Jonathan Kent

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Interests

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 *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

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*
The Raben Group   *June 2010 - July 2017*
- 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

Skills

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"

Teaching

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