

Jack Reilly

Research Highlights: The Social Roots of Political Behavior

I. Where I started: research in social networks and political behavior

- A. Sparser networks slow down convergence in a well-known agent based computational model (*Presented: Santa Fe Institute, 2012*)
- B. Socially connected citizens participate in politics more but are not predictably more liberal or conservative (*Published: Research & Politics, 2017*)
- C. Common ego-centric network collection techniques risk missing important elements of social influence (*Co-authored, published: Political Behavior, 2018*)
- D. Citizens in ideologically homogenous political discussion networks forecast elections less accurately than those in more heterogenous networks (*Co-authored, published: Electoral Studies, 2020*)
- E. Common ego-centric network collection prompts are not interchangeable, contradicting prior research (*Co-authored with former undergraduate, published: Journal of Experimental Political Science, 2023*)

II. Current and former projects with students: social geography, turnout, and public opinion

- A. Rural resentment exists in Canada, and can be seen especially in attitudes around federal resource allocation (*Mollie Saumier*)
- B. Differential place attachment, especially in rural areas, yields interesting possibilities for understanding the rural-urban political divide (*Eugenia Quintanilla*)
- C. In Florida, voters who live further away from the polls do not necessarily vote less frequently than those who live closer (*Annika Kufrovich*)
- D. In Florida metros, citizens living near interstates are less likely to vote than those further away, consistent with the idea that interstates bifurcate communities and damage social capital (*Carlos Gonzalez*)
- E. A lack of agreement among scholars in the way that we measure rurality has led to a morass of conflicting results in the study of urban and rural politics (and we think we have a better solution) (*Jack Belk*)

III. Working with students: developing Data Science, Quantitative Social Science, and the Political Behavior Lab (PBL) at New College of Florida

- A. Data Science: a new graduate and undergraduate program focused on “big data” and computationally intensive analysis of massive data sets
- B. Quantitative Social Science: coordination of existing and new courses across technical social science and related data science courses. Pragmatic focus on computation, not just statistical analysis
- C. Political Behavior Lab: an undergraduate-focused research lab for students interested in careers in quantitative social science
 - 1. Pre-flight course design (two courses):
 - a) Meeting students where they are
 - b) Workshop heavy, pragmatic style instruction
 - 2. Lab onboarding and work: three levels
 - a) RA assignments
 - b) Student group data projects (the atlas)
 - c) Collaborative and guided papers
 - 3. Principles
 - a) Reproducible research with computational social science tools: LaTeX, R, git version control & GitHub, Stata
 - b) Collaboration and mutual support: *“PBL is like a family”*
 - c) Individual and collective feedback on projects

IV. Student research outcomes & successes

- A. 17 undergraduate students have given 29 presentations of collaborative or sponsored research at professional conferences (MPSA, SPSA, FPSA, others) since 2016; much of this work continues either individually by the student post-graduation or in collaboration with me
- B. Research success after graduation
 - 1. Six former students are current PhD students (Northwestern, Michigan, Cornell, UC Davis, Florida State, Georgia State); two more have been accepted and begin next year or the year after
 - 2. Several are at MA or MS programs in quantitative areas of study
 - 3. Others are data engineers, data analysts, GIS analysts, and business analysts