

Theodoros Ntounias

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Education

University of California San Diego

2020-

PhD Political Science
San Diego, CA

University of Warwick

September 2020

M.Sc. Statistics with Distinction
Coventry, UK

Reed College

January 2018

B.A. Mathematics and Political Science (Interdisciplinary)
Portland, OR

National Technical University of Athens

Transferred June 2016

B.Eng. Electrical and Computer Engineering
Athens, GR

Focus

Democratic Backsliding • Fiscal Federalism • Sub-national Government •
European Politics • Promissory Democracy • Ranked Choice Voting

Ongoing Research

Recentralization as an Aspiring Autocrat Strategy When and how do aspiring autocrats use fiscal recentralization to serve their goal of executive aggrandizement, consolidation of support, and suppression of the opposition? (*dissertation work at UC San Diego*)

Voter Information and RCV, an experimental approach to examining how information seeking behaviour changes when voters are faced with ranked-choice voting, rather than traditional single-preference. (*R&R Election Law Journal*)

Globalization and Political Ambiguity, use of party manifesto text data to test whether political parties rely on strategic ambiguity during election campaigns to evade sanctioning by voters in future elections. (*with Christina J. Schneider and Robert Thompson*)

Past Projects

Quantifying Gerrymandering with MCMC Methods, a summary and quick application of the most current methods used to quantify gerrymandering in US States, based on Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulation. (*M.Sc. dissertation project*)

Leadership Activities

Chief Adjudicator

2014-

Several Debating Tournaments

- Chief Adjudicator of several schools and universities tournaments in Greece.
- On the Chief Adjudicator's Panel for the World Schools Debating Championship in **2019** and **2021**.
- For the above, helped train, test, and allocate a judging pool of over 150 judges.

Co-coach

2016-2019

Greek National Schools Debate Team, Athens, GR

- Trained five-member national debating delegation to compete in the World Championship.
- Placed in top twenty teams for three years running.

Teaching

Grader Introduction to Business Law • Analyzing Elections: Political Economy • The VRA 50 Years Later • Economic Theories and Political Behavior • Politics of Multiculturalism

Teaching Assistant/Section Leader UCSD Political Science Senior Honors Seminar • Introduction to Comparative Politics

Non-academic Speech and Debate teacher at the Hellenic-American Educational Foundation (2014-2021), multiple students reaching national finals.

Honors Awards

Outstanding Dissertation in Statistics (Postgraduate) Award, University of Warwick.

Invited to deliver a TEDx Talk on debating and community in Greece, TEDx Patras 2016.

World Debating Champion in the English as a Foreign Language category, WUDC Thessaloniki 2016.

Phi Beta Kappa

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association • European Political Science Association • Royal Statistical Society

Other Skills

Languages: Greek (Native), English (Fluent), French (Working Knowledge).
Software: LaTeX, R, Python, STATA, SQL, C++, Github.