

Dr. Spencer Kiesel

Faculty 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

Los Rios College

Adjunct Professor

August 2024 – 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>.

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>

R&R at *Political Science Quarterly* Spencer Kiesel, Sharif Amlani, and Timea Balogh, “Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Affective Polarization: Limits of Partisan Bias in Dating, Housing, and Consumption”.

UNDER REVIEW

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

Spencer Kiesel and Ayşe Büşra Topal, “Leftward March From Church: Ideology Among Ex-Christian vs Lifelong Nonreligious Americans”

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: Christianity and Vote Choice in Rural America”

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

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	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
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 to 2024
Western Political Science Association 2022
Political Networks Conference (PolNet) 2022
American Political Science Association 2019 and 2023

TEACHING

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

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

REFERENCES

Bradford Jones

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University of California, Davis

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Amber Boydston

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