

**The Determinants of Judicial Independence and Constitutional Adjudication  
A Study of Latin America, 1950-2002**

Abstract

Why politicians empower courts and judges? What explains the variation in patterns of politician's delegation of independence and constitutional adjudication power to courts and judges? As I show in the first part of this paper, Latin American countries exhibit interesting variation in these areas both across countries and within the same country across time. In the second part of the paper, I first explore different explanations for such diversity, trying to identify the conditions under which they work and their implications regarding particular institutional designs. In an effort to integrate general motivations with contextual variables and short term considerations, I also provide a more detailed account of the delegation strategies in Mexico and Chile during the last two decades.

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