

# Iñigo Ruiz Hilera

# Doctoral Candidate

e-mail: [inruizh@clio.uc3m.es](mailto:inruizh@clio.uc3m.es); [100486690@alumnos.uc3m.es](mailto:100486690@alumnos.uc3m.es)

**Ph.D. CANDIDATE, Social Science Programme, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**

*Nov 2024 - current*

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My doctoral research, grounded in Happiness Contract theory, examines whether individuals' Subjective Well-Being (SWB) influences trust in representative politics. The dissertation investigates (i) the relationship between the cognitive and affective components of SWB and political trust; (ii) their association with structural determinants; and (iii) the causal effect of SWB on political trust.

Alongside my doctoral research, I have a strong interest in EU politics and Europeanization, with a particular focus on how individual characteristics and preferences shape attitudes toward European integration. My work adopts a positivist empirical approach, employing advanced statistical analysis of large-scale datasets, primarily micro-level panel data.

## **UNIVERSITY TEACHING ASSISTANT, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ○ International Politics             | <i>Jan 2026 – June 2026</i> |
| ○ Country Report and Risk Management | <i>Jan 2026 – June 2026</i> |
| ○ Spanish Political System           | <i>Sept 2025 – Dec 2025</i> |

## **UNIVERSITY LECTURER, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**

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|---|-----------------------------|
| ○ Methodologies in Political Science        | <i>Jan 2025 – June 2025</i> |
| ○ Research Methodology in Political Science | <i>Jan 2025 – June 2025</i> |

## **CONFERENCES & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION**

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**Workshop: Political Identities in Europe**, Amsterdam Center of European Studies, Universidad de Amsterdam

*November 2025*

- Presented: “*Exploring within-individual variability in European identification*”

**Madrid Empirical Social Science Conference (MESS)**, IE University

*October 2025*

- Presented: *“Happiness and Institutional trust: what are the psychological basis of this relationship? Within-individual Evidence from Dutch panel-data”*

**European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) General Conference**, University of Thessaloniki

*August 2025*

- Presented: *“Happiness and Institutional trust: what are the psychological basis of this relationship? Within-individual Evidence from Dutch panel-data”*

**I Early Research Workshop** (Centro de Excelencia Jean Monnet MACIES - PAPERSS), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

*June 2025*

- Presented: *“Does Subjective Well-Being Predict Trust in EU Insitutions? Panel Evidence from the Netherlands”*

## RESEARCH PROJECTS AND GROUPS

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EU-RESEARCH UC3M - MULTILEVEL AND COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON EUROPEAN SOCIETY AND POLITICS	<i>2024 - current</i>
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YOEDER - EDUCATION AND PRO-EUROPEAN ORIENTATION AMONG SPAIN'S YOUTH: AN INQUIRY ON CAUSAL MECHANISMS	<i>2024 - 2026</i>
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## EDUCATION

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<b>Master’s in Social Sciences</b>	<i>Sept 2022 – Sept 2024</i>
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Instituto Carlos III – Juan March, Madrid

<b>Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations</b>	<i>Sept 2018 – June 2022</i>
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University of Deusto, Bilbao

### Languages

English (Certificate of Advanced English)	C1	<i>June 2019</i>
French (Diplôme Approfondi de la Langue Française)	C1	<i>May 2021</i>
Basque	B2	<i>June 2018</i>
Spanish	Native	