

Jonathan Kent

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Professional Experience

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
- Developed a research agenda on comeback dynamics in soccer, and led a pilot project which used survival analysis to measure scoreline effects on goal concession
- Enhanced data visualization and computational social science skills while completing dissertation

Research Assistant

Barcelona, Spain

Pompeu Fabra University, Department of Political & Social Sciences

2020 - 2024

- Led quantitative research project on the influence of urban design and population dynamics on the attitudes of city residents toward diversity and equity
- Designed machine learning model of urban mobility for 788 metropolitan areas in Europe that enhances predictive accuracy and flexibility
- Worked to incorporate machine learning mobility models into "Mosquito Alert" project's prediction of human encounters with mosquitoes
- 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

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

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 fans
- 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

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

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)