





José J. Alcocer, MPP

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dept. of Political Science and International Relations
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science and International Relations

University of Southern California, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Committee: Christian R. Grose, Jeb Barnes, Pablo Barberá, Nicolas Duquette

Dissertation: Identity Legislating. The Impact of Racial and Ethnic Identity on Non-Roll Call Position-Taking Strategies

Master of Public Policy, 2019

University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy

B.A. Political Science, 2017

California State University, Long Beach, College of Liberal Arts

EXPERTISE

Methodological: Big Data Econometrics, Causal Inference, Computational Social Science (Data Analysis, Data Manipulation and Visualization, Machine Learning Algorithm Development and Applications, Natural Language Processing), Experimental Design, Regression Modeling, Research Design, Statistical Inference, Survey Methodology

Substantive: American Political Institutions (Legislative and Executive), Electoral Systems, Elite Behavior, Political Representation, Public Policy Analysis (Economic, Environmental, and Health), Policy Program Evaluation, Race and Ethnic Politics, Voting Rights

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Computational Social Scientist, 2024 —

[Center for Election Science](#), [Applied Data and Research Team](#)

Apply advanced statistical, computational, and analytical techniques to assist with projects that analyze 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 —

[Federal Statistical Research Data Center \(FSRDC\)](#)

U.S. Census Bureau, Dept. of Commerce, Center for Enterprise Dissemination
University of Southern California Branch

Assist researchers with accessing and analyzing large-scale restricted microdata that is collected and governed by multiple federal agencies. Match non-public data to large-scale statistical surveys and other external data sources. Conduct U.S. Title 13 and Title 26 disclosure avoidance reviews on statistical outputs produced by researchers. Serve as point of contact between researchers, University of Southern California faculty, and the Census Bureau.

**PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS**

1. **Alcocer, Jose 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, Jose J.** “Minority Elites (Co)Sponsor Differently from Non-Minorities. Causal Evidence from U.S. Congress.” Presented at WPSA 2024. *Submitted for Review.*
- Alcocer, Jose J.**, and Christian R. Grose. “Top-Two Open Primary Systems Increase Ideological Diversity in State Legislative Parties.” Presented at MPSA 2024. *Preparing to submit for review.*
- Graham, Benjamin A.T., **Alcocer, Jose J.**, Brown, Lauren, ..., et al. “A Multi-Perspective Machine Learning Approach to Evaluate Police-Driver Interaction in Los Angeles.” *Preparing to submit for review.*
- Graham, Benjamin A.T., **Alcocer, Jose J.**, Dehghani, Morteza, ..., et al. “Community and Police Perspectives on Appropriate Officer/Driver Communication.” *Writing stage.*
- Alcocer, J.** “Racializing Discourses: Are Minority Legislators Better Communicators?” Presented at WPSA 2023. *Writing stage.*
- Alcocer, J.** “Perceiving Tweets. Can Twitter Trends Influence Legislative Agenda Setting?” Presented at SPSA 2023. *Writing stage.*

**GRANTS,
AWARDS, AND
FELLOWSHIPS**

University of Southern California

2024. Graduate Student Government Professional Development Fund Award. \$500.00
2024. Graduate School Travel/Research Award. \$1,500.00
2023. Political Science and Intl. Relations Dept. Summer Research Award. \$4,500.00
2023. Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant. \$2,000.00
2022. Political Science and Intl. Relations Dept. Summer Research Award. \$1,000.00
2022. Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant. \$2,500.00
2021. Political Science and Intl. Relations Dept. Summer Research Award. \$2,500.00
2020. Graduate Diversity Scholarship & Tuition Fellowship Award. \$40,000.00/yr.

Research Associate, 2023 —

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. Co-author level contributor in [Everyday Respect Project](#).

Research Assistant, 2021 — 2022

Primary Investigator: Sherry Zaks, University of Southern California

Translated archival documents of Salvadoran guerilla organization, FMLN, from Spanish to English using NLP models. Annotated and created detailed summaries of Salvadoran 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

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 — 2022

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**

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)

**CONFERENCE &
WORKSHOP
PARTICIPATION**

Papers Presented

"Top-Two Open Primary Systems Increase Ideological Diversity in State Legislative Parties," Midwest Political Science Association, April 4 - 7 (2024); SoCal Political Institutions and Political Economy Conference, October 27 (2023)

"Minority Elites (Co)Sponsor Differently from Non-Minorities. Causal Evidence from U.S. Congress," Western Political Science Association, March 28 - 30 (2024); SoCal Political Institutions and Political Economy Conference, March 22 (2024)

"Identity Legislating: Examining How Minority Legislators Engage in Non-Roll Call Position-Taking." Midwest Political Science Association, April 13 - 16 (2023); Western Political Science Association, April 6 - 8 (2023)

"Perceiving Tweets: Can Twitter trends influence agenda-setting?" Southern Political Science Association, January 11 - 14 (2023)

Workshops Attended

Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, University of Oxford, Department of Politics & International Relations, March 27-31 (2023)

Institute for Qualitative and Mixed Method Research (IQMR) Workshop, Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, June 13-24 (2022)

**PROFESSIONAL
SKILLS**

Programming Languages: CSS & HTML, Java, JavaScript, LaTeX, Python, R, SQL, Stata

Web Applications: Click-Up, Google Suite, Infogram, MS Office, Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, Tableau

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Native fluency), French (Conversational)