May 2, 2024

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I write to express my interest in your call for an Teaching Assistant Professor in Political Methodology. I am a postdoctoral fellow in Advanced Statistical, Causal Inference, and Computational Methodologies in the Department of Political Science at McMaster University. I received my PhD from the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the supervision of Jake Bowers, Matt Winters, Gisela Sin, and Avital Livny.

Is study the application of tools from data science to improve research design in the social sciences. I apply these ideas to questions around the challenges to accountability, governance, and representation in the Global South.

I have experience teaching courses on quantitative methods, as well as substantive courses with a strong methodological focus. At McMaster, I teach data analysis for public policy and public opinion. This course is a blend of research design, statistical programming, and causal inference. At Tulane, I taught a seminar on evidence-informed policy to address social and political challenges in developing democracies. Both courses emphasize experimental and quasi-experimental designs for causal inference. At Illinois, I served as a teaching assistant for statistics courses at the undergraduate and PhD levels using a flipped classroom approach. I also served as a math camp instructor for incoming graduate students for three consecutive years. I also have experience teaching introduction to comparative politics in a hybrid format and an online course on the politics of developing countries.

My involvement beyond the classroom also complements my teaching and mentoring. My work as the methods editorial assistant for the *American Political Science Review* exposes me to cutting-edge methods in the field. As a PhD student at Illinois, I started a collaborative project in which graduate students introduced their peers to new methods and organized a reading group on computational social science methods.

These experiences have prepared me to teach to a diverse student body, to adapt to both online and in-person platforms, and to teach both the theory and application of quantitative methods.

I am prepared to teach courses on research design, statistics, statistical programming, causal inference, machine learning, big data, and data visualization. You can find copies of current and sample syllabi in my teaching portfolio.

I believe my expertise makes me an excellent fit at UNC. If you have any questions, you can contact me via email or phone.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Diaz
McMaster University