# Molly Offer-Westort

mollyow.github.io

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# 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 'Infodemic' 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.

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, Nguyên 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**

"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, Univer-
	sity 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 Interence 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 Sci-
	ence
	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

2	2024-2026	Andrew Carnegie Fellow, Carnegie Corporation of New York
2	2016-2017	Graduate Policy Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale
2	2015-2016	Frazier Jelke Fellowship Fund in International Studies
2	2005	Mathematical Anthropology and Cultural Theory Journal Prize for best paper integrat-
		ing 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.

#### **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 Andersonn, 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

2005–2006 Grinnell Corps Lesotho

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

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