

# Jonathan Kent

Researcher, Data Scientist, Progressive Advocate  
jonathanjkent.github.io

## Professional Experience

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### Postdoctoral Research Assistant

Zurich, Switzerland

University of Zurich, Department of Sociology

2024

- Conducted an audit of sampling methods and practices for the Swiss Job Market Monitor
- Presented recommendations to improve the quality and representativeness of a database of job advertisements, a skills shortage index, and a longitudinal survey of employers

### Academic Guest

Zurich, Switzerland

ETH Zurich, Social Networks Lab

2023 - 2024

- Research stay with Prof. Ulrik Brandes and his soccer analytics research group
- Expanded my data visualization and quantitative research skills while completing my dissertation
- Developed a research agenda on comeback dynamics in soccer, including a pilot project which used survival analysis to measure scoreline effects on goal concession

### Research Assistant

Barcelona, Spain

Pompeu Fabra University, Department of Political & Social Sciences

2020 - 2024

- Investigated the influence of urban design on the attitudes toward diversity of city residents and their regional mobility patterns
- Contributed urban human mobility and machine learning research to the "Mosquito Alert" project which predicts human encounters with mosquitoes based on citizen science data
- Conducted research as part of the "Community-Driven Big Data Intelligence to Fight Mosquito-Borne Disease" project
- Research methods included Bayesian multilevel regression modelling, geo-spatial data analysis, and machine learning; worked primarily in R including SF, XGBoost, Stan and other tools

### Teaching Assistant

Barcelona, Spain

Pompeu Fabra University, Department of Political & Social Sciences

2019

- Taught undergraduate "Research Methods Applied to Global Studies" course
- Designed seminar module in which students used mobility data from their own mobile phones to detect patterns in their seasonal usage of Barcelona's public spaces

### Director

New York, N.Y. & Washington, D.C.

The Raben Group

2010 - 2017

- Counseled leaders of non-profits and foundations 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
- Organized national convenings in Washington, DC, wherein advocates from across the country gather to meet with Members of Congress and attend strategy workshops

### Press Assistant

Washington, D.C.

Rep. Peter Welch, U.S. House of Representatives

2008 - 2010

- Managed the Congressman's social media, newsletter, and online presence, along with other media relations and communications work

### Coordinator of Out-of-State Volunteers

Philadelphia, Pa.

Obama for America, Pennsylvania Headquarters

2008

- Worked with a small team in Barack Obama's presidential campaign headquarters in Philadelphia to distribute volunteers throughout the state of Pennsylvania based on voter contact data

## Education

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### **Pompeu Fabra University**

Barcelona, Spain

PhD in Sociology & Demography

2023

- Dissertation: "Urban Fabric Designed for Diversity: How the Structure of Great European Cities Influences Attitudes and Behavior"

### **Pompeu Fabra University**

Barcelona, Spain

Master's in Political Theory

2018

- Thesis: "Competing Conceptions of Equality in Diversity Management: Comparing Barcelona's Interculturalism and Boston's Critical Multiculturalism"

### **Northeastern University**

Boston, Mass.

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

2008

- Internships with the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Massachusetts Legislature, Boston City Council, Boston Municipal Research Bureau, and Geographic Data Technologies

### **Hartford High School**

White River Jct., Vt.

High School Diploma

2003

- Policy Debate State Champion

## Other Projects

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### **Founder & Chief Data Scientist, Niche Analytics**

Since 2020

- 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 and Python 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 data journalism websites Futstat.cat and KBOfancystats.com

### **Communications Consulting, Freelance**

Since 2019

- Advises leaders of non-profit and other organizations on communications strategy
- Produces written and video content for traditional and social media campaigns and internal organization communications products
- Past and current clients include the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Galvan Foundation, and the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice

## Academic Publications

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

Rodon, T., & Kent, J. (2024). Geographies of EU dissatisfaction: Does spatial segregation between natives and migrants erode the EU project? *Journal of European Public Policy*, 31(6), 1675–1692.

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

*Forthcoming*: Kent, J. & Brandes, U. (2025). Beware the two-goal lead: The truth behind the most dangerous lead in soccer. Under review at *Chance*.

## Skills

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### **Programming Languages & Tools**

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

### **Technical Skills**

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

### **Languages**

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