CIARA STERBENZ

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EDUCATION

University of California Los Angeles – Current PhD Candidate in Political Science

Master of Arts – Winter 2020

Master of Applied Statistics (Articulated Program) – Anticipated Spring 2024

Columbia University in the City of New York, Columbia College – Graduated May 2016

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Bachelor of Arts in Physics

Dean's List – Fall 2013, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016 (6/8 semesters)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

US-Asia Grand Strategy Pre-Doctoral Fellow at *USC- Korean Studies Institute* – Renewed Award for Academic Year 2023-24

US-Asia Grand Strategy Pre-Doctoral Fellow at *USC- Korean Studies Institute* – Awarded Winter 2022 for Academic Year 2022-23

Political Psychology Dissertation Fellowship – Winter 2022

Graduate Student Research Mentorship – Summer 2019

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship – Academic-year 2018-19 State Department

Graduate Student Research Mentorship – Summer 2018

Edwin E. Pauley Fellowship – Academic-year 2017-18 UCLA

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Hartman, E., Hazlett, C., Sterbenz, C. KPop: A Kernel Balancing Approach for Reducing Specification Assumptions in Survey Weighting. arXiv:2107.08075. Under review at *JRSS-a* Fall 2023.

Sterbenz, C. "Autocratic Power Consolidation in Times of Conflict." Working Paper. January, 2021.

Sterbenz, C. "Conflict and the Fate of Autocratic Leaders." Working Paper. January, 2020.

Sterbenz, C., Trager, R. "Autonomous Weapons and Coercive Threats." *Pulse,* Feb. 2019, website special
topic, "AI in Strategic Context: Development Paths, Impacts, and Governance."

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

"Working with Data in the Social Sciences." January 2024. USC Korean Studies Institute Undergraduate
Fellows Program

"Diversionary Diplomacy: Elite Rhetoric in Nationalist Standoffs." September 2024. APSA Annual
Meeting in "Foreign Policy Panel: Elite Cues, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy"

"Diversionary Diplomacy: Elite Rhetoric in Nationalist Standoffs." February 2023. USC Korean Studies
Institute Working Paper Series.

"Employing LLMs in Social Science Research: Large-Volume Classification of Elite Rhetoric." March
2023. Invited Talk at USC Information Sciences Institute.

"Diversionary Diplomacy: Elite Rhetoric in Nationalist Standoffs." October 2023. Bridging Asia
Conference hosted by USC Korean Studies Institute.

"Autocratic Power Consolidation in Times of Conflict." March 2021. Annual ISA Meeting in "Back to
the First Image: Leaders and Conflicts."

"Kpop: A Kernel Balancing Approach for Reducing Specification Assumptions in Survey Weighting."
April 2021. UCLA Causal Inference Group.

"Kpop: A Kernel Balancing Approach for Reducing Specification Assumptions in Survey Weighting."
with Erin Hartman and Chad Hazlett. July 2020. PolMeth XXXVII.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Instructor for major requirement "Introduction to Data Analysis" for Political Science undergraduate*s*
(Summer 2023)

Instructor for upper-division specialized-topic seminar for undergraduates "Politics of East Asia: Unique
Puzzles for International Relations" (Summer 2023, Summer 2021)

Instructor for introductory Math Camp preparation course for incoming Political Science PhD Students
(Fall 2021)

Math Maven Mentor offering weekly one-to-one mentorship in statistics and political methodology for graduate students in the Political Science Department (AY 2021-22, AY 2023-23)

- In collaboration with Derek Holliday, developed website to house original R tutorials and resources for students in the graduate methods sequence (https://methodsmavens-psucla.github.io/)

Graduate Teaching Assistant for the following graduate-level courses in the core methods sequence at UCLA for Political Science PhD Students

- *200C Causal Inference for Social Science* with Chad Hazlett (Spring 2020, 2021)
- *200D Maximum Likelihood Estimation* with Jeff Lewis (Winter 2021, 2022)
- *200E Experimental Design for Social Science* with Graeme Blair (Spring 2022)

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2021)

Political Science Graduate Student Association Co-President with Derek Holliday. AY 2018-19

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher for Associate Professors Chad Hazlett (UCLA) and Erin Hartman (UC Berkley) in support of co-authored collaborative project – Fall 2019 – Fall 2020

- Assisted in writing the R package KBAL to perform kernel balancing for causal identification of treatment effects among treatment and control groups as well as for representative weighting of a survey sample to a population (currently under review with CRAN for distribution)
- Analysis of original survey results conducted in January 2020 and application of the kernel balancing method to calibrate samples to the US population for 2016 Presidential Election

Graduate Student Researcher for Associate Professor Robert Trager (UCLA) – Summer 2018 – Fall 2019

- Developing measurement approaches toward the concept of "relationship status" between international actors with the *ICEWS* database
- Preparing and organizing *ICEWS* database for future network analysis work
- Co-authored a paper for the UCLA School of Law *AI in Strategic Context Conference* on the impact of Autonomous Weapons Systems on the conduct of threat-making and signaling
- Assistant Editor for *International Studies Quarterly*

Student Researcher for LANSCE Facility at Los Alamos National Lab, Los Alamos, NM – Summer 2015, 2014, 2013

- Created original C++ program to re-analyze *KamLAND* experimental neutrino oscillation data with new anti-neturino spectra from the *Daya Bay* experiment and presented results at 2015 Fall *American Physical Society Division of Nuclear Physics Annual Meeting*

- Responsible for electronics testing and installment for *CAPTAIN* liquid-Argon neutrino experiment
- Analyzed and modeled data from *MiniBOONE* and *CAPTAIN* neutrino experiments

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Language – Korean (proficient), French (proficient)

Programming proficiency in R, Python, Java, C++