Jose J. Alcocer

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He/Him/His

CONTACT INFORMATION

Harvard Law School, Harvard University
1545 Massachusetts Ave,
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Research Analyst, 2025 –
Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative, Center for Entrepreneurial Studies
Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford University

Applied Research Statistician, 2025 –
Department of Empirical Research Services,
Harvard Law School, Harvard University

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 Muttram, Jackson Trager, and Nicholas Weller. "Police as Policymakers: How experiences with policy implementation shape policy representation."
	Muttram, 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?"
	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. "Synthetic Marginal Difference-in-Differences: Causal Inference with Overdispersed Count Outcomes."
	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."
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.

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, 2023 – 2025
The Security and Political Economy (SPEC) Lab, University of Southern California
Supervising Professor: 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
Primary Investigators: Abby Wood; Pamela McCann, University of Southern California
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
Democracy Lab, University of Southern California
Supervising Professor: 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.

Directed Researcher, 2019 — 2020
Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, University of Southern California
Faculty Advisor: 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.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	**Computational Social Scientist**, 2024 – 2025

Computational Social Scientist, 2024 – 2025
Center for Election Science, Applied Data and Research Team
Applied advanced statistical, computational, and analytical techniques to assist with projects that analyzed voter attitudes and behavior, election outcomes, and the impact of voting systems on democratic processes with the goal of advancing scientific research and inform decision-makers within the organization as well as key stakeholders about high-impact findings.

Survey Statistician, 2022 – 2025
Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC)
U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Enterprise Dissemination, LA-USC Branch
Assisted researchers with accessing and analyzing large-scale restricted microdata that is collected and governed by multiple federal agencies. Conducted U.S. Title 13 and Title 26 disclosure avoidance reviews on statistical outputs produced by researchers. Served as point of contact between researchers, University of Southern California faculty, and the Census Bureau.

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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

Conferences
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

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, Python, R, SQL

Markup and Styling: CSS, HTML, LaTeX

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