Alexander Tripp

Behavioral Researcher | Survey Methodologist

☎ (+1) 865-318-3214 | ✉ alexander.j.tripp@vanderbilt.edu | ⌂ http://alectripp.com/ | ⚲ Nashville, TN, USA

Technical Skills

Programming and Tech	R (tidyverse, survey, weightit), Python, Stata, SQL, Qualtrics, LaTeX, Microsoft Suite (Excel Power Query)
Methodological Skills	Survey Design and Analysis, Experimental Research, Multilevel Modeling, Text Analysis, Data Visualization
Languages	Spanish (Advanced), Portuguese (Beginner)

Professional Experience

Independent Researcher, Vanderbilt University *2020-Present*

- For my dissertation work, I...
  - Organize and conduct focus groups and interviews, online and in-person, with Colombian citizens and government officials
  - Identify, download, clean, and merge disparate Colombian public opinion and administrative datasets (in Spanish) for my own analyses using R and the Microsoft Suite
  - Train and fine-tune large language models (such as ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini) in classification and sentiment analysis exercises, developing prompting strategies that minimize error
  - Learn to quickly and accurately implement a wide variety of statistical models so that I can pair the best suited model to the data at hand, ranging from simpler OLS models to more advanced multilevel or multinomial approaches

- For co-authored work, I...
  - Collaborate with established researchers to develop research strategy and analytical frameworks for long-term projects, planning data collection, analysis, and the write-up of results
  - Coordinate data collection and logistical efforts with contractors, efficiently communicating project intentions and measures to ensure work proceeds smoothly

Research Team Lead with ROCCA and CSDI Labs, Vanderbilt University *2023-Present*

- Led cross-functional research teams for the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI) and Research on Conflict and Collective Action (ROCCA) labs
  - Developed innovative sentiment analysis methods using open-ended survey questions in Qualtrics and an LLM classification framework in Claude and ChatGPT to improve public opinion modeling
  - Applied advanced modeling techniques in R (glmer and lme4 packages) to analyze individual and geographic predictors of public attitudes using publicly available survey data
  - Iteratively scraped relevant information from national newspapers in Germany, Poland, Colombia, Brazil, and the US, manually and with automated programs (R's rvest and Python's Selenium)
  - Classified sentiment of newspaper texts and survey open-ended responses into categories based on pre-defined codebooks

Research Associate with Center for Global Democracy (LAPOP), Vanderbilt University *2020-Present*

- Authored multiple reports in the 2021 and 2023 Pulse of Democracy, using OLS and multinomial regression analyses in Stata to determine what individual and societal trends predict intentions to emigrate in Latin America, what drives individual attitudes toward immigrants, and what the policy consequences of immigration are for sending communities, local governments, and affiliated industries
- Coordinated and moderated the 2024 Migration and Integration Learning Summit, inviting and hosting twelve top migration scholars in a series of panels for a day-long workshop aimed at improving the conceptualization and measurement of migrant integration
- Managed large-scale data collection using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and proprietary quality control and data validation protocols to ensure consistent, high-quality survey data for over 30,000 respondents across 22 Latin American countries

Course Instructor, Vanderbilt University *2022-Present*

- Coordinated programming, prepared materials, and taught statistics lab for Vanderbilt's Undergraduate Research NSF site
- Developed curriculum and led professional development workshop on text and sentiment analysis for behavioral researchers
- Taught graduate-level courses in Statistics for Social Scientists I and II, Causal Inference, and Conducting Political Research, lecturing, grading coursework, and leading weekly review meetings

Pathways Statistics Intern with Office of Opinion Research, US Department of State *2025*

- Designed, implemented, and analyzed foreign public opinion surveys for US consulates with a team of survey methodologists at the Bureau of Intelligence and Research
- Top Secret Security Clearance; Adjudicated Dec. 2024

Selected Publications and Presentations

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).

Tripp, Alexander. 2025. "Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion." Working paper.
- Analyzed the temporal and geographic predictors of municipal responses to immigration, leveraging over 25,000 survey responses and several data sources in a Multilevel Regression and Poststratification model

Tripp, Alexander with Boyoon Lee, Noam Lupu, and Elizabeth Zechmeister. 2025. "Integration and Emigration Dynamics within the Venezuelan Diaspora." Working paper.
- Investigated the predictors of Venezuelan integration and intentions to re-migrate in Colombia and Peru using a probabilistic survey of the hard-to-reach Venezuelan diaspora

Tripp, Alexander with Juliana Corredor, Julio Daly, Liliana Fernandez, and Olivia Woldemikael. 2023. "¿Por qué las personas migrantes eligen migrar de nuevo?" El Barómetro de Xenofobia.

Research presented at the following conferences:

Harvard University's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. 2025. "Integration and Emigration Dynamics within the Venezuelan Diaspora."

American and Midwest Political Science Associations; American and World Associations for Public Opinion Research. 2025. "Conditioned Contact: The Differential Impacts of Increasing Immigration on Local Public Opinion."

Society for Political Methodology. 2024. "Benchmarking AI and Human Text Classifications in the Context of Newspaper Frames."

Grants and Awards

Vanderbilt Award for Doctoral Discovery: $2,400	2025
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions Activity and Training Grant: $6,500	2024
Winner of Vanderbilt Sesquicentennial Scholarship Exhibition	2024
Vanderbilt Summer Research Award: $2,000	2022
Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellow: $9,000	2020
$10,000+ in other research grants, from Vanderbilt and external funders, for original behavioral and methodological research	2020-2025

Education

MA and PhD in Political Science (Political Methodology)- Vanderbilt University	*MA 2023; PhD Expected 2025*
Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Political Science- University of Tennessee	*May 2020*