

Jose J. Alcocer

Contact Information

Dept. of Political Science and International Relations
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Research Interests

Legislative Institutions; Representation; Political Communication; Race and Ethnicity; Social Media; Causal Inference; Computational Social Science (machine learning, natural language processing)

Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science and International Relations, August 2020 –

University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

Fields: American Politics; Methods and Research Tools; Public Policy Analysis

Committee: Christian Grose (USC), Pablo Barberá (USC/Meta), Jeb Barnes (USC), Nicolas Duquette (USC/External)

Master of Public Policy, May 2019

University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

Fields: Program Evaluation; Health Policy; Environmental Policy; Local Economic Development
Certificate in Public Financial Management

B.A. Political Science, May 2017

California State University Long Beach, Long Beach CA

Fields: Law, Politics, and Public Policy

Certificate in Legal Studies

Pi Sigma Alpha Affiliate

Academic Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, August 2021 –

University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

Assistant to Dr. Benjamin Graham and Dr. Nicholas Weller (University of California, Riverside) (August 2023 –):

Assistant to Dr. Sherry Zaks (August 2021 – May 2022):

Translated archival documents of Salvadoran guerilla organization, FMLN, from Spanish to English. Annotated and created detailed summaries of Spanish documents conveying political organizational structure, combat and campaign strategies, and organizational policies. Contributed to building and updating a dataset on guerilla organizations transitioning to political parties.

Assistant to Dr. Abby Wood and Dr. Pamela McCann (May 2021 – August 2021; May 2022 – July 2022):

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.

Assistant to Dr. Christian Grose (August 2021 – January 2022):

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.

Directed Research Fellow, January 2019 – May 2019
University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Axeen:

Collected, cleaned, and organized data from various resources in order to conduct several statistical analyses. Quantitatively analyzed the collected data in order to construct several synthetic control models of Colorado in order 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.

Academic
Teaching
Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2022 –
University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

Course(s): POSC 265gw: Environmental Challenges (Fall 2022)
POSC 110g: Ideology and Conflict (Spring 2023)

Instructor, July 2022 – August 2022
University of California, Los Angeles | EduExplora, Los Angeles CA

Course(s): Python for Social Science (Spring 2023)
Introduction to Programming in R (Summer 2022)

Industry
Experience

Administrator | Survey Statistician, October 2022 –
California Federal Statistical Research Data Center, University of Southern California
U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Enterprise Dissemination

Policy Analyst, August 2018 – January 2020
The City Project, Los Angeles CA

Conducted several literature reviews concerning physical, mental, and social health effects related to public park and green space access—with an emphasis on underprivileged urban communities. Collaborated with a policy team to conduct interviews with various California city parks and recreational officials, conservancy officials, and city managers regarding their most recent park projects and grant writing procedures. Provided research support, qualitative data analyses, and writing on several agency working papers. Successfully drafted best practices white paper concerning California’s Proposition 68 grant distribution process.

Publications

Alcocer, J. “Exploring the Effect of Colorado's Recreational Marijuana Policy on Opioid Overdose Rates”, *Royal Society of Public Health*, 2020, Volume 185, 8-14.

Working
Papers

Alcocer, J. “Identity Legislating: The Causal Impacts of Minority Legislators on Bill (Co)Sponsorship Activity.”

Alcocer, J. “Gendered Discourses: Are Female Legislators Better Communicators?”

Alcocer, J. “Perceiving Tweets. Can Twitter Trends Influence Agenda Setting?”

Alcocer, J. “Presidential Influence on Congressional Agenda.”

Alcocer, J. “Tweeting Your Legislator. Strategic Use of Twitter to Increase Legislative Responsiveness.”

Grants and
Fellowships

University of Southern California, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences:
2023 Political Science and International Relations Summer Grant, \$4,500
2023 Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, \$2,000
2022 Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, \$2,000
2022 Political Science and International Relations Summer Grant, \$1000
2021 Political Science and International Relations Summer Grant, \$2,500
2020 Graduate Diversity Scholarship and Full Five-Year Tuition Fellowship, \$34,000/yr.

Conference and
Workshop
Participation

Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference (MPSA). 2023
Western Political Science Association Annual Conference (WPSA). 2023
University of Oxford, Department of Politics & International Relations (DPIR), Spring School in
Advanced Research Methods. 2023
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference (SPSA). 2023
Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Institute for Qualitative and
Mixed Method Research (IQMR) Annual Workshop. 2022

Technical
Skills

Computer Languages:	CSS & HTML, Java, JavaScript, LaTeX, Python, R, SQL, Stata
Web Applications:	Google Suite, MS Office, Qualtrics, Survey Monkey
Language Skills:	Spanish (Native Fluency), French (Limited Proficiency)