

Rachel Berwald

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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

Political identity, Brazil, social media and WhatsApp, institutional trust, comparative political communication, misinformation

WORKING PAPERS

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

The Salience of Political Identity in Brazil

Correcting Misinformation, but Sustaining Conclusions: The Role of Emotional and Partisan Attachments in Narrative Persistence (with Seonhye Noh)

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

APSA Political Communication Pre-conference	2025
Southern California Political Behavior Conference	2025
Communications Horizons at UC Davis	2024
Brazilian Studies Association Annual Conference (C)	2024
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, and 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

Political Psychology Fellowship for Non-dissertation Work, UCLA (\$1000)	2025
-With Seonhye Noh	
International Institute Fieldwork Grant, UCLA (\$900)	2025
Bedari Kindness Institute Research Fellowship, UCLA (\$18,450)	2025
Latin American Institute Summer Research Grant, UCLA (\$2,000)	2024
Institute for the Study of Hate Research Innovation Fund, UCLA (\$99,855)	2023
-With Cesi Cruz, Daniel Triesman, Nikita Savin, José Gloria, & Dan Harker	
Political Psychology Fellowship for Conference Travel, UCLA (\$273)	2023
Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA (\$32,024)	2023-4
Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UCLA (\$8,500)	2023
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA (\$6,000)	2022
Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, AmeriCorps (\$12,190)	2021
Newcomb College Institute Grant, Tulane University (\$490)	2019
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Brazil: Semifinalist	2019

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, University of California, Los Angeles:

 World Politics (Summer Institute), Summer 2025

Teaching Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles:

 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Los Angeles:

 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2025

 Political Violence, Winter 2025

 World Politics, Winter 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2024

 Introduction to Programming and Data Management, Fall 2022

TRAINING

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (UCLA)	2025
Summer School in International Survey Methods (Vanderbilt University)	2024

SELECTED ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Advocate, FORCE	Since 2025
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
- IFSAs Butler, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2017
- Mandel-Palagye Program for Middle East Peace, Jerusalem, Israel 2017

SERVICE

Departmental Service	
Department Office Assistant	2022-2024
Mentor to first-year students	Since 2022

Reviewer: *International Journal of Public Opinion Research; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*

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: Portuguese (intermediate), Spanish (advanced),

Statistical Analysis: R, LaTeX

Teaching Tools: Canvas