

Jonathan Kent

Feldblumenweg 7, Zürich, Switzerland

jonathanjkent@gmail.com | +41 77 278 29 12 | jonathanjkent.github.io

Education

Pompeu Fabra University

Barcelona, ES

PhD in Political & Social Sciences

Oct. 2018 – Nov. 2023

- Thesis: "Urban Fabric Designed for Diversity: How the Structure of Great European Cities Influences Attitudes and Behavior"
- Thesis received mark of *sobresaliente* (excellent)
- Advisors: Dr. John R.B. Palmer, Pompeu Fabra University; Dr. Frederic Bartumeus, Center for Advanced Studies, Blanes
- Defense Committee: Dr. Erin York Cornwell, Cornell University; Dr. Alexia Katsanidou, Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences; Dr. Carmen Cabrera-Arnau, University of Liverpool

Pompeu Fabra University

Barcelona, ES

Master in Current Democracies: Nationalism, Federalism & Multiculturalism

Oct. 2017 – June 2018

- Thesis: "Competing Conceptions of Equality in Diversity Management: Comparing Barcelona's Interculturalism and Boston's Critical Multiculturalism"
- Four-time recipient of *matrícula d'honor* recognizing achievement in course work (Fundamentals of Research; Qualitative Research Methods; Research on Diverse Democracies) and thesis

Northeastern University

Boston, MA, USA

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

Sept. 2003 – May 2008

- Minor in Sociology
- Internships with the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Boston City Council, and Boston Municipal Research Bureau

Experience

Since 2020 **Founder & Chief Data Scientist**, Niche Analytics, sports data and analytics organization
2023-2024 **Academic Guest**, Social Networks Lab, ETH Zürich (under Prof. Dr. Ulrik Brandes)
2020-2024 **Research Assistant**, Big Mosquito Bytes, Pompeu Fabra University (PI: Dr. John Palmer)
2019 **Teaching Assistant**, Research Methods for Global Studies, Pompeu Fabra University
2010-2017 **Director**, The Raben Group, political strategy and communications firm
2008 **Coordinator of Out-of-State Volunteers**, Obama for America
2008-2010 **Press Assistant**, Office of Rep. Peter Welch, United States House of Representatives

Publications

Published

Kent, J. (2024). Does urban design drive sympathy for the far right?. *City, Culture and Society*, 36, 100553.

Rodon, T. & **Kent, J.** (2023). Geographies of EU dissatisfaction: Does spatial segregation between natives and migrants erode the EU project?. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 1-18.

Kent, J. (2022). Can urban fabric encourage tolerance? Evidence that the structure of cities influences attitudes toward migrants in Europe. *Cities*, 121, 103494.

In Progress

"A Machine Learning Approach to Predicting Human Encounters with Tiger Mosquitoes in Europe"

"Improving the Gravity Model of Human Mobility with Land Use Data & Machine Learning"

"Beware the Two-Goal Lead: The Truth Behind the Most Dangerous Lead in Soccer"

Selected Projects

Predicting Human Encounters with Tiger Mosquitoes

Used machine learning to improve predictions of mosquito encounters. Project relied on non-random, non-representative data gathered by citizen scientist users of the Mosquito Alert app. To ensure accuracy of predictions, models controlled for sampling effort across geographic grid cells.

Tech stack: R, XGBoost, SF

Projecting Performance of Middle-Distance Runners

Freelance project scraped nearly 2,000,000 race results of NCAA track athletes in order to build dashboard of professional prospects and predict future performance. Tasks included sampling athletes based on multi-year competition structure.

Tech stack: R, Python, Selenium, Docker, Shiny

Studying Influence of Land Cover on Attitudes and Behaviors

Dissertation investigated how the distribution of land cover types in urban areas influences attitudes toward diversity and local human mobility. Built complex datasets from survey, mobility flow, and geo-spatial data, which was analyzed using Bayesian multilevel regression models or machine learning.

Tech stack: R, Stan (BRMS, RStanARM), SF, Leaflet, FlowmapBlue

Sports Data Journalism Websites

Founded websites that provide data visualizations and predictions for Catalan football and Korean baseball. Both projects involve web scraping, database management, statistical analysis, simulation, automation, and website maintenance.

Tech stack: R, Shiny, Hugo, Netlify, GitHub Actions, Selenium, Docker, Julia

Conferences & Workshops

Fall 2022. *Regional Inequality and Political Discontent in Europe Workshop*, Copenhagen, DK.

Presentation: "Geographies of EU (Dis)satisfaction"

Spring 2022. *European Consortium for Sociological Research Annual Conference*, Amsterdam, NL.

Poster: "Does Urban Design Drive Sympathy for the Far Right?"

Fall 2020. *BigSurv: Big Data Meets Survey Science Annual Conference*, Virtual.

Presentation: "Using Geo-located Tweets to Calibrate Citizen Science Sampling Effort"

Spring 2019. *Joint Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference*, Barcelona, ES.

Poster: "Can Urban Fabric Encourage Tolerance"

Peer Reviewer

European Journal of Political Research

International Social Science Journal

IEEE Pacific Visualization Symposium

UPF Annual Doctoral Workshop