

Jose J. Alcocer

Jalcocer@law.harvard.edu | Alcocer@stanford.edu | [GitHub](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Personal Website](#) |
He/Him/His

CONTACT INFORMATION

Harvard Law School
Langdell Hall
1545 Massachusetts Ave,
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Applied Research Statistician, 2025 –
Harvard Law School, [Department of Empirical Research Services](#)

Research Analyst, 2025 –
Stanford Graduate School of Business, [Center for Entrepreneurial Studies](#)

Computational Social Scientist, 2024 – 2025
Center for Election Science, [Applied Data and Research Team](#)

Survey Statistician, 2022 – 2025
U.S. Census Bureau, [Federal Statistical Research Data Center \(FSRDC\)](#)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations, 2025
University of Southern California, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.), 2019
University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy

B.A. in Political Science, 2017
California State University, Long Beach, College of Liberal Arts

EXPERTISE

Methodological: Artificial Intelligence (Large Language Models, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing), Quantitative Research Design (Cross-Sectional, Experimental, Longitudinal, Quasi-Experimental), Statistical Inference (Causal, Descriptive, Predictive)

Substantive: American Politics, Electoral Systems, Elite Behavior, Intersectionality, Latin American Politics, Legislative Institutions, Public Policy Analysis, Race and Ethnicity, Redistricting, Voting Rights

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

[3] Múzquiz, José and Jose J. Alcocer. 2025. ["Legislator Responsiveness to Racialized Constituencies in Mexico."](#) *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, pp. 1-13.

[2] Alcocer, Jose J. 2025. ["Minority Elites Sponsor and Cosponsor Differently from Whites: Causal Evidence from U.S. Congress."](#) *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 10(2), pp. 277-289.

[1] Alcocer, Jose J. 2020. ["Exploring the Effect of Colorado's Recreational Marijuana Policy on Opioid Overdose Rates."](#) *Public Health*, 185, pp. 8-14.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[2] Hua, Whitney, and Jose J. Alcocer. 2024. ["Transforming the Vote: How Voting Reforms Can Improve Equity for Underrepresented Minorities."](#) The Center for Election Science. Last Updated January 2025.

[1] Hua, Whitney, Alcocer, Jose J., and Mike Piel. 2024. ["America \[Mis\]Represented: 2022 Vote-Split Elections Report."](#) The Center for Election Science.

UNDER REVIEW

Alcocer, Jose J., and Christian R. Grose. ["Top-Two Open Primary Systems Increase Ideological Diversity in State Legislative Parties."](#)

Sierra-Arévalo, Michael, Jose J. Alcocer, Lauren Brown, Raquel Delerme, Benjamin A.T. Graham, Harry Mutram, Jackson Trager, and Nicholas Weller. ["Police as Policymakers: How experiences with policy implementation shape policy representation."](#)

Mutram, Harry, Jose J. Alcocer, Lauren Brown, Benjamin A.T. Graham, Michael Sierra-Arévalo, and Nicholas Weller. ["Street-Level Bureaucrats and Political Control: Do Los Angeles Police Change Their Behavior in Response to Policy Changes?"](#) Revise and Resubmit at *American Journal of Political Science*.

Alcocer, Jose J. ["Institutional Constraints Shape Minority Agenda-Setting: Evidence From the U.S. House \(1981 – 2020\)"](#).

ONGOING RESEARCH

Alcocer, Jose J., Christian R. Grose, and Seth C. McKee. ["Redistricting Redux and the Battle to Win the U.S. House in 2026."](#)

Alcocer, Jose J. ["The Unequal Returns of Seniority: Race and Legislative Success in Shaping the Agenda."](#)

Alcocer, Jose J. and José Múzquiz. ["Mexican Home Style: Symbolic Versus Substantive Legislative Responsiveness to Racialized Constituencies."](#)

Alcocer, Jose J. ["Examining Minority and Non-Minority Legislators' Willingness to Cooperate Across Racial Groups in Legislative Cosponsorship."](#)

Gonzales, Esther, Jose J. Alcocer, and Cynthia Wilkes. ["Equity and Exhaustion: The Link Between Fairness Perceptions and Burnout in Local Government Workers."](#)

Research Associate, 2023 – 2025

University of Southern California, [The Security and Political Economy \(SPEC\) Lab](#)

Supervising Faculty: Benjamin A.T. Graham

Apply advanced statistical, computational, and analytical techniques to assist with ongoing projects. Assist faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students with questions on research design and statistical inference along with troubleshoot code inquiries related to R, Python, and Stata. Key contributor to [Everyday Respect](#) Project.

Research Assistant, 2021 — 2022

University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy and Gould School of Law

Primary Investigators: Abby Wood; Pamela McCann

Analyzed several U.S. federal and state executive orders for the purpose of qualitatively coding and defining different definitions of essential workers and essential business industries throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Collected, cleaned, organized, and interpreted state-level data regarding essential worker definitions for the purpose of creating a dataset reflecting these several definitions across states. Created Python and R scripts that allowed the ability to web scrape tables from government websites and PDFs, such as the Book of the States reports. Researched and reported U.S. state differences in COVID-19 pandemic response, from their moment of closure to how they continued to evolve throughout the pandemic.

Research Associate, 2021 — 2024

University of Southern California, Democracy Lab

Supervising Faculty: Christian R. Grose

Collected, cleaned, and organized data on U.S. state legislatures and their respective representatives' policy positions on several issues. Wrote several literature reviews on the topic of legislative term limits within the context of the U.S. Collected and analyzed several quantitative regression analyses related to citizen voting behavior within the U.S. Ran several racial polarized voting analyses and ability-to-elect analyses across several U.S. states using created Python scripts streamlining the output processes.

Researcher Associate, 2019 — 2020

University of Southern California, Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics

Supervising Faculty: Sarah Axeen

Collected, cleaned, and organized data from various resources to conduct several statistical analyses. Quantitatively analyzed the collected data to construct several synthetic control models of Colorado to assess the causal impact of recreational marijuana legislation at the state level. Drafted and successfully published a manuscript that investigated the effects of recreational marijuana legislation on opioid overdose rates in the state of Colorado.

Policy Analyst, 2018 – 2019

The City Project

Specialized in conducting comprehensive literature reviews on the health impacts of public parks, particularly for underprivileged urban areas, collaborating on policy research through stakeholder interviews, and contributed to agency papers and a best practices white paper on California's Proposition 68 grant process.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Southern California

Ideology and Conflict (Spring 2023)
Environmental Challenges (Fall 2022)

Instructor

University of Southern California
Python for Social Science Workshop (Spring 2023)

University of California, Los Angeles
Introduction to Programming in R (Summer 2022)

**CONFERENCES
& WORKSHOP
PARTICIPATION**

Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association (APSA): 2024, 2025

Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth): 2023, 2024

Election Science, Reform, and Administration (ESRA): 2024

European Political Science Association (EPSA): 2025

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA): 2023, 2024

SoCal Political Institutions and Political Economy Conference (SoCal PIPE): 2023, 2024

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA): 2023

Western Political Science Association (WPSA): 2023, 2024

Workshops

University of Oxford, Department of Politics & International Relations: Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, 2023

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs: Institute for Qualitative and Mixed Method Research (IQMR), 2022

**GRANTS,
AWARDS, AND
FELLOWSHIPS**

University of Southern California

2024. Political Science and International Relations Summer Research Award. \$3,500.00

2024. Graduate Student Government Professional Development Fund Award. \$500.00

2024. Graduate School Travel/Research Award. \$1,500.00

2023. Political Science and International Relations Summer Research Award. \$4,500.00

2023. Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant. \$2,000.00

2022. Political Science and International Relations Summer Research Award. \$2,500.00

2022. Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant. \$2,500.00

2021. Political Science and International Relations Summer Research Award. \$2,500.00

2020. Graduate Diversity Scholarship and Tuition Fellowship Award. \$40,000.00/yr.

SOFTWARE

TextViz Studio: Streamlit application with data visualization, statistical inference, and text analysis tools.

AppendIDs: R package providing tools to standardize and merge cross-sectional and CSTS country data across differing country-coding schemes.

topicmodelCV: R package for 10-fold cross-validation to determine the optimal number of topics for Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) topic models.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Programming and Scripting Languages: C++, JavaScript, Mata (Stata), Python, R, SQL

Markup and Styling: CSS, HTML, LaTeX

Web Applications: Google Suite, Infogram, Microsoft 365, Overleaf, Qualtrics