# Carlos A. Algara

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## Overview

**Expertise** — *American political behavior and legislative politics, collective accountability & congressional representation, congressional elections, quantitative research methods (design and implementation), research design*

**Research Interests** — *Dimensions of Congressional Representation, Ideological Proximity Voting, Perceptions & Effects of Candidate Valence, Legislative Obstruction, Ideal Point Scaling & Estimation, Partisan Polarization & Conflict, Congressional Decision-making*

## Education

**present** — Political Science, *University of California, Davis*, Davis, CA, *PhD Candidate*.
With focus on American Politics, Comparative Politics, and Political Methodology

**2012** — Public Policy, *Oregon State University*, Corvallis, OR, *MPP*.
With focus on Social Policy, Applied Policy Analysis, and Mixed Quantitative & Qualitative Methodology

**2009** — Political Science, *Washington State University*, Pullman, WA, *BA*.

## Dissertation Summary

**title** — *Collective Accountability in Congressional Elections: Conditions of Accountability & Implications for Legislative Incentives*

**advisors** — Walter J. Stone, Erik J. Engstrom, Christopher D. Hare

**summary** — The dissertation explains the factors that motivate citizen perceptions of the collective job performance of the U.S. Congress and the electoral implications of these perceptions on congressional parties and individual candidates. The central claim is that citizen perceptions of congressional job performance are driven by ideological and procedural preferences and these perceptions have bearing on the electoral fortunes of the congressional majority party. From this, I specify a model of congressional approval and collective accountability in congressional elections. Using various sources of survey data, including an original Cooperative Congressional Election Study module, I evaluate the models and present empirical support for my theory of congressional approval and its electoral effects.

**workshop** — Dissertation Prospectus and Preliminary Chapter Presented at the 2017 *American Political Science Association* Dissertation Workshop on U.S. Congressional Politics, led & organized by Jim Curry (Utah) and Danielle Thomsen (Syracuse), in San Francisco, CA.

## Dissertation Papers

Algara, Carlos. "Collective Accountability in Congressional Elections: An Analysis of Congressional Approval & Ideological Extremity." Dissertation Chapter, March 2017.

———. "The "Collective Congress" on the Ballot? A Voter & Aggregate Level Analysis of Collective Responsibility in Congressional Elections." Dissertation Chapter, May 2017.

———. "The Procedural & Policy Origins of Voter Assessments of Congressional Job Performance." Dissertation Chapter, 2017.

## Under Review

Algara, Carlos, and Joseph Zamadics (University of Colorado). "The Individual Consequence of Party Legislative Obstruction in the U.S. Senate." August 2017.

## Working Papers

Algara, Carlos. "Partisanship, Incumbency, & Polarization in U.S. Senate Elections, 1920-2016." August 2017.

Algara, Carlos. "The Influence of Incumbency, Partisanship, Candidate Quality & National Tides in U.S. Senate Elections, 1914-2016." August 2017.

Algara, Carlos, and Evan Sandlin (University of California, Davis). "The U.S. Congress and the Israeli Lobby: An Analysis of the Determinants of Congressional Support for Iranian Sanctions." April 2017.

## Research in Progress

Algara, Carlos, and Isaac Hale (University of California, Davis). "The Distortionary Influence of Racial Animus on Proximity Voting in the 2016 Elections." 2018.

Algara, Carlos, and Tzu-Ping Liu (University of California, Davis). "The Influence of Partisan Conflict & Policy Responsiveness on Aggregate Majority & Minority Congressional Job Performance: A Time-Series Approach." 2018.

Algara, Carlos, and Joseph Zamadics (University of Colorado). "Legislative Signaling or Random Error? An Analysis of Spatially Incorrect Voting in Congress." 2018.

## Teaching

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|---|---|
| 2017 | Introduction to American Politics, *Graduate Student Instructor of Record*, (Summer & Fall). |
| 2014, 2016 | Introduction to American Politics, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Walt Stone*, (Fall & Spring). |
| 2015 | Introduction to American Politics, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Stuart Hill*, (Fall). |
| 2016 | Introduction to Comparative Politics, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Ethan Scheiner*, (Winter). |
| 2014 | University of California Center Sacramento Seminar: California State Politics & Policy, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Erik Engstrom, Ben Highton & Scott MacKenzie*, (Summer & Fall). |
| 2016 | California State Politics & Policy, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Robert Huckfeldt*, (Spring). |
| 2015 | Introduction to American Public Opinion, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Stuart Hill*, (Winter). |
| 2015 | Introduction to American Environmental Politics, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Stuart Hill*, (Winter, Spring). |
| 2017 | Comparative Policymaking, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Matthew Shugart*, (Winter). |
| 2017 | Democratization, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Gabriella Montinolla*, (Spring). |
| 2010-2012 | Introduction to Sociological Research Methods, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Mark Edwards*, (OSU). |
| 2010-2012 | Introduction to Sociology, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Dwaine Plaza (Associate Dean, School of Public Policy)*, (OSU). |
| 2010-2012 | Introduction to American Government, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Robert Sahr*, (OSU). |
| 2010-2012 | Introduction to International Environmental Policy, *Graduate Teaching Assistant, w/ Brent Steele*, (OSU). |

## Research Assistance

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| 2017 | *Co-Investigator*, University of Georgia Survey Module, Cooperative Congressional Election Study, w/ Christopher Hare. |
| 2015 | "Dataset of 2014 Survey Waves of FreedomWorks Supporters", w/ Ronald Rapoport (John Marshall Professor of Political Science, College of William & Mary). |
| 2015 | "Social Network Citation Dataset of State Supreme Court Cases", w/ Robert Huckfeldt. |

## Grants & Awards

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| 2016 | UC Davis Faculty-Student Summer Collaborative Research Fellowship, w/ Christopher Hare and Walter Stone, $5,000. |
| 2016 | Department Travel Grant to Attend the Annual Meeting of the *American Political Science Association*, $500. |
| 2016, 2017 | Department Travel Grant to Attend the Annual Meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, $500. |
| 2013 | Fall Graduate Student Fellowship, UC Davis, $6,000. |
| 2012 | School of Public Policy Travel Grant to Attend the Annual Meeting of the *Pacific Sociological Association*, OSU, $1,000. |
| 2010-2012 | School of Public Policy Masters of Public Policy Fellowship, OSU, *Tuition & Stipend*. |

## Department & Professional Service

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| 2016-2017 | American Politics Reading Group/Workshop, *Student Co-founder and Organizer*, w/ Ross Butters and Christopher Hare, Funded through a $300 grant from the UC Davis Humanities Institute. |

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| 2016 | UCD Associate Instructor Development Certificate, *Learner-Centered Teaching*. |
| 2016 | UCD Undergraduate Research Training & Mentorship Program, Mentor, *(Funded)*. |
| 2016 | Department Representative, Graduate Student Association, UC Davis. |
| 2015 | Graduate Student Peer Mentor. |
| 2014-2015 | Graduate Student Union Representative, Department of Political Science, UC Davis. |
| 2014- | Member, American Political Science Association. |
| 2014- | Member, Midwest Political Science Association. |
| 2016- | Member, Western Political Science Association. |

## Conference Presentations

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| 2017 | "The Individual Consequence of Party Legislative Obstruction in the U.S. Senate.", *MPSA Section Panel*, w/ Joe Zamadics, University of Colorado. |
| 2017 | "Partisanship, Polarization & Incumbency in U.S. Senate Elections, 1920-2016." , *MPSA Section Panel*. |
| 2017 | "The U.S. Congress and the Israeli Lobby: An Analysis of the Determinants of Congressional Support for Iranian Sanctions.", *WPSA Section Panel*, w/ Evan Sandlin, Uniersity of California, Davis. |
| 2016 | "Collective Accountability in Congressional Elections: An Analysis of Congressional Approval & Ideological Extremity", *APSA Section Panel*. |
| 2016 | "The Collective "Congress" on the Ballot? An Analysis of Collective Responsibility in Congressional Elections.", *MPSA Section Panel*. |
| 2012 | "Irrational Fear or Cause for Concern? The Effects of Hispanic Immigration on Crime Rates in Tucson, AZ.", *PSA Section Panel*. |

## Non-Academic Work

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| 2012-2013 | Research Analyst, Oregon State University Foundation, *Corvallis, OR*. |
| 2011 | U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) Graduate Legislative Fellow, *Washington, DC*. |
| 2009 | Washington State House of Representatives Undergraduate Legislative Intern, *Olympia, WA*. |

## Computing skills

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| Statistical | R (advanced, including data visualization, data mangement & clean-up, frequentist & Bayesian Methods), Stata, SPSS |
| Collaboration | Git/Github, Dropbox/Google Drive |
| Presentation | LaTeX(advanced, including Beamer Presentation, Bibtex, & Poster Presentation), RMarkdown (intermediate, including type-setting, code replication/collboration, & HTML Web development) |

## References

Available upon request.