

Dr. Spencer Kiesel

PhD Lecturer

Department of Political Science
University of California, Davis
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: American politics and policy, methodology, politics and religion, polarization

Methodological: Experimental design, applications of machine learning, predictive modelling

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of California, Davis

Faculty Lecturer

March 2023 - Present

EDUCATION

PhD, Political Science, University of California Davis

March 2023

DISSERTATION: *Identity: The Lens Through Which We See the World*

COMMITTEE: Bradford Jones, Cheryl Boudreau, Amber Boydston, Christopher Hare

Case Western Reserve University

May 2016

BA Political Science, *Cum Laude*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Spencer Kiesel., Amlani, S., & Butters, R. (2023). Polarization in COVID-19 Vaccine Discussion Networks. *American Politics Research*, 0(0).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X221148670>. (Original COVID-19 Survey Research).

INVITED TO REVISE AND RESUBMIT

Spencer Kiesel, “Non-religious Identity Salience for Candidate Choice: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment.” *American Politics Research*. (Original Survey Research).

UNDER REVIEW

Spencer Kiesel and Sharif Amlani. “Affective Polarization in a Word: Open-Ended and Self-Coded Evaluations of Partisan Affect” (Original Affective Polarization Survey Research).

Spencer Kiesel, Sharif Amlani, and Timea Balogh, “Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Affective Polarization: Limits of Partisan Bias in Dating, Housing, and Consumption”, (Original Affective Polarization Survey Research).

WORKING PAPERS

Spencer Kiesel, “Machine Learning and Ideal Point Estimation applied to the Nonreligious: The Case for Treating Nonreligious Americans as a Politically Relevant Group”.

Spencer Kiesel and Laurel Yacuta, “Religious versus Ethnic Identity and Group Violence Dynamics”, (Original International Survey Research).

Spencer Kiesel and Amber Boydston, “Can Sports Rivalries Save America: Experimental Examination of Competing Identities”, (Original Survey Research).

Spencer Kiesel and Ginger Alonso, “Vaccine Hesitancy: A young partisan’s game”

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

Sharif Amlani and Spencer Kiesel. “Analysis | [How Much Do Vaccinated Americans Dislike the Unvaccinated? We Measured.](#)” The Washington Post. The Monkey Cage, January 27, 2022.

Amlani, Sharif, Ross Butters, and Spencer Kiesel. “Analysis | [with Nearly 800,000 U.S. Covid Deaths, What’s Keeping People from Getting Vaccinated? Their Own Social Circles.](#)” The Washington Post. The Monkey Cage, December 14, 2021.

- Featured in The Washington Post: [Will Pfizer’s pill presage a return to normal?](#)

ORIGINAL SURVEYS AND DATASETS

UC Davis COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Survey Project – Nationally Representative Sample

UC Davis Partisan Affect Survey Project – Nationally Representative Sample

UC Davis Religion and Politics Survey Project – Nationally Representative Sample

UC Davis Identity and Violence Survey Project – India State Targeted Representative Sample

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

Reviewer for Political Behavior	2022 – Present
Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association	2019–2020
Elections Tsar for the Graduate Student Association	2019–2023
Graduate Student Peer Mentor, UC Davis	2019–2023
Panelist, Department of Political Science Incoming Student Panel	2019
Executive Planning Committee for Graduate TA Orientation, UC Davis	2021-2022
Panelist, Political Science Graduate TA Orientation, UC Davis	2021-2022

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
Western Political Science Association

COMPUTING SKILLS

R (machine learning, data management, data visualization, frequentist & Bayesian modeling)

STATA (data management, data visualization, frequentist & Bayesian modeling)

Qualtrics (Rigorous survey and experimental design experience)

Excel, MS Word

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Midwest Political Science Association 2019: Spencer Kiesel, “Non-religious Identity Salience for Candidate Choice: Implications for Representation and Findings from a Pilot Experiment.”

Midwest Political Science Association 2021: “Group Threat Dynamics and Religious Conversion in the Soviet Union” with Laurel Yacuta

Midwest Political Science Association 2021: “Pilot Study for Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Affective Polarization” with Sharif Amlani

Western Political Science Association 2022: “The Role of Social Networks in the Push for COVID-19 Vaccinations” with Sharif Amlani and Ross Butters

Midwest Political Science Association 2022: “Partisan Differences in Polarized Vaccination Networks” with Sharif Amlani and Ross Butters

Political Networks Conference (PolNet) 2022: “The Role of Social Networks in the Push for COVID-19 Vaccinations” with Sharif Amlani and Ross Butters

Midwest Political Science Association 2022: “Religious Identity and Group Violence Dynamics” with Laurel Yacuta

Midwest Political Science Association 2023: “Non-Religious Identity Salience for Candidate Choice”

American Political Science Association 2023: “Polarization in a Word: Open-Ended and Self-Coded Evaluations of Partisan Affect”

American Political Science Association 2023: “Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Polarization: Limits of Partisan Bias” with Timea Balogh

TEACHING

Faculty Lecturer, University of California, Davis

Spring Quarter 2023

POL 140: Comparative Legislatures
POL 174: Govt & the Economy

Summer Session 2023

POL 162: Public Opinion
POL 105: The Legislative Process

Fall Quarter 2023

POL 001 American Government
POL 105: The Legislative Process

Winter Quarter 2023

POL 104 CA State Government
POL 164 Public Opinion

Spring Quarter 2024

POL 02: Comparative Politics
POL 140: Comparative Legislatures

Associate Instructor, The University of California, Davis
Sole instructor of Record

Spring Quarter 2021
Summer Session 1 2021
Winter Quarter 2022
Winter Quarter 2023

POL 105: The Legislative Process
POL 105: The Legislative Process
POL 105: The Legislative Process
POL 02: Comparative Politics

Section Instructor at the University of California, Davis

Sole instructor for twice weekly sections

Spring Quarter 2022
Winter Quarter 2021
Fall Quarter 2020
Summer Session 1 2020

POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics
POL 01: American Government
POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics
POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics

Teaching Assistant at the University of California, Davis

Jan 2018 – Dec 2022

Spring Quarter 2022	POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics	Professor Bradford Jones
Winter Quarter 2021	POL 152: Constitutional Politics of Equality	Professor Mark Verbitsky
Winter Quarter 2021	POL 01: American Government	Professor Cheryl Boudreau
Fall Quarter 2020	POL 011A: America Decides	Lecturer Isaac Hale
Fall Quarter 2020	POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics	Professor Rachel Bernhard
Summer Session 2020	POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics	Professor Bradford Jones
Spring Quarter 2020	POL 124: The Politics of Global Inequality	Professor Daniel Kono
Winter Quarter 2020	POL 174: Government and the Economy	Professor Adrienne Hosek
Fall Quarter 2019	POL 123: International Organizations	Professor Lauren Peritz
Spring Quarter 2019	POL 122: International Law	Professor Brandon Kinne
Winter Quarter 2019	POL 165: Media and Politics	Professor Amber Boydstun
Fall Quarter 2018	POL 144B: Russian Politics	Professor Josephine Andrews
Spring Quarter 2018	POL 100: Local Government and Politics	Professor Scott MacKenzie
Winter Quarter 2018	POL 162: Elections and Voting Behavior	Professor Christopher Hare

REFERENCES

Bradford Jones
Professor
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Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Political Science
University of California, Davis
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Cheryl Boudreau
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Christopher Hare
Assistant Professor
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