

Jonathan Kent, PhD

Data Scientist

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jonathanjkent.github.io



I am passionate about drawing insights from data using Bayesian statistics and machine learning, and I enjoy exploring large, complex, and atypical datasets. Before getting a PhD in quantitative social science, I spent 10 years in Washington, DC and New York City advising political and business leaders on strategic communications. The skills from this stage of my career help me share sophisticated data science in an approachable and effective way—always emphasizing visualization.

Experience

Pompeu Fabra University

Barcelona, ES

Doctoral Researcher & Teaching Assistant

January 2019 - Present

- Uses machine learning and Bayesian multilevel regression modeling to investigate the influence of urban land use on a range of outcomes including attitudes, human mobility, and mosquito populations.

ETH Zürich

Zürich, CH

Academic Guest

April 2023 - Present

- Conducts research under Prof. Dr. Ulrik Brandes while deepening quantitative methodological skills. Current project uses survival analysis and hazard rates to investigate comeback dynamics in soccer.

The Raben Group

Washington, DC & New York, NY, USA

Political Strategy & Communications Consultant

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.

Obama for America

Philadelphia, PA, USA

Coordinator of Out-of-State Volunteers

October 2008 - November 2008

Office of U.S. Congressman Peter Welch

Washington, DC, USA

Press Assistant

May 2008 - June 2010

Education

Pompeu Fabra University

Barcelona, ES

PhD in Political & Social Sciences

October 2018 - November 2023

- Dissertation: "Urban Fabric Designed for Diversity: How the Structure of Great European Cities Influences Attitudes and Behavior" DOI:10803/690032

Pompeu Fabra University

Barcelona, ES

Master in Current Democracies: Nationalism, Federalism & Multiculturalism

October 2017 - June 2018

Northeastern University

Boston, MA, USA

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

September 2003 - May 2008

Academic Publications

Kent, J. (2024). Does urban design drive sympathy for the far right? *City, Culture and Society*, 36, 100553. DOI:10.1016/j.ccs.2023.100553

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. DOI:10.1080/13501763.2023.2271504

Kent, J. (2022). Can urban fabric encourage tolerance? Evidence that the structure of cities influences attitudes toward migrants in Europe. *Cities*, 121, 103494. DOI:10.1016/j.cities.2021.103494

Working Papers:

"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"

Personal Projects

Sports Analytics

- Founder, developer, and statistician for *Futstat.cat* and *KBOfancystats.com*, websites which provide advanced statistics, predictions, and data visualization for under-served soccer and baseball leagues.

Long-Distance Running

- Dedicated endurance athlete with a personal best in the marathon (42.2 km) of 3:13:40 and a goal of qualifying for the 2025 Boston Marathon by running under 3:05 in this year's Copenhagen Marathon.

Skills & Traits

- Talented and enthusiastic R programmer (statistical modeling, visualization, geo-spatial data, Shiny)
- Experienced in Python (machine learning) and Julia
- Native English speaker and learner of German, Catalan, and Spanish
- Excellent writer and editor
- Creative problem solver and critical thinker
- Fast and eager learner
- Passionate about improvement