advisory:

US State Department (Bureau of Intelligence & Research Unit) - Consultant	*2021, 2022*
US Indo-Pacific Command - Invited Speaker	*2021*
Aspen Institute (Congressional Program) - Invited Speaker	*2021*
Norwegian Embassy in Manila - Invited Speaker	*2021*
The World Bank in the Philippines - Consultant, tax policy mission	*2011*
The World Bank in the Philippines - Consultant, balanced growth	*2007–2008*

Policy writing & commentary:

[7] "Breaking the cycle of clientelism: How access to formal networks can empower the poor" UNU WIDER Blog, May 2023

[6] "Is this the end of Duterte's politically-driven war on drugs?" East Asia Forum, May 2022

[5] "Winning the Fight Against COVID-19 in Conflict Zones" The Diplomat, March 2021

[4] "The Local Politics of Policing: The Case of Duterte's Drug War" Political Violence at a Glance, March 2021

[3] "Debunking 4 myths about vote buying" **a**political.co, March 2020

[2] "The staying power of dynastic politicians in the Philippines" Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia (Issue 22), Young Academics Voice, September 2017

[1] "Politics and disaster aid in the Philippines" Washington Post (The Monkey Cage), November 2013

Research Grants - Major

Luce Grant, w/ Malesky, Pepinsky, Ostwald, Toha & Selway ($375,000)	*Spring 2026*
Luce Grant, w/ Malesky, Pepinsky, Ostwald, Toha & Selway ($261,000)	*Fall 2023*
Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant, w/ Sharon Quinsaat ($30,000)	*Summer 2023*
UCSD Senate Seed Grant ($10,350)	*Summer 2023*
Charles Koch Foundation Grant, w/ Renard Sexton ($90,000)	*Summer 2022*
National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant, w/ Renard Sexton ($278,439)	*Summer 2020*
Carnegie Corporation of New York Grant, w/ Renard Sexton ($170,500)	*Spring 2020*
UCSD Senate Seed Grant, w/ Dotan Haim & Renard Sexton ($15,000)	*Fall 2018*
DFAT Grant, w/ Eitan Paul, Allen Hicken & Ronald Mendoza ($15,000)	*Fall 2018*
IPA P&R Program Grant, w/ Dotan Haim & Renard Sexton ($10,000)	*Spring 2018*
EGAP Metaketa IV Grant, w/ Dotan Haim & Matthew Nanes ($209,965)	*Spring 2017*
Policy Design and Evaluation Lab (PDEL) Grant ($23,000)	*Winter 2017*
ANU Research Grant, w/ Allen Hicken ($41,500)	*Summer 2016*
J-PAL Governance Initiative Pilot Study Grant ($50,000)	*Summer 2015*
J-PAL Governance Initiative Proposal Development Grant ($10,000)	*Summer 2014*
MCubed, w/ Allen Hicken, Stephen Leider & Dean Yang ($60,000)	*2013–2014*

Small

Teaching & Learning Commons - GenAI Learning Community Grant ($750)	*Summer 2026*
UCSD Senate Travel Grant ($1,000)	*Summer 2026*
UCSD Senate Travel Grant ($400)	*Winter 2017*
UM Political Science Departmental Travel Grant ($700)	*January 2015*
Rackham Travel Grant ($700)	*April 2012 / July 2014*
APSA Annual Meeting 2014 Conference Travel Grant ($225)	*Summer 2014*
Political Science Department Research Grant ($3,000)	*Summer 2014, 2015*
Angara Centre for Law and Economics Research Grant ($3,500)	*Summer 2013*
Ford School of Public Policy Summer Research Grant ($3,000)	*Summer 2013*
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant ($3,000)	*Summer 2013*
Ford School IPC Faculty-Student Grant, w/ Dean Yang ($2,500)	*December 2012*
Ford School of Public Policy Research Grant ($3,500)	*Summer 2012*
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant ($1,500)	*Summer 2010*
UM Economics Research Grant ($2,500)	*Summer 2009, 2010*

Awards & Fellowships

Margaret Levi Award for the Advancement of Comparative Methodology, APSA Comparative Politics Section (shared by the Metaketa Initiative's 147 principal investigators and EGAP; Metaketa IV)	*2026*
Faculty Recognition Award for Excellence in Teaching (student-voted)	*AY 2022–23*
Faculty Career Development Program (FCDP) Grant Recipient	*Spring 2020*
APSA Southeast Asian Politics Related Group Best Paper Award	*Fall 2019*
Oxford's Harris Manchester Summer Research Institute Fellow	*Summer 2017*
Best Reviewer Award – Australian Economic History Review	*2016 - 2017*
SEAREG Young Southeast Asia Fellow	*2015 - 2016*
Rackham Predoctoral Fellow (university-wide competition)	*Summer 2015*
Rackham International Student Fellow (university-wide competition)	*Summer 2013*
Fulbright Scholar	*2008 - 2010*
Phi Kappa Phi	*June 2008*
Pi Gamma Mu	*June 2008*
G.P. Sicat Fellow	*2006 - 2007*
United Financial Japan Fellow	*2005 - 2006*
A. Aguirre Medal for Best Thesis in Economics (national competition)	*January 2004*
G.P. Sicat Award for Best Undergraduate Thesis	*April 2003*
Graduated *Cum Laude*	*April 2003*

Affiliations

UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) - Affiliate	*2023 -*
Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) - Council Member	*2022 -*
Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) - Faculty Affiliate	*2021 -*
Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) - Academic Member	*2020 -*
Governance Initiative, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) - Invited Researcher	*2019 -*
California Workshop in Empirical Political Science (CaliWEPS) - Co-organizer	*2018 -*
Center for Commerce and Diplomacy (CCD) - Affiliated Faculty	*2018 -*
Political Violence Lab - Affiliated Scholar	*2018 -*
Policy Design and Evaluation Lab (PDEL) - Affiliated Researcher	*2016 -*
Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) - Affiliated Researcher	*2016 -*
Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Advisory Board - Senior Member	*2015 -*

Presentations

Invited Presentations:

University of the Philippines - Diliman	*September 30, 2026*
Ronald Coase Institute Alumni Conference, INSEAD, France	*July 16, 2026*
New York University	*January 25, 2023*
University of the Philippines - Diliman	*March 11, 2021*
University of Gothenburg	*May 27, 2020*
Claremont Graduate University	*January 29, 2019*
Cornell University	*October 11, 2018*
Singapore Management University	*September 8, 2017*
Northern Illinois University	*April 7, 2017*

Workshops:

National Chengchi University, Taiwan	*June, 2017*
Electoral System Redesign and Development Workshop – Philippines	*July, 2016*
Money & Politics in Southeast Asia Workshop IV – Philippines	*July, 2016*
Money & Politics in Southeast Asia Workshop II – Indonesia	*June, 2012*

Annual Meetings:

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	*2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2023*
Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (SIOE) Annual Conference	*2026*
European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) Conference	*2026*
Southeast Asia Research Group Annual Meeting	*2015 - 2026*
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	*2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018*

	Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting	*2016, 2017*
	Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting	*2018*
	Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting	*2019*

Teaching

University of California San Diego – Associate Professor

GPPS 456 - Evaluating Social Programs	*S17, S18, F18, S22, F22, F23, S26*
GPCO 454 - Quantitative Methods II	*W25, W26*
GPGN 490 - Governance, Public Admin & Development	*F16, F17, F19, F21, W23*
GPPS 463 - Politics of Southeast Asia	*F16, F17, W19, F19, F20, F21, F22, F23, F24, S26*
INTL 190 - Political Economy of Southeast Asia	*F19, F20, F21, W23*
IRGN 490 - Distributive Politics of Public Policy	*W17*

University of Michigan – Graduate Student Instructor

POLSCI 140 - Introduction to Comparative Politics	*F12*
ECON 101 - Principles of Microeconomics	*F09, W10, F10*

University of the Philippines – Teaching Fellow

Refresher Course in Math and Microeconomics (Graduate course)	*Summer 2008*
ECON 202 - Microeconomic Theory I (Graduate course)	*1st Semester 2007*

Other Research Experience

University of Michigan

Research Assistant for Allen Hicken	*Fall 2014, Summer 2012*
Research Assistant for Dean Yang	*January 2013 - April 2014, Summer 2009*

Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Research Assistant for Cristina David	*May 2003 - May 2005*

Selected Service

Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Council	*2022 -*
EGAP Crime Reduction & Police Accountability Steering Committee	*2022*
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - Invited Lecturer	*2016 - 2023*
San Diego World Affairs Council - Invited Lecturer	*2016*

Referee: *The American Economic Review*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *World Development*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Australian Economic History Review*, *SAGE Open*, *World Politics*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

Skills

Softwares: R, Python, Stata, LaTeX, Git, QGIS
Programming: Javascript, React.JS, CSS
Languages: Filipino, Bicolano, English

CV last updated: October 2026