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Victoria E. Rodríguez is Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies at The University of Texas at Austin and holds the University's Ashbel Smith Professorship at the LBJ School. She teaches courses in policy development, women in politics and public policy, and theory and philosophy of public policy. Prior to joining UT Austin in 1991, she held teaching positions at the University of California, San Diego, and the University of Texas at El Paso. She was also a Research Associate at the University of Cambridge and has served as a consultant for the World Bank.

Professor Rodríguez received a bachelor's degree from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Mexico, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. Her scholarly work has focused on governance, democratization, and political change in Mexico. In addition to numerous books, articles, and book chapters on Mexican politics and public policy, she is the author of *Decentralization in Mexico: From Reforma Municipal to Solidaridad to Nuevo Federalismo* (1997). Her current work includes path-breaking research and two books on women in Mexican politics: *Women's Participation in Mexican Political Life* (1998) and *Women in Contemporary Mexican Politics* (2003). Her books have also been published in Spanish in revised and updated editions.

In 2000 Professor Rodríguez received jointly with Professor Peter Ward the *Ohtli* Medal, the highest honor granted by the Mexican government outside Mexico. In 2002 *Hispanic Business* named her as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States.