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 heterogeneous 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 interacts with Canada's electoral system differently than in the United States, with the distribution of voters and the drawing of districts yielding Liberal Party power, rather than Conservative Party power *(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