

# Alexander (Alec) Tripp

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## Education

Vanderbilt University

MA in Political Science (Comparative Politics and Political Methodology) 2023

PhD in Political Science (Comparative Politics and Political Methodology) Expected May 2026

University of Tennessee

BA in Political Science 2020

## Articles

Tripp, Alexander. 2025. "[Benchmarking AI and Human Text Classifications in the Context of Newspaper Frames: A Multi-Label LLM Classification Approach](#)." *Research & Politics* 12(2).

Barnes, Jennifer, Emily Ritter, Sharece Thrower, Alexander Tripp, and Elizabeth Zechmeister. 2025. "[Pipeline Diversity via Career Diversity: Lessons from a Research Experience for Undergraduates Program](#)." *PS: Political Science & Politics*: 1-6.

## Articles in Progress

Tripp, Alexander. "[Issue Attention, Media Narratives, and Immigration Shocks: An LLM Classification Approach](#)." Under review at the *British Journal of Political Science*.

## Other Publications

Tripp, Alexander. 2023. "[Spotlight on Attitudes toward Venezuelan Immigrants](#)." In *Pulse of Democracy*. Lupu, Noam, Mariana Rodríguez, Carol J. Wilson, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Eds.) Nashville, TN: LAPOP. pp. 106-107

Corredor, Jessica, Julio Daly, Liliana Fernandez, Alexander Tripp, and Olivia Woldemikael. 2023. "[¿Por qué las personas migrantes eligen migrar de nuevo?: Un informe especial sobre la migración de personas Venezolanas en Colombia hacia los Estados Unidos](#)." *El Barómetro de Xenofobia*.

Tripp, Alexander. 2021. "[Spotlight on Key Drivers of Emigration](#)." In *Pulse of Democracy*. Lupu, Noam, Mariana Rodríguez, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Eds.) Nashville, TN: LAPOP. pp. 26-27

Tripp, Alexander. 2021. "[Spotlight on Intentions to Emigrate](#)." In *Pulse of Democracy*. Lupu, Noam, Mariana Rodríguez, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister (Eds.) Nashville, TN: LAPOP. pp. 24-25.

## Grants, Awards, and Certifications

2025. Vanderbilt Award for Doctoral Discovery (\$2400)

To extend my dissertation research with a pilot survey experiment and AI API research

2025. Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions Activity and Training Grant (\$1100)  
To develop a method reducing the false positive bias of large language models in text classification
2025. Travel Award for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (\$500)  
Paper presented: “Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion”
2025. American Association for Public Opinion Research Student Conference Award (\$800)  
Paper presented: “Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion”
2024. Top Secret Security Clearance with US Department of State, adjudicated 12/17/2024.
2024. Erwin C. Hargrove, Jr. Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant. Vanderbilt University.
2024. Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions Activity and Training Grant (\$6500)  
To run a survey experiment comparing the individual and combined influences of media narratives and personal interactions on immigration attitudes
2024. Travel Award for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (\$1000)  
Paper presented: “Media Narratives in Response to Immigration Crises”
2024. Vanderbilt Political Science Department Grant (\$2500)  
To run a pilot survey experiment and conduct AI text classification research
2024. Nominee and [Winner](#) of Vanderbilt Sesquicentennial Scholarship Celebration & Exhibition.  
Graduate school-wide research exhibition with the best 5-minute talk chosen—as assessed by panel of judges—as winner
2023. Vanderbilt Dissertation Enhancement Grant (\$2000)  
To implement focus groups exploring Colombians’ lived experiences with immigrants
2022. Vanderbilt Summer Research Award (\$5000)  
To conduct interviews and an online survey experiment in Colombia on immigration attitudes
2022. Vanderbilt Professionalization Grant (\$1000)  
To attend pre-conference workshops and immigration-related panels at APSA 2023
2022. LAPOP Field Research Grant (\$690)  
To interview scholars, NGOs, and public officials in Barranquilla, Colombia about immigration
2022. Vanderbilt Political Science Department Grant (\$950)  
To interview scholars, NGOs, and public officials in Barranquilla, Colombia about immigration
2022. Vanderbilt *Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies* Tinker Award (\$2500)  
To interview scholars, NGOs, and public officials in Barranquilla, Colombia about immigration
2020. *Phi Kappa Phi* Graduate Fellow (\$9000)  
For the enrichment of graduate studies

## **Presentations at Conferences**

2025. American Political Science Association Annual Conference (Vancouver, British Colombia, Canada)  
Paper presented: “Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion”

2025. UBC Centre for Migration Studies Mini-Conference: Narrative and Text Analysis in the Study of Migration and Citizenship: Challenges, Opportunities and New Findings (Vancouver, British Colombia, Canada)

Paper presented: “Issue Attention, Media Narratives, and Immigration Shocks: An LLM Classification Approach”

2025. Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (Atlanta, GA)

Paper presented: “Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion”

2025. American and World Associations for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR and WAPOR) Annual Conferences (St. Louis, MO)

Paper presented: “Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion”

2025. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (Chicago, IL)

Paper presented: “Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion”

2024. American Political Science Association Annual Conference (Philadelphia, PA)

Paper presented: “Media Narratives and the Life Cycle of Immigration Public Opinion”

2024. American Political Science Association Migration & Citizenship Dissertation Workshop (Philadelphia, PA)

Paper presented: “Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion”

2024. Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (Riverside, CA)

Paper presented: “Media Narratives in Response to Immigration Crises”

2024. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (Chicago, IL)

Paper presented: “Humanitarian Rallies as Responses to Immigration Crises” and “Stereotyped Subtypes: American Public Opinion on Refugees and Immigrants” (with Cindy Kam)

2024. Southern Workshop on Empirical Political Science (Nashville, TN)

Paper presented: “Media Narratives and the Life Cycle of Immigration Public Opinion”

2023. Atlanta Symposium on Political Science (Atlanta, GA)

Paper presented: “National Media Coverage and Public Opinion in Immigration Crises”

2022. The Public and Democracy in the Americas Conference (Antigua, Guatemala)

Paper presented: “Citizen Responses to Migration Frames: Humanitarianism in Modern Colombia”

## Research Experience

2023-2025. Leader of Research on Conflict and Collective Action (ROCCA) Team.

Led undergraduates in a series of collaborative research projects developing codebooks, classifying newspaper articles, and validating large language model classification abilities with respect to human coders

2023-2024. Research Assistant to LAPOP Lab (now the Center for Global Democracy)

Writing analytical reports for the 2023 *Pulse of Democracy*, coordinating the 2024 LAPOP Learning Summit on Integration, developing surveys Venezuelan diaspora integration attitudes, and contracting for an online survey experiment by the Inter-American Development Bank

2022-2024. Field research in Colombia

Conducted 3 original survey experiments, 20 interviews with journalists, academics, and policymakers, four focus groups, and three months of fieldwork across Colombian departments.

2021. Research Assistant to Dr. Cassy Dorff

Wrote literature meta-analyses of articles in network analysis and alternative political participation

2020. Research Assistant to Dr. Guillermo Toral

Created a horizontal accountability database describing 1) justice systems within Latin America and Latin Europe and 2) their past experiences with subnational corruption

## Teaching Experience

2024. Teaching Assistant (undergraduate level) to Dr. Georgiy Syunyaev: Conducting Political Research

2023. Certificate in College Teaching. Vanderbilt University.

2023-24. Instructor and Coordinator to Statistics Lab for Vanderbilt NSF Site: Summer Program in Accountability, Behavior, and Conflict in Democratic Politics (ABCD REU)

2023. Teaching Assistant (undergraduate level) and Trip Coordinator to Vanderbilt Maymester course: Migration, International Health, and Social Justice: Geneva, Amsterdam, Florence, and Rome

2023. Teaching Assistant to Dr. Jonathan Hiskey: Politics of Immigration in the Americas

2022. Teaching Assistant (graduate level) to Drs. Jennifer Larson and Brad Smith: Statistics I and Statistics III for Political Scientists, respectively

2022. Teaching Assistant (undergraduate-level) to Dr. Amanda Clayton: Introduction to Comparative Politics

## Research Skills

Advanced Skill in R, Python, Stata, Qualtrics, Microsoft Suite, Sample Design, and Survey Analysis

Intermediate Skill in Prompt Engineering, Generative AI, and Natural Language Processing

Advanced Proficiency in Spanish: Reading, Writing, and Speaking

## **Service**

2023-2025. Mentor to graduate students in Vanderbilt's Political Science PhD program

2024. Graduate Text Analysis Workshop at Vanderbilt University

2024. Organizer and Moderator for 2024 LAPOP Learning Summit on Migration and Integration.

2023-24. Mentor to undergraduate students in Vanderbilt's ABCD REU

2022-24. Co-President of Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association