

Rachel Berwald

Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D., Political Science

Expected 2027

M.A., Political Science

2024

Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana

2019

B.A. Political Science–International Relations (Honors)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Misinformation and disinformation, political identity, Brazil, social media and WhatsApp, institutional trust, comparative political communication

WORKING PAPERS

The Power of Pre-existing Beliefs: Impacts of Misinformation on Public Trust in Brazil's 2022 Presidential Election

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

"Spotting Misinformation about LA Wildfires." (with Cesi Cruz). January 2025.

"Interventions to Counter Polarization: Lessons from the Global North and Applications to the Global South". (with Joshua Goetz, Dan Harker, Connor Warshauer, Sabrina Habchi, AP Turek, and Nikita Savin). *Evidence for Governance and Politics* (Berkeley, CA) September 2023.

"Cross-Party Program Approaches: An evidence review". (with Paige Rumelt, Anoushka Chandarana, and Mariz Younan_ *IRI* (Washington, D.C.) August 2022.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern California Political Behavior Conference, 2025
Communications Horizons at UC Davis, 2024
Brazilian Studies Association Annual Conference, 2024 (C)
WAPOR, Asia-Pacific Conference, 2023
EGAP Democracy, Conflict, & Polarization Meeting, 2023
American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2023
APSA Short Course on Public Opinion, Social Media, Misinformation, & Elections, 2023
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2023
Tulane University Honors Thesis Forum, 2019
Latin American and Latinx Studies Symposium at Rollins College, 2019
Tulane University Student Conference on Latin America, 2018

[Presenter unless noted otherwise: C = chair, D = discussant]

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Latin American Institute Summer Research Grant, UCLA, 2024 (\$2,000)
Institute for the Study of Hate Research Innovation Fund, UCLA, 2023 (\$99,855)
–With Cesi Cruz, Daniel Triesman, Nikita Savin, José Gloria, & Dan Harker
Political Psychology Fellowship for Conference Travel, UCLA, 2023 (\$273)
Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA, Academic Year 2023-24 (\$32,024)
Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UCLA, Summer 2023 (\$8,500)
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA, 2022 (\$6,000)
Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, Americorps, 2021 (\$12,190)
Newcomb College Institute Grant, Tulane University, 2019 (\$490)
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Brazil: Semifinalist, 2019

TEACHING

University of California, Los Angeles:
Political Violence, Teaching Assistant, W2025
World Politics, Teaching Assistant, W2023, S2023, F2024
Introduction to Programming and Data Management, Teaching Assistant, F2022

TRAINING

Summer School in International Survey Methods (Vanderbilt University)	2024
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SELECTED ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Comparative Ad Project (with Holli Semetko)	2023-2024
Research Assistant, Professor Cesi Cruz	Since 2022
Special Education Teacher, Teach KIPP Believe Primary School, Teach for America, New Orleans, Louisiana	2019-2021

International Research Experience:

• CET Study Abroad, São Paulo, Brazil	2023
• IFSA Butler, Buenos Aires, Argentina	2017
• Mandel-Palagye Program for Middle East Peace, Jerusalem, Israel	2017

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Department Office Assistant	2022-2024
Mentor to First Year Students	Since 2022

AFFILIATIONS

California Center for Population Research
Political Communication and Behavior Lab
Learning, Identities, Networks, and Communities Lab
Brazilian Studies Association
American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association

SKILLS

Languages: Spanish (advanced), Portuguese (intermediate)
Statistical Analysis: R, Latex
Teaching Tools: Canvas