

MATTHEW CARSON

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: organized labor & social movements; urban sociology & policy; gentrification; political economy; incarceration & police violence; race/racism, nationalism & “groupism.”

Methods: historical; comparative; quantitative; causal inference with observational data; mixed methods.

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles June 2024

BA, Sociology (departmental honors) & Political Science (highest departmental honors)

College honors

Summa cum laude

Political Science Best Honors Thesis Prize

“The Policing of the ‘Reserve Army’: Economic Inequality and Police Killings.” <https://bit.ly/PolSciThesis>

Sociology Best Honors Thesis: Lisa Mederos Memorial Prize

“Construction Union Agreements: Union Organizing in Historical-Comparative Perspective.” <https://bit.ly/SocThesis>

Los Medanos College August 2022

AA, Sociology, With Honors

AA, Liberal Arts: Behavioral Science & Social Science, With Honors

Honors Scholar

The college’s highest distinction.

Diablo Valley College August 2022

AA, Political Science for Transfer, With Honors

United Association Local 342 JATC July 2013

Certificate in Plumbing (5-year apprenticeship)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

1st Place, 2024 StatCrunch Student Contest May 2024

Placed #1 in the StatCrunch statistics contest (\$1,000).

<https://bit.ly/StatCrunchWinners>

Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URSP) September 2023

Scholarship for senior thesis in sociology (\$6,000).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Harvard Sociology: History of Crime and Punishment** 7/2024–Present
Research Assistant for Professor Adaner Usmani
- The Center for Working Class Politics** 7/2024–Present
Research Assistant
- Undergraduate Research Experience, UCLA Political Science** Fall 2022
Assisted a graduate student with data collection for a political psychology experiment in the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics subdiscipline.
- Bay Honors Research Symposium** April 2020
Accepted to give a presentation about eminent domain and global warming; canceled because of COVID-19. (See the ‘Published Works’ section for the corresponding paper.)

PUBLISHED WORKS

- “Global Warming and the Takings Clause: Can Eminent Domain Be Used to Avert a Climate Crisis?” *ThinkYou?! https://bit.ly/CarsonThinkYou* 11/01/2023
- “Engines Out and Pickets Up to Stop Health Plan Downgrade by Cummins.” *Labor Notes* (with Keith Brower Brown and Ella Teevan). <https://bit.ly/EnginesOut> 6/21/2021

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Political Science 170A	Studies in Statistical Analysis of Political Data
Sociology 111	Social Networks (computational sociology)
Sociology 191H	Departmental Honors Seminar
Political Science 191H	Research Design Seminar for Honors Thesis

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Spoken/Written	Spanish (limited reading and speaking)
Programming	R**, Python*, Stata*, L ^A T _E X*
Version Control	Git*
Citation Management	Zotero***, BIB _T E _X *

*Working knowledge; **Intermediate; ***Intermediate-advanced.

EMPLOYMENT

UNITE HERE Local 11	4/2022–6/2022
<i>Election Canvasser</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>

- Canvassed door-to-door for the primary election.

UA Local 342	8/2007–1/2017
<i>Journeyman Plumber</i>	<i>Concord, CA</i>

- Plumbing system fabrication and installation.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Chris Tausanovitch (political science thesis advisor)	ctausanovitch@ucla.edu
Zsuzsa Berend (sociology thesis advisor)	berend@soc.ucla.edu
Adaner Usmani (sociology)	ausmani@fas.harvard.edu
Michelle Torres (political science)	smtorres@ucla.edu
Michael Tsiang (statistics)	mike@stat.ucla.edu