

Dr. Spencer Kiesel

Assistant Professor

School of Public & International Affairs
University of Cincinnati
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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 Cincinnati

August 2026 – Present

University of California, Davis

Faculty Lecturer

March 2023 – 2026

Los Rios College

Adjunct Professor

August 2024 – 2025

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>.

Spencer Kiesel. (2024). Non-Religious Identity Salience for Candidate Choice. *American Politics Research*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X241230053>

Kiesel S, Amlani S (2025) Affective polarization in a word: Open-ended and self-coded evaluations of partisan affect. *PLoS ONE* 20(1): e0310772.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0310772>

Alonso, Ginger, and Spencer Kiesel. "Early generational and partisan divides in vaccine acceptance in USA during the COVID-19 pandemic." *Health Promotion International* 40, no. 6 (2025): daaf209. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daaf209>

Topal AB, Kiesel S. Leftward March from Church: Ideology Among Ex-Christian vs Lifelong Nonreligious Americans. *The Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. Published online 2026:1-27. <https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2025.10055>

UNDER REVIEW

Spencer Kiesel, Sharif Amlani, and Timea Balogh, "Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Affective Polarization: Limits of Partisan Bias in Dating, Housing, and Consumption"

Spencer Kiesel and Kayla Lunde, "The Party of a Future Nonreligious Majority: The Secular Religious Cleavages in the Democratic Party"

SELECT WORKING PAPERS

Spencer Kiesel and Daniel Simmons, "God in the Country: Religion and Political Behavior in Rural America"

Spencer Kiesel and Richard Kornrumpf, "Pews to Populism: Religiosity as a Predictor of Trump Support Among Latinos"

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

Reviewer for Religion and Politics 2025 – 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	2021-2023
Executive Planning Committee for Graduate TA Orientation, UC Davis	2021-2023
Panelist, Political Science Graduate TA Orientation, UC Davis	2021-2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Midwest 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 to 2025

Western Political Science Association 2022

Political Networks Conference (PolNet) 2022

American Political Science Association 2019 and 2023

TEACHING

Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati

Fall Semester to current

POL 1045: American Political Thought

Faculty Lecturer, University of California, Davis

Spring Quarter 2023

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

Summer Session 2023

POL 164: 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

Summer Session 2024

POL 001: American Government

Fall Quarter 2024

POL 171: Energy Politics
POL 147A: Western European

Winter Quarter 2025

POL 02: Comparative Politics
POL 140A: Comparative Elections

Spring Quarter 2025

POL 164: Public Opinion
POL 140: Comparative Legislatures

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

Winter Quarter 2021

POL 01: American Government

Fall Quarter 2020

POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics

Summer Session 1 2020

POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics

REFERENCES

Bradford Jones

Professor

Department of Political Science

University of California, Davis

bsjjones@ucdavis.edu

Amber Boydston

Professor and Chair

Department of Political Science

University of California, Davis

aboydstun@ucdavis.edu

Cheryl Boudreau

Professor

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Christopher Hare

Associate Professor

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