






# José J. Alcocer, MPP

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Dept. of Political Science and International Relations  
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Pronouns: He/Him

Email   
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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.

**OTHER  
PUBLICATIONS**

[1] Hua, Whitney, **Alcocer, Jose J.**, and Mike Piel. “America [Mis]Represented: 2022 Vote-Split Elections Report.” *The Center for Election Science*, August 2024.

**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)