

# Spencer Kiesel

## PhD Lecturer

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Department of Political Science  
University of California, Davis  
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Davis, CA 95616  
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Website: <https://www.spencerkiesel.com/>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Substantive: American politics and policy, methodology, politics and religion, polarization  
Methodological: Experimental design, applications of machine learning, predictive modelling

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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### University of California, Davis

Lecturer

March 2023 - Present

## EDUCATION

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### University of California Davis

March 2023

PhD, Political Science

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

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

MA, Political Science

### Case Western Reserve University

May 2016

BA Political Science

*Cum Laude*

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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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).

## **ACADEMIC PAPERS UNDER REVIEW**

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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).

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

## **WORKING PAPERS**

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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)

## **PAPERS IN PROGRESS**

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Spencer Kiesel, Christopher Hare, and Sharif Amlani, “Affect Across the Vaccine Divide: One-Word Characterizations of Vaccinated and Unvaccinated.” (Original COVID-19 Survey Research).

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

## **MEDIA PUBLICATIONS**

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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**

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

UC Davis Partisan Affect Survey Project – Nationally Representative Sample

## **RESEARCH ASSISTANCE**

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Research Assistant, Professor Elliot Posner	March 2016–2017
Research Assistant, Professor Lauren Young	August 2019–December 2019

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT**

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Reviewer for Political Behavior	2022 – Present
Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association	2019–2020
Elections Tsar for the Graduate Student Association	2019–Present
Graduate Student Peer Mentor, UC Davis	2019–Present
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

## **AWARDS**

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Graduate Research Award	2022
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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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

## **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE**

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MWH Global and Hawksley Consulting, Legislative Analyst Internship	June–August 2015
Case Western Reserve University Democrats, President	November 2014–May 2016
Case Western Reserve Democrats, Secretary	November 2013–November 2014

## **COMPUTING SKILLS**

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R (advanced, including data management, data visualization, frequentist & Bayesian modeling)

STATA (advanced, including data management, data visualization)

Qualtrics (Rigorous survey and experimental design experience)

Excel, MS Word

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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

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

Midwest Political Science Association 2021: “Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Affective Polarization: Limits and Methods for Reducing Partisan Bias in Dating, Housing, and Consumption” 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

## **TEACHING**

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### **Lecturer, University of California, Davis**

Spring Quarter 2023

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

### **Associate Instructor, The University of California, Davis**

*Sole instructor of Record*

Spring Quarter 2021

POL 105: The Legislative Process

Summer Session 1 2021

POL 105: The Legislative Process

Winter Quarter 2022

POL 105: The Legislative Process

Winter Quarter 2023

POL 02: Comparative Politics

## **Section Instructor at the University of California, Davis**

*Sole instructor for twice weekly sections*

Spring Quarter 2022	POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics	Professor Bradford Jones
Winter Quarter 2021	POL 01: American Government	Professor Chery Boudreau
Fall Quarter 2020	POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics	Professor Rachel Bernhard
Summer Session 1 2020	POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics	Professor Bradford Jones

## **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 Boydston
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

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Bradford Jones  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, Davis  
[bsjjones@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bsjjones@ucdavis.edu)

Cheryl Boudreau  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, Davis  
[clboudreau@ucdavis.edu](mailto:clboudreau@ucdavis.edu)

Amber Boydston  
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, Davis  
[aboydstun@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aboydstun@ucdavis.edu)

Christopher Hare  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, Davis  
[cdhare@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cdhare@ucdavis.edu)