

# Pablo Barberá

---

CONTACT INFORMATION	School of International Relations University of Southern California 3518 Trousdale Parkway, VKC 330 Los Angeles, CA 90089	<a href="mailto:pbarbera@usc.edu">pbarbera@usc.edu</a>  <a href="http://www.pablobarbera.com">www.pablobarbera.com</a>  <a href="https://twitter.com/p_barbera">@p_barbera</a>  <a href="https://github.com/pablobarbera">github.com/pablobarbera</a> 
ACADEMIC POSITIONS	<b>University of Southern California</b> Assistant Professor, School of International Relations, 2016–Present  <b>New York University</b> Moore-Sloan Fellow, Center for Data Science, 2015–2016	
EDUCATION	<b>New York University</b> Ph.D. in Political Science, May 2015 * Committee: Jonathan Nagler, Joshua A. Tucker, Patrick Egan, Neal Beck, Richard Bonneau * Lab: Social Media and Political Participation (SMAPP) laboratory  <b>European University Institute</b> Master of Research in Political Science, 2010  <b>Pompeu Fabra University</b> M.A. in Political and Social Sciences, 2009 B.A. in Political Science and Administration (with highest honors), 2008	
RESEARCH INTERESTS	<i>Methodological:</i> Computational Social Science, Social Network Analysis, Text as Data Methods, Bayesian Data Analysis, Ideal Point Estimation.  <i>Substantive:</i> Social Media and Elections, Comparative Electoral Behavior, Political Corruption and Accountability.	
PUBLICATIONS	<p>“<a href="#">Is the left-right scale a valid measure of ideology? Investigating the meaning of ‘left’ and ‘right’ and its impact on measurement</a>” (with Paul Bauer, Kathrin Ackermann and Aaron Venetz), <i>Political Behavior</i>, 2017, forthcoming.</p> <p>“<a href="#">A Bad Workman Blames His Tweets. The Consequences of Citizens’ Uncivil Twitter Use when Interacting with Party Candidates</a>” (with Yannis Theocaris, Sebastian Adrian Popa, Zoltan Fazekas, and Olivier Parinet), <i>Journal of Communication</i>, 2016, 66 (6): 1007-1031. * 2016 <a href="#">Best Information Technology &amp; Politics Conference Paper Award</a></p> <p>“<a href="#">Of echo chambers and contrarian clubs: Exposure to political disagreement among German and Italian users of Twitter</a>” (with Cristian Vaccari, Augusto Valeriani, Richard Bonneau, John Jost, Jonathan Nagler, and Joshua Tucker), <i>Social Media + Society</i>, 2016, 2 (3)</p> <p>“<a href="#">Local Elections in Spain: A Multilevel Analysis of the Individual and Contextual Determinants of Voting</a>” (with Pedro Riera, Raúl Gómez, Juan Antonio Mayoral and José Ramón Montero), <i>Revista de Estudios Políticos</i>, 2016, 172, 47–82.</p> <p>“<a href="#">Birds of the Same Feather Tweet Together. Bayesian Ideal Point Estimation Using Twitter Data</a>”. <i>Political Analysis</i>, 2015, 23 (1), 76–91. * 2015 <a href="#">Editors’ Choice article Award</a> for an article published in <i>Political Analysis</i> that represents a “especially significant contribution to political methodology.” * 2016 <a href="#">Best Information Technology &amp; Politics Article Award</a>, given for the best published article about information technology and politics in 2015. * 2016 <a href="#">Warren Miller Article Award</a>, given by the Society of Political Methodology for the best article published in <i>Political Analysis</i> in 2015.</p>	

[“Tweeting from Left to Right: Is Online Political Communication More Than an Echo Chamber?”](#) (with John T. Jost, Jonathan Nagler, Joshua Tucker and Richard Bonneau). *Psychological Science*, 2015, 26 (10), 1531–1542.

[“The Critical Periphery in the Growth of Social Protests”](#) (with Ning Wang, Richard Bonneau, John T. Jost, Jonathan Nagler, Joshua Tucker and Sandra González-Bailón). *PLOS ONE*, 2015, 10 (11).

[“Political Expression and Action on Social Media: Exploring the Relationship Between Lower- and Higher-Threshold Political Activities Among Twitter Users in Italy”](#) (with Cristian Vaccari, Augusto Valeriani, Richard Bonneau, John Jost, Jonathan Nagler, and Joshua Tucker). *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 2015, 20 (2), 221–239.

[“Rooting out corruption or rooting for corruption? The Heterogenous Electoral Consequences of Scandals”](#) (with Pablo Fernández-Vázquez and Gonzalo Rivero). *Political Science Research and Methods*, 2016, 4 (2), 379–397.

[“Understanding the political representativeness of Twitter users”](#) (with Gonzalo Rivero). *Social Science Computer Review*, 2015, 33 (6), 721–729.

[“Social Media and Political Communication. A survey of Twitter users during the 2013 Italian general election”](#) (with Cristian Vaccari, Augusto Valeriani, Richard Bonneau, John Jost, Jonathan Nagler, and Joshua Tucker). *Italian Political Science Review*, 2013, 43 (3), 381–410.

[“The Electoral Consequences of Corruption Scandals in Spain”](#) (with Pedro Riera, Raul Gómez, Juan Mayoral, and José Ramón Montero). *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 2013, 60 (5), 515–534.

[“Voting for Parties or for Candidates? The Trade-Off Between Party and Personal Representation in Spanish Regional and Local Elections”](#) *Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas*, 2010

BOOK  
CHAPTERS

[“Social Media, Personalisation of News Reporting, and Media Systems’ Polarisation in Europe”](#) (with Cristian Vaccari and Augusto Valeriani). 2017. *Social media and European politics: Rethinking power and legitimacy in the digital era*, edited by M. Barisione and A. Michailidou. Palgrave Macmillan (forthcoming)

[“The Trade-Off Between Reproducibility and Privacy in the Use of Social Media Data to Study Political Behavior”](#) 2017. *The Practice of Reproducible Research*, edited by Justin Kitzes. University of California Press (forthcoming).

[“Big Data, Social Media, and Protest: Foundations for a Research Agenda”](#) (with Joshua Tucker, Jonathan Nagler, Megan Metzger, Duncan Penfold-Brown, John Jost, and Richard Bonneau). 2016. *Computational Social Science. Discovery and Prediction*, edited by R. Michael Alvarez. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

WORK IN  
PROGRESS

[“The Empirical Determinants of Social Media Adoption by World Leaders and its Empirical Consequences”](#) (with Thomas Zeitzoff), *Conditionally Accepted at International Studies Quarterly*.

[“How Social Media Reduces Mass Political Polarization. Evidence from Germany, Spain, and the United States.”](#)

\* 2016 [Franklin L. Burdette/Pi Sigma Alpha Award](#) for Best Paper Presented at APSA 2015.

[“Less is More? How Demographic Sample Weights can Improve Public Opinion Estimates Based on Twitter Data.”](#)

[“Leaders or Followers? Measuring Political Responsiveness in the U.S. Congress Using Social Media Data”](#) (with Richard Bonneau, Patrick Egan, John T. Jost, Jonathan Nagler, and Joshua Tucker).

[“Methodological Challenges in Estimating Tone: Application to News Coverage of the U.S. Economy”](#) (with Amber Boydston, Suzanne Linn, Jonathan Nagler, and Ryan McMahon)

“Tracking the spread of misinformation on Twitter. Evidence from the 2016 U.S. election” (with David García)

“Automatic Extraction of Protest Crowd Size from Newspaper Stories” (with Sunandan Chakraborty)

“How world leaders use social media during contentious politics” (with Anita Gohdes and Thomas Zeitzoff)

#### GRANTS

*Paying Attention to Attention: Media Exposure and Opinion Formation in an Age of Information Overload*, 736,600€. Volkswagen Foundation. Co-principal investigator, with Simon Munzert, Andrew Guess, JungHwan Yang. 2017.

*Electoral Behavior in Spanish Local Elections: A Multilevel Approach*, 10,000€. Spanish Center for Sociological Research (CIS). Co-principal investigator, with José Ramón Montero, Pedro Riera, Raúl Gómez, and Juan A. Mayoral. 2011.

#### INTERNAL GRANTS

Center for International Studies, University of Southern California:

Faculty Research Grant, \$5,000. 2016

Research Assistantship Grant, \$22,000. 2017

Conference support, \$15,000. 2017

Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, University of Southern California:

Student Opportunities for Academic Research Program, \$3,000. 2016–2017.

#### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Warren Miller Prize, Society for Political Methodology, 2016.

Franklin L. Burdette/Pi Sigma Alpha Award, American Political Science Association, 2016.

“La Caixa” Fellowship for Graduate Studies in the U.S., 2010-2012.

“Salvador de Madariaga” Fellowship, European University Institute, 2009-2010.

2nd National Prize to Excellence in Academic Performance, 2008.

Pompeu Fabra University graduation prize for Exceptional Achievement, 2008.

#### INVITED TALKS

2017: Second Symposium on Computational Social Science (Chair of Systems Design, ETH Zürich), International Workshop on Social Media and Political Participation (SMaPP Global, NYU Abu Dhabi), Center for Public Diplomacy (University of Southern California), Workshop: Navigating bots, algorithms, echo chambers, and disinformation (State Department & Stanford University, scheduled), Methods Speaker Series (University of California San Diego, scheduled), Comparative Political Behavior Lecture Series (Humboldt University, scheduled).

2016: Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences (University of Washington), Department of Political Science (University of Copenhagen), International Political Communication Workshop (Université Laval), International Workshop on Social Media and Political Participation (SMaPP Global), Social Media, Methods, and Politics Seminar (Università degli studi di Milano), Text Analysis Conference (University of Amsterdam), Southern California Methods Workshop (University of California, San Diego), AI Seminar (Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California).

2015: Conference on Political Polarization: Media and Communication Influences (Princeton University, CSDP), Big Data and Political Science Conference (University of Mannheim), Digital Media, Networks, and Political Communication research group (Annenberg School of Communication, UPenn), Workshop on Online Politics (University College Dublin), Microsoft Research (MSR-NY), International Workshop on Social Media and Political Participation (SMaPP Global)

2014: Text as Data Workshop (Northwestern University), Department of Political Science (University of Rochester), Department of Political Science (Penn State), Department of Government (London School of Economics), Institute for Political Economy and Governance (Pompeu Fabra University), School of International Relations (University of Southern California).

2013: Text as Data Workshop (London School of Economics), QMSS Master's Program Speaker Series (Columbia University), Colloquium in Political Behavior (European University Institute)

#### SOFTWARE

[streamR package](#): Access to Twitter Streaming API via R. Available on CRAN.

[Rfacebook package](#): Access to Facebook API via R. Available on CRAN.

[instaR package](#): Access to Instagram API via R. Available on CRAN.

[smappR package](#): R tools for analysis of Twitter data. Internal R package used at the Social Media and Political Participation Lab at NYU.

#### TEACHING

##### *Instructor*

- Fall 2016: European Integration (IR 468)
- Fall 2016: Introduction to Data Analysis (IR 312)
- Spring 2017: Introduction to Regression Analysis (POIR 611)

##### *Workshops & Summer Schools*

- [Scraping Twitter & Web Data](#) and [Data Visualization with ggplot2](#) (4 hours) NYU Politics
- [Collecting and Analyzing Social Media Data with R](#) (2 hours) Introduction to Data Science, Georgetown University
- [Data Science and Social Science](#) (18 hours) Center for the Promotion of Research Involving Innovative Statistical Methodology (PRIISM), New York University. (Joint with Alex Hanna and Dan Cervone).
- [Automated Text Analysis with R](#) (6 hours) Quantitative Methods Working Group, European University Institute.
- [Social Media and Big Data Research](#) (12 hours) Barcelona Summer School in Survey Methodology, Pompeu Fabra University (scheduled).
- [Automated Collection of Web and Social Data](#) (15 hours) ECPR Summer School, Central European University (scheduled)
- [Big Data Analysis in the Social Sciences](#) (15 hours) ECPR Summer School, Central European University (scheduled)

##### *Project Advisor*

- Fall 2015: [Capstone Project in Data Science](#), MS in Data Science

##### *Teaching Assistant*

- January 2014 & 2015: [Social Media and Political Participation](#) (undergraduate), Joshua Tucker.
- Fall 2013: [Quantitative Methods III](#) (PhD), Neal Beck
- Fall 2012, Spring 2013: IR Senior Honors Seminar (undergraduate), Michael Gilligan

SERVICE AND  
MEMBERSHIP

*Editor:* SAGE Open, Special issue on "Social Media and Politics".

*Referee:* American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, The Journal of Politics (x3), Political Analysis (x3), Party Politics, Political Studies (x2), Political Science Research and Methods (x2), Research & Politics (x2) Policy and Internet, ICWSM, Public Opinion Quarterly, Political Communication (x5), Political Research Quarterly, Social Science Computer Review (x2), Economics & Politics, American Journal of Sociology, Psychological Science, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties (x2); Journal of Communication, Regional & Federal Studies, Kyklos, Wiley, South European Society and Politics, Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas, Revista Española de Ciencia Política, MIS Quarterly, Information, Communication, and Society.

*Member:* American Political Science Association (Political Methodology, Political Networks, and Information Technology & Politics sections), European Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association.

*Conferences:* chair (EPSA 2013, 2014, 2016; MPSA 2016), discussant (EPSA 2014, 2015; APSA 2015; MPSA 2016).

*Service in Committees:* European Political Science Association Conference Programme Committee (2014), Political Ties Award Committee (2016), SocInfo Program Committee (2016), ICWSM: International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media Program Committee (2017), APSA ITP section best paper award committee (2017).

*Member of dissertation committees:* Adam Badawy, Whitney Hua, Fridolin Linder (Penn State)

WRITINGS IN  
POPULAR MEDIA

"[Twitter trolls are actually hurting democracy](#)," with Yannis Theocharis, Zoltan Fazekas, and Sebastian Popa. Published in The Monkey Cage / Washington Post, 2016.

"[Why everyone in a network is important for movements – even the Slacktivists!](#)," with Sandra González-Bailón. Published in The Monkey Cage / Washington Post, 2015.

"[Who is the most conservative Republican candidate for president?](#)" Published in The Monkey Cage / Washington Post, 2015.

"[Political discussions on Twitter during elections are dominated by those with extreme views](#)," with Gonzalo Rivero. European Politics and Policy (EUROPP) Blog, London School of Economics.

"[Tweeting the Revolution: Social Media Use and the #Euromaidan Protests](#)," with Megan Metzger. Published on The Huffington Post, 2014.

"[How Ukrainian protestors are using Twitter and Facebook](#)," with Megan Metzger. Published in The Monkey Cage / Washington Post, 2014.

"[A Breakout Role for Twitter? The Role of Social Media in the Turkish Protests](#)," with Megan Metzger. Published in The Monkey Cage / Washington Post, 2013.

"[The Dynamics of Information Diffusion in the Turkish Protests](#)," with Sandra González-Bailón. Published in The Monkey Cage / Washington Post, 2013.

[tuitometro.es](#), Real-time tracking of the Spanish 2011 legislative election in Twitter using automated sentiment analysis, with Gonzalo Rivero (NYU). Featured in the major Spanish newspapers.

MENTIONS IN  
MEDIA OUTLETS

Vox, "[Fake news aside, Facebook can help puncture our political bubbles](#)," Dec 28, 2016.

El País, "[Así influye Facebook en tus opiniones. Las noticias falsas circulan más rápido en cámaras de eco](#)," Nov 27, 2016.

Los Angeles Times, "[Trump's Twitterfests are meant to further the culture wars that helped win him the presidency](#)," Nov 22, 2016.

The Economist, "[A new kind of weather](#)," Mar 26, 2016.

WIRED, [“Social media is making the debate on guns – and Trump – worse,”](#) Dec 16, 2015.

Quartz, [“Slacktivism is having a powerful real-world impact, new research shows,”](#) Dec 10, 2015

Vox, [“Changing your Facebook profile picture is doing more good than you might think,”](#) Dec 8, 2015

Pacific Standard, [“The Upside of Slacktivism,”](#) Dec 3, 2015

New York Times, [“Social Media Deepens Partisan Divides. But Not Always,”](#) Nov 20, 2014.

New York Times, [“Americans Don’t Live in Information Cocoons,”](#) Oct 24, 2014

Wall Street Journal, [“Study: Social Media Can Moderate Users’ Politics,”](#) Oct 21, 2014

Nieman Lab, [“This study finds that social media use reduces political polarization instead of increasing it,”](#) October 20, 2014

The Atlantic, [“These Charts Show How Crucial Twitter Is for the Turkey Protesters,”](#) Jun 12, 2013.

Foreign Policy, [“Is Facebook a town square or a shopping mall?,”](#) June 3, 2014.

**Last updated: March 8, 2017**