

## CONTACT

## Work

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 ☎ +1 (202) 962-1051

## Home

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## EMPLOYMENT

**WMATA**, Washington, DC (USA)

*Director.* Data Lab. Performance, Data, and Research.

[Jan. 2024–Present](#)

- (a) Founding director of a new organization at the intersection of data, research, and engineering, responsible for incorporating state-of-the-art research into the operations of the Authority. Supervised a \$1.5M budget, leading a team of 40 professionals including managers, researchers, engineers, and contractors working on cross-functional projects.
- (b) Designed and executed a work plan focused on data science, and social and policy research initiatives spanning safety and security, climate sustainability, asset maintenance, and fare and service provision.
- (c) Oversaw a long-term partnership with the MIT, and project-specific collaborations with transit agencies and academic departments. Established a Research Council to coordinate cross-departmental initiatives; developed strategic research themes and streamlined processes for research capture, management, and implementation.
- (d) Collaborated with IT leadership in the design of a cloud infrastructure for analytics and research. Fostered a data science community of practice for knowledge sharing.

**Pew Research Center**, Washington, DC (USA)

*Associate Director.* Data Labs. Methods & Innovation Unit.

[Feb. 2021–Jan. 2024](#)

- (a) Managed a team of researchers and engineers working in data science projects. Set technical and methodological standards and directed the modernization of the cloud infrastructure of the organization.
- (b) Updated the internal management processes including hiring, onboarding, performance evaluation, communication practices, and project management. Set up collaboration methods with data scientists embedded in other teams.
- (c) Worked with executive leadership to rewrite the strategic plan of the team. Redesigned the career progression of the data science and engineer professional families. Consolidated and updated the open-source, reproducibility, and data sensitivity policies. Led the development of a generative AI policy.

**Westat**, Rockville, MD (USA)

*Senior Data Science Manager (Principal Statistician).* Statistics Unit.

[Dec. 2020–Feb. 2021](#)

*Data Science Manager (Senior Statistician).* Statistics Unit.

[Jul. 2018–Dec. 2020](#)

*Senior Data Scientist (Senior Statistician).* Statistics Unit.

[Oct. 2015–Jul. 2018](#)

- (a) Built and led a data science practice to integrate machine learning and new data sources (text, images, audio, and video) into existing research processes. Served as principal consultant for data science and machine learning engineering.
- (b) Managed cross-functional R&D projects with applications to public health, education, clinical trials social policy, and public opinion. Collaborated in the design and writing of responses to grants and RFPs from local, state, and federal agencies as technical expert.

**YouGov**, Palo Alto, CA (USA)

*Statistical Scientist.* Scientific Research Group.

[Nov. 2014–Oct. 2015](#)

*Senior Analyst.* Scientific Research Group.

[Apr. 2013–Nov. 2014](#)

- (a) Developed and maintained the toolkit used for internal research operations. Built data pipelines for client-facing datamarts. Designed and led projects on experimental design.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Languages:** Python, JavaScript, Go  
Professional experience with full-stack development in Python. Design and implementation of synchronous and asynchronous microservices using Flask including front-ends in Vue.js. Proficient skilled with the data science stack for data engineering, machine learning, and scientific computing. (TensorFlow, transformers, numpy, scikit-learn, pandas/polars).

**Statistics:** R, Python, Stan/Jags, Stata  
Analysis of social and behavioral data (experimental and observational) using frequentist and Bayesian approaches using the R and Python stack. Expertise in statistical learning, choice modeling, longitudinal and survival analysis, and spatial statistics. Developer of R packages for scientific applications in S3 and S4

**Storage:** SQL (MariaDB, PostgreSQL, SQLite), Presto, MongoDB, Elasticsearch, Redis  
Experience in database design and ETL/ELT using raw SQL and Object Relational Mapping systems like SQLAlchemy.

**Development:** Amazon AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Prefect/Airflow  
Software development in Agile and Lean teams. Experience in CI/CD environments in AWS, GitLab, and GitHub and with cloud-native and on-premise architectures. Experienced in computational reproducibility and MLOps/DataOps.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, *New York University* 2013  
*Committee:* Adam Przeworski (chair), David Stasavage, Leonard Wantchekon

M.A. in Political Science, *New York University* 2009

M.A. in Social Sciences, *Juan March Institute*, Madrid 2005

M.A. in History, *University of Vigo*, Ourense 2004

B.A. in History, *University of Vigo*, Ourense 2002

## BOOKS

1. Jungherr, A.; **Rivero, G.** and Gayo-Avello, D. (2020) *Retooling Politics: How Digital Media are Shaping Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.  
*Reviews:* *International Journal of Press/Politics, Medien & Kommunikationswissenschaft*
2. **Rivero, G.** (2011) *Análisis de datos incompletos en Ciencias Sociales*. CIS, Madrid.  
*Reviews:* *Metodología de Encuestas*

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. Asensio, O.I.; Lan, T.; Moore, C.; Simsekler, M.C.E.; Ulibarri, N. and **Rivero, G.** (2024): "Data Technologies and Analytics for Policy and Governance: A Landscape Review." *Data & Policy*. Forthcoming.
2. Campione, J.R.; Nooney, J.G.; Kirkman, M.S.; Pfaff, E.; Mardon, S.; Benoit, S.R.; McKeever-Bullard, K.; Yang, D.H., **Rivero, G.**; Rolka, D. and Saydah, S. (2023): "Validated Models Using EHRs or Claims Data to Distinguish Diabetes Type among Adults." *Advances in Diabetes & Endocrinology*, 7 (1): 1-8.
3. Billington, C.; **Rivero, G.**; Jannett, A. and Chen, K. (2022): "A Machine Learning Model Helps Process Interviewer Comments in CAPI Instruments: A Case Study." *Field Methods*, 34 (4): 275-287.
4. Gallego, J.; **Rivero, G.** and Martínez-Gordillo, J.D. (2021): "Preventing Rather than Punishing: An Early Warning Model for Corruption in Public Procurement." *International Journal of Forecasting*, 37 (1): 360-377.
5. Suhay, E.; Klasnja, M. and **Rivero, G.** (2021): "Ideology of Affluence: Rich American's Explanations for Inequality and Redistributive Attitudes." *Journal of Politics*, 83 (1): 367-380.  
*Awards:* *APSA Best Paper Prize 2018. Class and Inequality Section.*
6. Nooney, J.; Kirkman, M. S.; Bullard, K. M.; White, Z.; Meadows, K.; Campione, J.; Mardon, R.; **Rivero, G.**; Benoit, S. R.; Pfaff, E.; Rolka, D. and Saydah, S. (2020): "Identifying Optimal Survey-Based Algorithms to Distinguish Diabetes Type among Adults with Diabetes." *Journal of Clinical and Translational Endocrinology*, 21: 100231.

7. Tourangeau, R.; Sun, H.; Yan, T.; Maitland, A.; **Rivero, G.** and Williams, D. (2018): "Web Surveys by Smartphones and Tablets: Effects on Data Quality." *Social Science Computer Review*. 36 (5): 542-556.
8. Tourangeau, R.; Maitland, A.; **Rivero, G.**; Sun, H.; Williams, D. and Yan, T. (2017): "Web Surveys by Smartphones and Tablets: Effects on Survey Responses." *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 81 (4): 896-929.
9. **Rivero, G.** (2017): "Preaching to the Choir. Ideology and Following Behavior in Social Media." *Contemporary Social Science*, 14 (1): 54-70.
10. Fernández-Vázquez, P.; Barberá, P. and **Rivero, G.** (2015): "Rooting Out Corruption or Rooting For Corruption? The Heterogeneous Electoral Consequences of Scandals." *Political Science Research and Methods*, 4 (2): 379-397  
[Media coverage:](#) *Pacific Standard, El País*
11. **Rivero, G.** (2015): "Heterogeneous Preferences in Multidimensional Voting Models: Ideology and Nationalism in Spain." *Electoral Studies*, 40: 136-145.
12. Przeworski, A.; **Rivero, G.** and Xi, T. (2015): "Elections as a Conflict Processing Mechanism." *European Journal of Political Economy*, 39: 235-248.
13. Barberá, P. and **Rivero, G.** (2015): "Understanding the Political Representativeness of Twitter Users," *Social Science Computer Review*, 33 (6): 712-729.  
[Media coverage:](#) *The Atlantic*

#### CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

1. Gayo-Avello, D.; Jungherr, A. and **Rivero, G.** (2023): "Social Media and Electoral Prediction: Ten Years After." In T. Yasseri (ed.): *Handbook of Computational Social Sciences*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
2. Riddles, J.; Burke, J.; **Rivero, G.** and Rust, K. (2017): Adjustments to Student Weights to Account for Student Nonresponse in the National Assessment of Educational Progress. *Proceedings of the Joint Statistical Meetings*. American Statistical Association: 561-570.
3. Barberá, P. and **Rivero, G.** (2012): ¿Un tweet, un voto? Desigualdad en el debate político en Twitter. In R. Cotarelo and I. Crespo (Ed.): *La comunicación política y las nuevas tecnologías*. Ed. Libros de la Catarata: 200-220.
4. Lapuente, V.; Fernández-Vázquez, P. and **Rivero, G.** (2011): Carencias en el control vertical y horizontal de la corrupción. In J. Estefanía (Ed.): *Informe sobre la Democracia en España, 2011*. Fundación Alternativas: 199-222.

#### REPORTS

1. Chapekis, A.; Bestvater, S.; Remy, E. and **Rivero, G.** (2024): When Online Content Disappears. *Pew Research Center*.  
[Media coverage:](#) *EuroNews, The Independent, Axios, The Week, The Verge, The Register, Library Journal, El País*
2. **Rivero, G.** and Muñoz, J. (2022): La metodología de les estimacions electorals del CEO. *Papers de Treball del Centre d'Estudis d'Opinió*.
3. Bestvater, S.; Shah, S.; **Rivero, G.** and Smith, A. (2022): Politics on Twitter: One-Third of Tweets From U.S. Adults Are Political. *Pew Research Center*.  
[Media coverage:](#) *AP, Washington Post, ABC News, CNN, NBC, The Hill, Washington Times, Tech Crunch, Engadget, Adweek*
4. McClain, C.; Widjaya, R.; **Rivero, G.** and Smith, A. (2021): The Behaviors and Attitudes of U.S. Adults on Twitter. *Pew Research Center*.  
[Media coverage:](#) *New York Times, CNN, Fox News, Axios, Politico, The Hill, The Star, Chicago Tribune, Protocol, Adweek, Daily Mail, Fast Company, Mashable*
5. Shah, S.; Widjaya, R.; Smith, A.; **Rivero, G.** and Chapekis, A. (2021): Charting Congress on Social Media in the 2016 and 2020 Elections. *Pew Research Center*.  
[Media coverage:](#) *Protocol, Adweek*
6. **Rivero, G.** and Fernández-Vázquez, P. (2011): Las consecuencias electorales de los escándalos de corrupción municipal, 2003-2007. *Estudios de Progreso*, 59.  
[Media coverage:](#) *El País, Expansión*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS	1. Remy, E. and <b>Rivero, G.</b> (2024): Reproducibility as part of code quality control. <i>Decoded, Pew Research Center.</i>	
	2. Broderick, B. and <b>Rivero, G.</b> (2023): How we adopted Kubernetes for our data science infrastructure. <i>Decoded, Pew Research Center.</i>	
	3. Castner, H. and <b>Rivero, G.</b> (2023): What Twitter users say versus what they do: Comparing survey responses with observed behaviors. <i>Decoded, Pew Research Center.</i>	
	4. Remy, E. and <b>Rivero, G.</b> (2023): How we review code at Pew Research Center. <i>Decoded, Pew Research Center.</i>	
	5. Guirola, L.M. and <b>Rivero, G.</b> (2022): Political polarization contaminates the link with both partisan and independent institutions: Evidence from 138 cabinet shifts. <i>Documentos de trabajo del Banco de España</i> , 2237.	
	6. <b>Rivero, G.</b> (2021): Democracia, evaluación y participación: los laboratorios de políticas públicas. <i>Strategic Metropolitan Plan of Barcelona.</i>	
	7. <b>Rivero, G.</b> and Chen, J. (2020): Good Coding Practices to Ensure Reproducibility. <i>Westat Issue Brief Series.</i>	
	8. <b>Rivero, G.</b> (2011): Integrality and separability in multidimensional voting models: Ideology and nationalism in Spanish regional elections. <i>Estudios/Working Papers of the CEACS</i> , 265.	
WORKING PAPERS	1. <b>Rivero, G.</b> ; Tourangeau, R.; Edwards, B. and Cook, T. (2020): “Adaptive Designs in Context: Combining Geographical Information and Paradata.”	
SOFTWARE	1. <b>escons</b> : An R package to estimate seat allocations using electoral surveys (commissioned)	
	2. <b>dshare</b> : An R package to estimate district shares using electoral surveys (commissioned)	
ADDITIONAL TRAINING	<i>Short courses</i>	
	R and Spark: Tools for Data Science Workflows. <i>NISS</i>	Sep. 2017
	Statistical Learning and Data Mining. <i>Trevor Hastie/Rob Tibshirani</i>	Oct. 2016
	<i>Long courses</i>	
	Quantitative Methods for Social Research. <i>ICPSR, University of Michigan</i>	June–Aug. 2005
	P.G.C. in Advanced Methods of Applied Statistics, <i>UNED</i>	2005
	P.G.C. in Celtic Studies, <i>Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo</i>	2003
	P.G.C. in Management of Cultural Heritage, <i>Laboratory of Archaeology–CSIC</i>	2003
	Research fellow ( <i>Doctor miembro</i> ). <i>Juan March Institute</i> , Madrid	2013–present
	Visiting Scholar. Institute for Economic Analysis, <i>CSIC</i> , Barcelona	2010–2011
GRANTS	Technical writer (data science) in responses to grants and other vehicles of procurement (RFI, RFP, RFQ) from local, state, and federal U.S. agencies. <i>Westat</i>	2015–2020
	<i>Digital Media and Politics</i> , €8,000. University of Konstanz. Andreas Jungherr (PI)	2017
	<i>Dictatorial Repression and Judicial Systems. The Determinants of Authoritarian Stability and Transitional Justice</i> , €30,000. Spanish Ministry of Science. Paloma Aguilar (PI)	2012–2015
	<i>Technologies of Rebellion and Violence during Civil War</i> , €12,000. Institut Català Internacional per la Pau. With Laia Balcells (PI)	2011
	<i>Disentangling the Origins and Consequences of Authoritarian Institutions</i> , €3,612. Juan March Institute. With Abel Escriba (Co-PI)	2010
FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS	Best Paper Prize. <i>Class and Inequality Section, APSA</i>	2018
	McCracken Fellowship, <i>New York University</i>	2007–2012
	Juan March Fellowship, <i>Juan March Institute</i>	2003–2007

	Research assistant scholarship, <i>U. de Santiago de Compostela</i>	June–Sept. 2003
	Xunta de Galicia graduate scholarship, <i>Xunta de Galicia</i>	2002–2003
	Special award to the best academic record, <i>Universidade de Vigo</i>	2002
	Research assistant scholarship, <i>Ministry of Education, Spain</i>	2001–2002
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<i>Workshops &amp; Summer Schools</i>	
	“Writing for Survey Researchers” (2 hours). <i>Universidad Complutense</i> , Madrid, Spain	Apr. 2023
	“Survey Statistics for Public Opinion Research” (4 hours). <i>40db</i>	Jan. 2020
	“Reproducibility in Quantitative Research” (8 hours). <i>Westat</i>	Sept.–Dec. 2019
	“Big Data for Social Research”	
	<i>Universidad Católica</i> , Montevideo, Uruguay (20 hours)	July 2019
	<i>Universidad del Rosario</i> , Bogotá, Colombia (40 hours)	June 2017
	“Advanced R” (6 hours). <i>Westat</i>	June 2016
	“Introduction to Statistical Programming in R” (6 hours). <i>Westat</i>	Feb. 2016
	“Incomplete Data Analysis in Surveys” (8 hours). <i>U. Autònoma de Barcelona</i>	Nov. 2010
	<i>New York University</i>	
	Power & Politics in America (Teaching assistant)	Sprint & Fall 2012
	International Politics (Teaching assistant)	Fall 2011
	Quantitative Methods for Political Science (Teaching assistant)	Fall 2008 & Spring 2009
INVITED TALKS	Universidad del Rosario (Colombia)	2018
	University of Durham, Universidad del Rosario (Colombia)	2017
	Trinity College of Dublin	2016
	TIGER (Toulouse School of Economics)	2014
	Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Spanish National Research Council	2012
	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	2011
ORGANIZED CONFERENCES	Contingent Disruption: Digital Media and Politics.	May 2018
	<i>Hosting institution:</i> University of Konstanz, <i>Konstanz</i>	
	<i>Committee:</i> D. Gayo-Avello, A. Jungherr, and <b>G. Rivero</b>	
	The Organization of Security and Justice System Institutions in Autocracies.	June 2015
	<i>Hosting institution:</i> Juan March Institute - Carlos III, <i>Madrid</i>	
	<i>Committee:</i> P. Aguilar, A. Escribà-Folch, J.A. Mayoral, J. Ríos Figueroa, and <b>G. Rivero</b>	
OUTREACH	<i>Mentions and interviews in media</i>	
	El País. “ <i>Políticos, periodistas y tuitstars: ¿qué grupo está más polarizado?</i> ” Dec. 25, 2020.	
	El Universal. “ <i>2020: ¿año de la redención de las encuestas en EU?</i> ” Sept. 6, 2020.	
	El Periódico. “ <i>“Patrullas ciudadanas virtuales”: la fina línea entre la colaboración vecinal y la alarma social.</i> ” Sept. 4, 2019.	
	La Voz de Galicia. “ <i>Lo que trasciende de los datos.</i> ” Dec. 30, 2016.	
	El Mundo. “ <i>El voto oculto de Donald Trump.</i> ” Oct. 27, 2016.	
	Univisión. “ <i>Por qué es muy improbable que fallen las encuestas como dice Trump.</i> ” Oct. 25, 2016.	
	Xataka. “ <i>¿Predice el big data sobre redes sociales mejor que las encuestas quiénes ganan las elecciones?</i> ” Dec. 15, 2015.	
	El País. “ <i>Rajoy y Rubalcaba empatan en la valoración de los usuarios de Twitter.</i> ” Sep. 26, 2011.	
	<i>Writings in media</i>	

Washington Post. *"Sanders and Bloomberg want to redistribute wealth. Most millionaires and billionaires don't."*, with Liz Suhay and Marko Klasnja. Feb. 17. 2020

Ahora. *"Cuando PP y PSOE perdieron a los jóvenes"*, with María Ramos. Jul. 8 2016.

El País. *"El éxito de las encuestas"*, with Kiko Llaneras. Mar. 30, 2015.

European Politics and Policy Blog, London School of Economics. *"Political discussions on Twitter during elections are dominated by those with extreme views"*, with Pablo Barberá. Dec. 13, 2014.

**CONFERENCES** *Political science:* APSA (2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022), MPSA (2010, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022), EPSA (2011, 2012), ECPR (2010), IPSA (2011, 2012), CES (2018), PaCSS (2022)

*Statistics and survey methods:* GASP (2018, 2019), FedCASIC (2018, 2019), BigSurv (2018), AAPOR (2017, 2018, 2019, 2022), ITSEW (2016), MOLS (2018), JSM (2017), ESRA (2019)

*Others:* ALICE (2011)

**SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP** *Editorial service*

Associate Editor, *Data & Policy* 2020–2022

#### *Referee*

*Journals:* Public Opinion Quarterly; British Journal of Political Science; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Political Communication; EPJ Data Science; Social Science Computer Review; International Journal of Press/Politics; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; Social Media & Society; Government and Opposition; European Political Science Review; Communication Research; Congress & the Presidency; Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology; Data & Policy; Armed Forces and Society; War in History; Dados; Spanish Journal of Political Science; Southern European Politics and Society; El Profesional de la Información; Revista Internacional de Sociología

*Book publishers:* Cambridge University Press

*Funding organizations:* Spanish National Agency for Evaluation and Prospective, Institute of Education Sciences

#### *Service in organizations*

Data for Policy (Area Committee for Data Technologies & Analytics) 2021–2022

Washington Statistical Society (Board of Directors) 2018–2020

AAPOR (Communications Committee) 2019–2020

#### *Mentorship*

Kaliaya Dews (Technologists for Public Good, 2025)

Jose Quiroz-Yanez (American Political Science Association, 2023)

Carolina Aragão (Pew Research Center, 2022–2023)

Shane Campbell (Washington Statistical Society, 2017–2018)

Ruodan Zhang (Midwest Political Science Association, 2017–2018)

#### *Professional memberships*

American Political Science Association (Political Methodology Section), American Statistical Association (Statistical Learning and Data Science Section), American Association for Public Opinion Research

#### *Expert panels and advisory roles*

Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Department of Justice, U.S.* 2018

MA in Computational Social Sciences, *Universidad Carlos III, Spain* 2021

Centre d'Estudis d'Opinió, *Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain* 2022

National Office of Foresight and Strategy, *Ministerio de la Presidencia, Spain*

2022

FIELDWORK  
EXPERIENCE

Archaeological excavation at Punta dos Prados hillfort (A Coruña, Spain)

Summer 2003

Archaeological excavation at Roman villa in Toralla (Pontevedra, Spain)

Summer 2002

Archaeological excavation at Rei Cintolo caves (Lugo, Spain)

Summer 2002

Archaeological excavation at Peñas do Castro hillfort (Ourense, Spain)

Summer 1999