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Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Minnesota, 2025 Expected.

Major Fields: American Politics & Political Methodology

Minor Field: Population Studies; Population Studies Trainee at Minnesota Population Center

Committee: Jane L. Sumner, Paul Goren, Andrew Karch, Josef Woldense

Dissertation: "Ghost of Industry Past: How Generations of Job Losses Influence Political Behavior"

M.A. Political Science, University of Minnesota, 2023.

M.S. Statistics, University of Minnesota, 2022.

Thesis: "The partyvoter Package: Simulating and Visualizing Ideological and Partisan Voting"

B.A. Mathematics and Environmental Studies, Wellesley College, 2015.

Publications

Straw, C. M., Principe, F. M., **Kurtz, E. L.**, Wiese-Bjornstal, D. M., & Horgan, B. P. (2020). Within-field variability of turfgrass surface properties and athlete performance: Modeling their relationship using GPS and GIS technologies. *Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part P: Journal of Sports Engineering and Technology*, 234(2), 170-175.

Godbole, A., Kelley, E., Kurtz, E., Prałat, P., & Zhang, Y. (2017). The total acquisition number of the randomly weighted path. *Discussiones Mathematicae Graph Theory*, 37(4), 919-934.

Papers Under Review

The partyvoter Package: Simulating and Visualizing Ideological and Partisan Voting (at the Journal of Statistical Software)

It's Time for More Time Series Clustering in Political Science (at Political Analysis)

Selected Working Papers

Race, Ethnicity, and Moral Values: On the Measure and Mismeasure of Moral Values in the American Public. Co-authored with Goren, P. & Barrett, C.

When Do We Give Companies a Pass to Destroy the Environment? Co-authored with Sumner, J. L.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

Claggett Fellowship, Summer 2021 & Summer 2024

University of Minnesota Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship, Summer 2021, Summer 2022, & Summer 2024

Ueland Fellowship, Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023, & Summer 2024

Minnesota Population Center Graduate Student Research Development Grant, Fall 2023

Ornstein Fellowship in American Politics, Summer 2023

Data Science for the Public Good Graduate Fellowship, Summer 2021

Bernard W. Lindgren Award for Excellence in Teaching, Spring 2018

Lynn Lin Fellowship for Statistical Consulting, Spring 2018

University of Minnesota Statistics PhD First Year Scholarship, Fall 2017

Conference Presentations

"A New Way to Quantify County-Level Deindustrialization in the United States," presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, 2024.

"Measuring County-Level Deindustrialization in the United States," presented at Polmeth 2024, Riverside, 2024.

"When do We Give Companies a Pass to Destroy the Environment?," presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, 2024.

"Cortisol and Obama-Trump Voting: The Link between Chronic Stress and 'Risky' Candidates," presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, 2023.

"Gray Code Distance 2 Graphs" presented at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, San Antonio, 2015.

Tools and Packages

partyvoter. 2022. https://marekjozsef.shinyapps.io/partyvoter/

Allows users to visualize spatial voting in multiple dimensions, in multiparty systems, and with varying party loyalty and political information among voters.

Teaching

Instructor of Record (UMN)

POL 3085: Quantitative Analysis in Political Science, Summer 2023

Lab Instructor (UMN)

POL 3085: Quantitative Analysis in Political Science, Spring 2024

STAT 3032: Regression and Correlated Data, Spring 2020

STAT 5032: Applied Regression Analysis, Fall 2019

STAT 4101/5101: Theory of Statistics I, Summer 2019

STAT 3701: Introduction to Statistical Computing, Fall 2018

STAT 3021: Introduction to Probability and Statistics, Spring 2018

STAT 3011: Introduction to Statistical Analysis, Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant (UMN)

POL 3321: Issues in American Public Policy, Spring 2022

POL 1001: American Democracy in a Changing World, Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant (Wellesley College)

QR 260: Applied Data Analysis and Statistical Inference, Summer 2015

MATH 116: Calculus II, Fall 2013

Student (UMN)

GRAD 8101: Teaching in Higher Education

Research

Minnesota Population Center (as Graduate Research Assistant):

Short Term Research Assistant, Summer 2022-Spring 2023.

Performed data analysis tasks for various PIs on projects related to population studies. Work for each project lasted 4 weeks, and tasks included collection, cleaning, automation of processes, statistical analysis, and data set creation for the IPUMS data base.

University of Virginia Biocomplexity Institute (as Graduate Student Fellow):

Data Science for the Public Good Graduate Student Fellow, Summer 2021-Spring 2022

Worked with teams of faculty and undergraduate students on two data science projects with benefits to the public. Studied occupations in the Skilled Technical Workforce and their benefits to economic mobility in the United States. Also studied the role data repositories play in data sharing and their benefits to the scientific community and society as a whole.

Institute for Research in Statistics and its Applications (as Graduate Research Assistant):

Graduate Research Consultant, Summer 2018-Spring 2019.

Aided student and faculty researchers on campus and in private organizations with the statistical components of their work. Employed classical statistics and machine learning techniques in R and Stata. Worked with teams in fields ranging from languages to earth sciences and medicine.

Service to the Department and University

Justice, UMN Council of Graduate Students (COGS), 2023-Present

Member, Department of Political Science Graduate Student Life Committee, 2023-2024

Co-organizer, UMN Minnesota Political Methods Colloquium, 2023-2024

Organizer, UMN American Politics Colloquium, 2021-2024

Graduate Student Mentor, UMN Department of Political Science, 2022-2023

Director of Internal Relations, UMN COGS, 2022-2023

Representative to the Board of Regents, UMN COGS, 2021-2022

Graduate Student Senator, UMN Senate, 2020-2022

Software and Programming Skills

R, LATEX, GitHub, Qualtrics, Shiny, Microsoft Office, ArcGIS Online, Stata

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Society for Political Methodology

Last updated: September 10, 2024