

Office 328
Albert Pick Hall for International Studies
5828 S University Ave
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL 60637

mollyow@uchicago.edu
(203) 909-8380

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021– Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago
2022– Faculty Affiliate, Department of Statistics, University of Chicago
2023– Faculty Affiliate, Political Economy PhD program, University of Chicago
2023– Faculty Member, Committee on Data Science, University of Chicago
2023– Core Faculty, Masters in Computational Social Science Program, University of Chicago
2024– Faculty Affiliate, Data Science Institute, University of Chicago
2019–2021 Post-doctoral fellow, Golub Capital Social Impact Lab, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University

EDUCATION

Yale University

2019 Ph.D., Political Science and Statistics & Data Science
2017 M.Phil., Political Science
2017 M.A., Statistics & Data Science

Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

2011 M.P.A., Economics and Public Policy

Grinnell College

2005 B.A., Anthropology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Erika Kirgios, Susan Athey, Angela L. Duckworth, Dean Karlan, Michael Luca, Katherine Milkman, and Molly Offer-Westort. Does Asking Questions Boost Engagement? Three Health Messaging Experiments in the US and Ghana. Forthcoming at *Management Science*.

Pre-print: https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w33294/w33294.pdf

Overview of Ghana component: <https://www.poverty-action.org/study/impact-quiz-style-information-campaign-covid-19-prevention-ghana>.

Pre-registrations: <https://aspredicted.org/xp8c-v66w.pdf>; <https://aspredicted.org/zrpp-9hqp.pdf>

Leah Rosenzweig and Molly Offer-Westort. Conversations with a concern-addressing chatbot increase COVID-19 vaccination intentions among social media users in Kenya and Nigeria. Forthcoming at *Journal of Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/735504>

Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/m4e6d/>

Austin Jang, Molly Offer-Westort, Serena Wang, and P. M. Aronow. (2024) Gnostic notes on temporal validity. *Research & Politics*, 11(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680241307942>

Molly Offer-Westort, Leah Rosenzweig, and Susan Athey (2024). Battling the Coronavirus ‘Info-demic’ Among Social Media Users in Kenya and Nigeria. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 8(5), 823–834.

Pre-print: <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2212.13638>

Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/m4e6d/>

Molly Offer-Westort, Alexander Coppock, and Donald P. Green (2021). Adaptive experimental design: Prospects and applications in political science. *American Journal of Political Science*, 65(4), 826–844. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12597> Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/6p7ry>

P. M. Aronow and Molly Offer-Westort (2017). Understanding Ding’s apparent paradox. *Statistical Science*, 32(3), 346–348. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26408292>

P. M. Aronow, Lauren Pinson, Molly Offer-Westort, and Ana C. Perez-Gea. (2017) Information and access to United Nations diplomatic missions: Results from a randomized field experiment. *Applied Economics Letters*, 24(9): 594–597. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2016.1213359>

Douglas Caulkins, Molly Offer-Westort, and Carol Trosset. (2005) Perceiving Ethnic Differences: Consensus Analysis and Personhood in Welsh-American Populations. *Human Complex Systems. Mathematical Anthropology and Cultural Theory*. Paper 1105DDC.

UNDER REVIEW

On the foundations of the design-based approach. With PM Aronow and Austin Jang. Pre-print: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.10519>

Experimentation for homogeneous policy change. With Drew Dimmery. Pre-print: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.12318>

Which frame fits? Policy learning with framing for climate change policy attitudes. With Will Gruen, Carter Herron, Kaden Hyatt; Max Buford, Kevin Davis, Diego Fonseca, Mushkie Gurevich, Tiffanie Huang, Rocio Jerez, Quinn Liu, Obi Obetta, Miguel Orellana, James Passmore, Jack Qiu, Julian Rapaport, Iñigo Sanchez-Asiain Domenech, Fernando Sandoval, Jose A. Tandoc, and Ravi Yalamanchili.

Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/2ztxe>

Project repository: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/ssi3-data-analysis>

Opportunities to govern: How to increase the supply of moderate and competent candidates. With Andrew Eggers, Anthony Fowler, and William Howell.
Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/ft8pq>

Canvassing with chatbots: personalized messaging using natural language processing to change attitudes. With Jiehan Liu, Nick Feamster, Nguyễn Phong Hoàng, Kartik Garg, and Sudhamshu Hosamane. Supported by the University of Chicago's Data & Democracy Initiative.
Pre-registration: osf.io/dtm4g
Project page: <https://datascience.uchicago.edu/research/facebook-messenger-chatbot-for-surveys-and-intervention-testing/>

WORKING PAPERS

Interpersonal discussion and coordination in political settings. With Isaac Mehlhaff and Nick Feamster.

Re-analysis of the Negative Income Tax experiments: Identification and estimation under differential attrition. With Austin Jang and P.M. Aronow.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

banditsCI R software. Developed with Yinghui Zhou and Ruohan Zhan. <https://uchicago-pol-methods.github.io/banditsCI/>

"Adaptive experimentation tutorial." With Vitor Hadad and Susan Athey. mollyow.shinyapps.io/adaptive/

"10 Things to Know About Adaptive Experimental Design." 2018. EGAP Methods Guides. With Donald P. Green.

With Joshua Graff Zivin, Victor Orozco, Harsha Thirumurthy, Cheikhou Sakho, Pape Diallo, Molly Offer-Westort. (2013) Social Mobilization and Peer-Mentoring to Encourage Voluntary Counseling and Testing and Post-Testing Behavior: A Randomized Experiment in Senegal. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*. 89:A390.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2025	Center for Statistics & the Social Sciences, University of Washington Social Media & Democratic Practice Conference, Hoover Institution Department of Econometrics, Monash University
2024	Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México Methods Workshop, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University Speaker Series Seminar, University of California - Los Angeles

2023	Latin American Political Methodology Meeting, Keynote Speaker, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco Methods Workshop, Department of Political Science, University of California - Berkeley Models, Experiments, and Data Workshop, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin - Madison Workshop on Quantitative Methods, University of Chicago Applied Statistics Workshop, Harvard University Riker Seminar Series, University of Rochester Department of Statistics, University of Chicago
2022	Workshop on Quantitative Methods, Yale University Statistics, Mathematics and Engineering Meeting, Netflix Quantitative Social Science Colloquium, Princeton University Formal and Quantitative Seminar, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Interdisciplinary Seminar in Social Science Methodology, University of Michigan, Keynote Speaker Workshop on Learning from Interventions, Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, University of California - Berkeley Applied Quantitative Methods workshop, Northwestern University
2021	Center for the Experimental Study of Politics and Psychology, Rutgers University
2020	Research Workshop on American Politics, University of California - Berkeley Washington University in St. Louis, Data Science Lab Causal Inference Group, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University
2019	Quantitative Methods Seminar, Department of Politics, New York University
2018	American Politics and Public Policy Workshop, Department of Political Science, Yale University Human Nature Lab, Yale University
2017	Experiments Workshop, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS and POSTERS

2025	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, Emory University
2024	Joint Statistical Meetings, Seattle Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
2023	Conference on Digital Experimentation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting, Phoenix European Survey Research Association, University of Milan-Bicocca Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, Stanford American Causal Inference Conference, Austin, poster Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science, New York University

2022	Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting, Indianapolis American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Montréal Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, St. Louis American Causal Inference Conference, University of California - Berkeley, poster Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
2021	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual
2020	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual
2019	Southern California Methods Conference, University of California - Riverside Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, Boston, poster Visions in Methodology, University of Georgia
2018	Conference on Experimental Political Science, Center for Experimental Social Science New York University, poster Conference on Digital Experimentation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston
2015	Atlantic Causal Inference Conference, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, poster

AWARDS, HONORS, and FELLOWSHIPS

2024–2026	Andrew Carnegie Fellow, Carnegie Corporation of New York
2016–2017	Graduate Policy Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale
2015–2016	Frazier Jelke Fellowship Fund in International Studies
2005	Mathematical Anthropology and Cultural Theory Journal Prize for best paper integrating ethnography and theory, with Douglas Caulkins and Carol Trosset.

GRANTS

2024–2026	Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Principal Investigator. \$200,000
2024–2027	National Science Foundation, Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics, Principal Investigator. \$349,993
2023	Data & Democracy Initiative, Principal Investigator with Nick Feamster. \$49,978 University of Chicago and the University of Vienna International Faculty Grants Programme with Drew Dimmery. \$2,620

2021–2022 Vaccine Confidence Fund, Principal Investigator, with Leah Rosenzweig.
\$127,716

2022 Data & Democracy Initiative, Principal Investigator with Nick Feamster.
\$14,877

SERVICE

Department and University Service: Member, Rising Stars in Data Science Planning Committee, Data Science Institute (2023); Mentor, Rising Stars in Data Science, Data Science Institute (2022, 2023); Member, Graduate Placement Committee, Political Science (2022–2024); Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Political Science (2021–2022); Member, Search Committee, Political Science (2021–2022; 2025–2026); Member, Social Science Computing Services Faculty Advisement Board (2022–2024); Member, SSD Liaison/Computational Social Scientist Search Committee, Research Computing Center (2023)

Disciplinary Service: Political Analysis Editorial Board (2024–); Society for Political Methodology Diversity Committee (2022, 2023, 2024); Society for Political Methodology Program Committee (2023); Midwest Political Science Association session organizer (2022)

Reviewer: American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Journal of Causal Inference, Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology, Political Analysis, Public Opinion Quarterly, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Review of Economic Studies, Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy, The Journal of Econometrics.

TEACHING

Advanced Topics in Causal Inference: Causal Inference and Machine Learning (PLSC 40601)
University of Chicago, Spring 2023, 2024
course website: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/plsc-40601-CI-ML>

Lab and Field Experiments in Comparative Politics and Policy (PLSC 48110/28110)
University of Chicago, Winter 2023, 2024
syllabus: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rP35xUjv5yG_30_kjvSFSWJbrn52myI_LdM4LQRM4iA/edit?usp=sharing

Introduction to Quantitative Social Science (PLSC 30500),
with Andy Eggers
University of Chicago, Fall 2021, 2022
course website: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/IntroQSS-F22>

Social Science Inquiry II (SOSC 13200)
University of Chicago, Winter 2022, 2023, 2024

course website: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/SOSC13200-W24>

Social Science Inquiry III (SOSC 13300)

University of Chicago, Spring 2024

course website: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/SOSC13300-W24>

Data-Driven Impact (ALP 301), Project Mentor

with Susan Athey and Niall Keleher

Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, Spring 2020

Introduction to R Workshop Series, Instructor

StatLab, Yale University, Spring 2019

Introduction to Stata Workshop, Instructor

StatLab, Yale University, February 2019

Introduction to R Workshop, Instructor

PolicyLab, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, November 2019

ACADEMIC ADVISING

PhD dissertation committee member

Austin Jang, Political Science Department, Yale University (current)

Siobhan Finnerty, Political Science Department, University of Chicago (current)

Jing Li, Political Science Department, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign (current)

Steven Boyd, Political Science Department, University of Chicago (current)

Zikai Li, Political Science Department, University of Chicago (current)

PhD dissertation committee, external jury member

Bertille Picard, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (2023)

Masters advising

Zikai Li, University of Chicago, M.S. in Statistics, thesis advisor;

Mikhaela Anderson, University of Chicago, M.A. Program in the Social Sciences, thesis advisor;

Xingyu Piao, University of Chicago, M.S. in Statistics, thesis advisor;

Xingyu Qu, University of Chicago, M.S. in Statistics, thesis advisor;

Sudhamshu Hosamane, University of Chicago, M.A. in Computational Social Science, thesis advisor (2023, currently PhD student in Information Science at Rutgers University);

Kentaro Nakamura, University of Chicago, M.S. in Statistics, thesis advisor (2023, currently PhD student at the Kennedy School, Harvard University);

Daniel Jones, University of Chicago, M.A. Committee on International Relations, thesis advisor (2023);

Kartik Garg, University of Chicago, M.S. in Data Analytics, advisor (2022)

RESEARCH POSITIONS AND ACADEMIC CONSULTING

- 2018–2019 Statistical Consultant, StatLab, Yale University Library
- 2018 Ph.D. Research Intern, Facebook, Core Data Science, Menlo Park
- 2016–2019 Manager, ISPS Behavioral Research Lab
- 2015–2016 Co-manager, ISPS Behavioral Research Lab
- 2016 Research Consultant, EGAP-USAID 2016 Impact Evaluation Clinic
- 2010–2011 Research Consultant, Center on International Cooperation, New York University
- 2010–2011 Research Consultant, Princeton University and Clinton-Bush Fund for Haiti
- 2009–2010 Research Consultant, Princeton University and Greater Donnelly Initiative

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 2011–2014 Office of Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, UN Secretary General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, Researcher
New York, NY
- 2013–2014 Freelance Data Analyst (USAID, Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services)
Mali, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, Mauritania, Niger
- 2011–2013 World Bank Development Impact Evaluation Initiative, Field Coordinator
Washington, DC and Dakar, Senegal
- 2007–2009 United States Peace Corps Madagascar
- 2005–2006 Grinnell Corps Lesotho

Version: July 15, 2025