Branden Bohrnsen

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EDUCATION

Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Science

2025 - 2031 (expected)

- Subfields: comparative politics and public policy
- Research: political economy, climate, development, methods

Department of Political Science, UCLA

Los Angeles, CA

B.A. in Political Science with Highest Honors

2022 - 2024

• Advisor: Prof. Michael L. Ross

Projects

Measuring Local Welfare in the Philippines

Pre-Analysis Plan

2025 - Present

• I measure local welfare in the Philippines over time using contemporaneous household-level surveys and machine learning. The data is validated against official government estimates using exogenous shocks to welfare.

Polarized Climate Policy

Working Paper

2023 - Present

· Climate policy is a result of the distributive conflict between environmental interests and the incumbent fossil fuel industry. Consequently, conservative and private interest group opposition may be concentrated on the policies posing the greatest immediate threat to the fossil fuel industry, and weaker policies may be "hedged" or otherwise supported.

EXPERIENCE RA for Prof. Cesi Cruz | University of Michigan

01/2024 - Present

- · Ample processing and analysis of network, spatial, and experimental data
- · Lead research assistant on project "Handling Misinformation: Lessons from the Mexican and American Infospheres" using Otree to build a behavioral game

RA for Prof. Dan Posner | UCLA

06/2024 - 04/2025

- Lead research assistant on project "Measuring Intermarriage in Africa"
- · Extensive data cleaning and estimation on census, spatial, and survey data

Awards

• Highest Honors, UCLA Department of Political Science	2024
• The Stuart C. Waugh and Scott L. Waugh Endowed Scholarship,	2024
UCLA College Honors	
Keck Research Fellowship, UCLA Undergraduate Research Center	2023
• Rosalind W. Alcott Scholarship, UCLA College Honors	2023
Research Revealed, UCLA Undergraduate Research Center	2023

SKILLS

Languages: English, German (beginner)

Programming: R (advanced), Python (intermediate), GDScript (advanced), C++ (beginner)