

# Gabriel Soyer

Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA

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## Education

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**University of Georgia**, Athens, Georgia, USA

*Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science & International Affairs* · 2021–2026 (expected)

- Minor: Quantitative Methods

- Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIScience)

- Committee: Shane P. Singh (Chair), Gregory M. Thaler (Oxford), Laura V. Zimmermann, Joseph T. Ornstein

- Dissertation: *Local Politics and its Consequences for Agricultural Lending, Deforestation, and Environmental Enforcement*

- Visiting Researcher, Department of Politics & International Relations, University of Oxford — Spring 2025

**University of Brasília**, Brasília, Brazil

*B.A. (Honors) in International Relations* · 2015–2020

## Research Interests

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Political economy; environmental politics; climate; rule of law; finance; trade; land-use change; food systems; Latin America.

## Publications

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### Peer-reviewed

- Coca, Estevan, **Gabriel Soyer**, and Ricardo Barbosa Jr. 2023. “Matopiba’s Disputed Agricultural Frontier: Between Commodity Crops and Agrarian Reform.” *IDS Bulletin* 54(1). doi:10.19088/1968-2023.104.
- Barbosa, Ricardo, Estevan Coca, and **Gabriel Soyer**. 2023. “School Food at Home: Brazil’s National School Food Programme (PNAE) during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Social & Cultural Geography* 24(3–4): 620–39. doi:10.1080/14649365.2022.2115538.

### Under review

- “Agrarian elites and non-programmatic politics: rural credit in Brazil’s municipal elections.” (solo-authored). Submitted.
- “Bridging bureaucratic politics and food policy: embeddedness across subnational school food pandemic response in Brazil.” (with Ricardo Barbosa Jr and Estevan Coca). Submitted.

## Works in progress

- Campaign donors and the politics of environmental enforcement: local elections in Brazil. (solo-authored).
- Does commitment to environment in the importer country matter? Understanding deforestation at municipal level in the Legal Amazon, Brazil. (with Rodrigo Moura Karolczak).
- Nepotism beyond the entry-level: family dynasties in the Brazilian foreign service. (with Luis Soto Tamayo).
- Drivers of policy diffusion: bureaucratic entrepreneurs of school food. (with Marcela Alonso Ferreira).
- New Perspectives on Traditional Extractivism in Brazil.(with Gregory M. Thaler, Carlos Valério Gomes, Evandro Neves, and Bruno Ubiali).

## Policy reports

- Bacil, Fabianna, and **Gabriel Soyer**. 2020. “Country Annex: Bangladesh.” In *Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19, Policy Responses and the Missing Middle in South Asia*. Research Report No. 47. Brasília and Kathmandu: IPC-IG and UNICEF ROSA.
- Bacil, Fabianna, and **Gabriel Soyer**. 2020. “COVID-19 and social protection in South Asia: India.” *One Pager Series*. IPC-IG & UNICEF.
- Bacil, Fabianna, and **Gabriel Soyer**. 2020. “COVID-19 and social protection in South Asia: Bangladesh.” *One Pager Series*. IPC-IG & UNICEF.

## Peer-reviewed (in Portuguese)

- **Gabriel Soyer**, and Ricardo Barbosa Jr. 2020. “Agrarian extractivism from Bolsonaro Government as informed by State-society relations.” *National Geography Graduate Association Journal – ANPEGE*, Special Issue of Bolsonaro’s Food and Land Politics 16(29): 516–548.
- **Gabriel Soyer**, and Ricardo Barbosa Jr. 2018. “Land grabbing in Brazilian International Relations.” *Contextualizaciones Latinoamericanas* 10(18): 1–16.

## Teaching experience

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### University of Georgia

- **Instructor**, *Inter-American Relations: U.S.–Latin America Foreign Policy* (Spring 2026, scheduled)
- **Instructor**, *Introduction to Global Issues (Honors)* (Fall 2025)

- **Teaching Assistant**, *Women and World Politics* (Fall 2025)
- **Instructor**, *Latin American Politics* (Fall 2024)
- **Teaching Assistant**, *Introduction to Global Issues* (Fall 2023)

## University of Brasília

- **Teaching Assistant**, *International Political Economy* (2018)

## Conferences

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- **Access to Rural Credit as Non-Programmatic Politics: Municipal Elections in Brazil**
  - European Political Science Association Meeting (EPSA) — Universidad Carlos III (Madrid), Jun 2025
  - Rising Scholars Workshop of Comparative Politics in Latin American — University of Oxford, Mar 2025
  - Southern Workshop on Empirical Political Science — Emory University (Atlanta), Nov 2024
  - Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (MPSA) — Chicago, Apr 2024
  - International Conference on Global Land Grabbing — Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá), Mar 2024
- **Matopiba’s Agricultural Frontier as Informed by Agribusiness Elites’ Frames**
  - Network for Global Justice & Environmental Humanities — Aarhus University, Nov 2022 (remote)
- **Predatory Formation, Profit Extraction, and Expulsions: An Agrarian Political Economy of Current Brazilian Agriculture** (*with Roberto Goulart Menezes*)
  - BRICS Initiative for Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS) — University of Brasília, Nov 2018
- **Regional Impacts of Agrifood Globalization: Conflicting Development Models in Central-North Brazil** (*with Pedro Rocha and Ricardo Barbosa Jr*)
  - ALASRU — Universidad de la República (Uruguay), Nov 2018

## Professional Experience

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- Summer Intern (Program Evaluation), **University of Georgia Cooperative Extension** — 2022, 2023
- Advocacy Assistant, **FIAN Brazil — For the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition** — 2020–2021
- Research Intern, **International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (UNDP)** — 2020
- Intern, **Brazilian National Council for Food & Nutrition Security (CONSEA)** — 2018–2019

## Skills

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**Languages:** Portuguese (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Fluent)

**Software:** R (Advanced), ArcGIS (Advanced), Python & ArcPy (Intermediate)

## Awards and Grants

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- 2024 Department of International Affairs Small Research Grant Program — University of Georgia (USD 1,900)
- 2024 PORT-LACSI Brazilian Studies Travel Grant — University of Georgia (USD 800)
- 2024 SPIA Dean's Professional Development Fund — University of Georgia (USD 900)
- 2024 Graduate School Travel Grant — University of Georgia (USD 750)
- 2024 Department of International Affairs Travel Grant — University of Georgia (USD 400)
- 2023 Department of International Affairs Small Research Grant Program — University of Georgia (USD 1,900)
- 2021 Earl F. Ziemke Graduate Fellowship — University of Georgia (USD 7,285)
- 2021 The University of Winnipeg Graduate Studies Scholarship — CAD 15,000 (declined)
- 2018 Travel Award — Institute of International Relations to ALASRU IX (R\$ 1,500)
- 2016 Scholarship — Tutorial Education Program (PET), Ministry of Education of Brazil (R\$ 15,000)
- 2014 Academic Award — State Government of Goiás (R\$ 1,000)

## Service

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**Peer review:** *Comparative Political Studies* (2x); *Environment and Planning A*.

## Membership

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American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; European Political Science Association

## Fieldwork

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Brazil: Apr–Jun 2024; Dec 2024–Jan 2025.

## References

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**Shane P. Singh** — Joshua W. Jones Professor of Public and International Affairs  
Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia — [singh@uga.edu](mailto:singh@uga.edu)

**Gregory M. Thaler** — Associate Professor of Environmental Geography and Latin American Studies Oxford School of Global and Area Studies & School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford — [gregory.thaler@lac.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gregory.thaler@lac.ox.ac.uk)

**Joseph T. Ornstein** — Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science, University of Georgia — [jornstein@uga.edu](mailto:jornstein@uga.edu)

**Laura V. Zimmermann** — Associate Professor of Economics and International Affairs  
John Munro Godfrey, Sr. Department of Economics & Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia — [lvzimmer@uga.edu](mailto:lvzimmer@uga.edu)