

Office 526
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021– Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago
2022– Faculty Affiliate, Department of Statistics, University of Chicago
2023– Faculty Affiliate, Political Economy PhD program, University of Chicago
2023– Faculty Member, Committee on Data Science, University of Chicago
2023– Core Faculty, Masters in Computational Social Science Program, University of Chicago
2024– Faculty Affiliate, Data Science Institute, University of Chicago
2019– 2021 Post-doctoral fellow, Golub Capital Social Impact Lab, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University

EDUCATION

Yale University

2019 Ph.D., Political Science and Statistics & Data Science
2017 M.Phil., Political Science
2017 M.A., Statistics & Data Science

Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

2011 M.P.A., Economics and Public Policy

Grinnell College

2005 B.A., Anthropology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Molly Offer-Westort, Leah Rosenzweig, and Susan Athey (Forthcoming). Battling the Coronavirus ‘Infodemic’ Among Social Media Users in Kenya and Nigeria. *Nature Human Behaviour*. Pre-print: <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2212.13638> Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/m4e6d/>

Molly Offer-Westort, Alexander Coppock, and Donald P. Green (2021). Adaptive experimental design: Prospects and applications in political science. *American Journal of Political Science*,

65(4), 826–844.

P. M. Aronow and Molly Offer-Westort (2017). Understanding Ding’s apparent paradox. *Statistical Science*, 32(3), 346–348.

P. M. Aronow, Lauren Pinson, Molly Offer-Westort, and Ana C. Perez-Gea. (2017) Information and access to United Nations diplomatic missions: Results from a randomized field experiment. *Applied Economics Letters*, 24(9): 594–597.

UNDER REVIEW

Gnostic notes on temporal validity. With Austin Jang and PM Aronow.

Conversations with a concern-addressing chatbot increase COVID-19 vaccination intentions among social media users in Kenya and Nigeria. With Leah Rosenzweig. Pre-print: <https://osf.io/mgyxu/> Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/m4e6d/>

Does Asking Questions Boost Engagement? Three Health Messaging Experiments in the US and Ghana. With Erika Kirgios, Susan Athey, Angela L. Duckworth, Dean Karlan, Michael Luca, Katherine Milkman, and Christopher Udry. Overview of Ghana component: <https://www.poverty-action.org/study/impact-quiz-style-information-campaign-covid-19-prevention-ghana>. Pre-registration currently anonymized while under peer review.

WORKING PAPERS

Canvassing with chatbots: personalized messaging using natural language processing to change attitudes. With Jiehan Liu, Nick Feamster, Nguyễn Phong Hoàng, Kartik Garg, and Sudhamshu Hosamane. Supported by the University of Chicago’s Data & Democracy Initiative. Pre-registration currently anonymized while in preparation. Project page: <https://datascience.uchicago.edu/research/facebook-messenger-chatbot-for-surveys-and-intervention-testing/>

Interpersonal discussion and coordination in political settings. With Isaac Mehlhaff and Nick Feamster.

Opportunities to govern: How to increase the supply of moderate and competent candidates. With Andrew Eggers, Anthony Fowler, and William Howell. Pre-registration: <https://osf.io/ft8pq>

Experimentation for homogeneous policy change. With Drew Dimmery. Pre-print: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.12318>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

On the foundations of the design-based approach. With PM Aronow and Austin Jang.

Re-analysis of the Negative Income Tax experiments: Identification and estimation under differ-

ential attrition. With Austin Jang and P.M. Aronow.

Writing pre-analysis plans for adaptive experiments.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Adaptive experimentation tutorial.” With Vitor Hadad and Susan Athey. mollyow.shinyapps.io/adaptive/

“10 Things to Know About Adaptive Experimental Design.” 2018. EGAP Methods Guides. With Donald P. Green.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Methods Workshop, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University
Speaker Series Seminar, University of California - Los Angeles
- 2023 Latin American Political Methodology Meeting, Keynote Speaker, Universidade
Federal de Pernambuco
Methods Workshop, Department of Political Science, University of California -
Berkeley
Models, Experiments, and Data Workshop, Department of Political Science, Univer-
sity of Wisconsin - Madison
Workshop on Quantitative Methods, University of Chicago
Applied Statistics Workshop, Harvard University
Riker Seminar Series, University of Rochester
Department of Statistics, University of Chicago
- 2022 Workshop on Quantitative Methods, Yale University
Statistics, Mathematics and Engineering Meeting, Netflix
Quantitative Social Science Colloquium, Princeton University
Formal and Quantitative Seminar, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Interdisciplinary Seminar in Social Science Methodology, University of Michigan,
Keynote Speaker
Workshop on Learning from Interventions, Simons Institute for the Theory of Com-
puting, University of California - Berkeley
Applied Quantitative Methods workshop, Northwestern University
- 2021 Center for the Experimental Study of Politics and Psychology, Rutgers University
- 2020 Research Workshop on American Politics, University of California - Berkeley
Washington University in St. Louis, Data Science Lab
Causal Inference Group, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University
- 2019 Quantitative Methods Seminar, Department of Politics, New York University
- 2018 American Politics and Public Policy Workshop, Department of Political Science, Yale
University
Human Nature Lab, Yale University
- 2017 Experiments Workshop, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS and POSTERS

- 2023 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2023 Conference on Digital Experimentation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston
- Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting, Phoenix
- European Survey Research Association, University of Milan-Bicocca
- Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, Stanford
- American Causal Inference Conference, Austin, poster
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
- Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science, New York University
- 2022 Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting, Indianapolis
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Montréal
- Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, St. Louis
- American Causal Inference Conference, University of California - Berkeley, poster
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2021 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual
- 2020 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual
- 2019 Southern California Methods Conference, University of California - Riverside
- Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, Boston, poster
- Visions in Methodology, University of Georgia
- 2018 Conference on Experimental Political Science, Center for Experimental Social Science
- New York University, poster
- Conference on Digital Experimentation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston
- 2015 Atlantic Causal Inference Conference, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, poster

AWARDS, HONORS, and FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016–2017 Graduate Policy Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale
- 2015–2016 Frazier Jelke Fellowship Fund in International Studies

SERVICE

Department and University Service: Member, Rising Stars in Data Science Planning Committee, Data Science Institute (2023); Mentor, Rising Stars in Data Science, Data Science Institute

(2022, 2023); Member, Graduate Placement Committee, Political Science (2022–2024); Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Political Science (2021–2022); Member, Methodology Search Committee, Political Science (2021–2022); Member, Social Science Computing Services Faculty Advisement Board (2022–); Member, SSD Liaison/Computational Social Scientist Search Committee, Research Computing Center (2023)

Disciplinary Service: Society for Political Methodology Diversity Committee (2022, 2023, 2024); Society for Political Methodology Program Committee (2023); Midwest Political Science Association session organizer (2022)

Reviewer: American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Journal of Causal Inference, Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology, Political Analysis, Review of Economic Studies, Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy, The Journal of Econometrics.

TEACHING

Advanced Topics in Causal Inference: Causal Inference and Machine Learning (PLSC 40601)
University of Chicago, Spring 2023, 2024
course website: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/plsc-40601-CI-ML>

Lab and Field Experiments in Comparative Politics and Policy (PLSC 48110/28110)
University of Chicago, Winter 2023, 2024
syllabus: <https://mollyow.page.link/48110>

Introduction to Quantitative Social Science (PLSC 30500),
with Andy Eggers
University of Chicago, Fall 2021, 2022
course website: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/IntroQSS-F22>

Social Science Inquiry II (SOSC 13200)
University of Chicago, Winter 2022, 2023, 2024
course website: <https://github.com/UChicago-pol-methods/SOSC13200-W23>

Social Science Inquiry III (SOSC 13300)
University of Chicago, Spring 2024

Data-Driven Impact (ALP 301), Project Mentor
with Susan Athey and Niall Keleher
Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, Spring 2020

Introduction to R Workshop Series, Instructor
StatLab, Yale University, Spring 2019

Introduction to Stata Workshop, Instructor
StatLab, Yale University, February 2019

Introduction to R Workshop, Instructor
PolicyLab, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, November 2019

ACADEMIC ADVISING

PhD dissertation committee member

Austin Jang, Political Science Department, Yale University (current)

PhD dissertation committee, external jury member

Bertille Picard, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (2023)

Masters advising

Xingyu Piao, University of Chicago, M.S. in Statistics, thesis advisor (current);

Xingyu Qu, University of Chicago, M.S. in Statistics, thesis advisor (current);

Sudhamshu Hosamane, University of Chicago, M.A. in Computational Social Science, thesis advisor (2023; currently PhD student in Information Science at Rutgers University);

Kentaro Nakamura, University of Chicago, M.S. in Statistics, thesis advisor (2023; currently PhD student at the Kennedy School, Harvard University);

Daniel Jones, University of Chicago, M.A. Committee on International Relations, thesis advisor (2023);

Kartik Garg, University of Chicago, M.S. in Data Analytics, advisor (2022)

GRANTS

2023	Data & Democracy Initiative, Principal Investigator with Nick Feamster, \$49,978 University of Chicago and the University of Vienna International Faculty Grants Programme with Drew Dimmery, \$2,620
2021–2022	Vaccine Confidence Fund, Principal Investigator, with Leah Rosenzweig, \$127,716
2022	Data & Democracy Initiative, Principal Investigator with Nick Feamster, \$14,877

RESEARCH POSITIONS AND ACADEMIC CONSULTING

2018–2019 Statistical Consultant, StatLab, Yale University Library

- 2018 Ph.D. Research Intern, Facebook, Core Data Science, Menlo Park
- 2016–2019 Manager, ISPS Behavioral Research Lab
- 2015–2016 Co-manager, ISPS Behavioral Research Lab
- 2016 Research Consultant, EGAP-USAID 2016 Impact Evaluation Clinic
- 2010–2011 Research Consultant, Center on International Cooperation, New York University
- 2010–2011 Research Consultant, Princeton University and Clinton-Bush Fund for Haiti
- 2009–2010 Research Consultant, Princeton University and Greater Donnelly Initiative

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 2011–2014 Office of Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, UN Secretary General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, Researcher
New York, NY
- 2013–2014 Freelance Data Analyst (USAID, Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services)
Mali, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, Mauritania, Niger
- 2011–2013 World Bank Development Impact Evaluation Initiative, Field Coordinator
Washington, DC and Dakar, Senegal
- 2007–2009 United States Peace Corps Madagascar
- 2005–2006 Grinnell Corps Lesotho

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