# Jonathan Kent

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Interests		
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Urban geography, sociopolitical attitudes (toward far-right parties, diversity), human mobility, sports analytics

## 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 top 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 *matricula 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

## Professional Experience \_

#### Founder & Chief Data Scientist

Zürich, CH

Niche Analytics

Feb. 2020 - Present

- Founded organization that builds sports data and analytics tools to improve athlete performance, enhance scouting and projection, and enrich the knowledge and experience of supporters
- Uses R, Python, SQL and web scraping tools to build, automate and analyze databases of individual and team statistics
- Uses Shiny, Plotly, and web design/hosting platforms to present compelling data and visualizations
- Public projects include sports analytics websites Futstat.cat and KBOfancystats.com

Academic Guest Zürich, CH

ETH Zürich

Apr. 2023 - Apr. 2024

- Research stay with Prof. Dr. Ulrik Brandes and his soccer analytics research group
- Developed research agenda on comeback dynamics in soccer, including a pilot project which used survival analysis to quantify scoreline effect on goal concession

### **Research & Teaching Assistant**

Barcelona, ES

Pompeu Fabra University

Jan. 2019 - Apr. 2024

- Research assistant on "Community-Driven Big Data Intelligence to Fight Mosquito-Borne Disease" project funded by the La Caixa Bank Foundation
- Conducted doctoral research on how urban land use influences sociopolitical attitudes and mobility behaviors
- Contributed urban human mobility and machine learning research to Mosquito Alert project which predicts human encounters with mosquitoes based on citizen science data
- Research methods included Bayesian multilevel regression modelling, geo-spatial data analysis, and machine learning conducted primarily in R including SF, XGBoost, Stan and other tools
- Taught research methods course, and served in leadership position as student representative to the departmental academic commission

#### **Director & Strategy Consultant**

Washington, DC, USA

June 2010 - July 2017

The Raben Group

- Counseled leaders of NGOs, foundations, and major corporations to achieve long-term public policy goals through political activity, coalition building, and media campaigns
- Conducted large-scale assessments of the policy landscape at state and federal levels including interviews with political leaders and stakeholders
- Developed and executed strategic communications plans which included placing stories in major media outlets, hosting press conferences and, in one case, launching an annual film festival
- Orchestrated negotiations between advocates and policy makers in the White House, U.S. Congress, federal administration, and state governments

Press Assistant Washington, DC, USA

U.S. House of Representatives

May 2008 - June 2010

• Managed the social media, newsletter, and online presence of Rep. Peter Welch, along with other media relations and communications work

#### Coordinator of Out-of-State Volunteers

Philadelphia, PA, USA

Obama for America

Sept. 2008 - Nov. 2008

 Worked with a small team in Barack Obama's presidential campaign headquarters in Philadelphia to efficiently distribute volunteers throughout the state of Pennsylvania

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## **Programming Languages & Tools**

R, Python, Julia, SQL, Stan, Shiny, SF, Selenium, Hugo, CSS, HTML

#### **Technical Skills**

Data analysis (modelling, regression analysis, machine learning, geo-spatial data analysis), data visualization, database management, web scraping, web design

#### **Communications Skills**

Experienced ghostwriter and spokesperson for politicians and political stakeholders

#### Languages

English (native), German (basic), Catalan (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic)

## Academic 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"

# 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"

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Spring 2019 Research Methods Applied to Global Studies, Pompeu Fabra University

## Peer Reviewer \_\_\_\_

European Journal of Political Research International Social Science Journal IEEE Pacific Visualization Symposium UPF Annual Doctoral Workshop