

Jonathan Bennett, Ph.D.

Research Specialist
University of Memphis
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Overview

Social scientist and analytics expert based in Memphis, Tennessee, devoted to the mission of combining high-level statistics, data mining, and the scientific method to construct and implement innovative research designs to answer questions that matter.

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Rochester, 2017.

Proud graduate of the “most rigorous, technical, and mathematical training program available within a department of political science anywhere in the world”

Dissertation: *Three Papers on Diplomacy*.

Committee: Randall Stone (chair), Scott Abramson, and Lawrence Rothenberg.

Fields: International relations, comparative politics, and political methodology.

M.A. Political Science, University of Rochester, 2015.

Thesis: “When Does the United States Care About Human Rights? Evidence from Wikileaks”

B.A. Economics, German, International Studies, and Political Science, University of Memphis, 2012.

Thesis: “Modernization and Sovereign Debt Crises: The Case of Greece”

Graduated *summa cum laude*.

Employment

University of Memphis, Research Specialist, July 2017 - present.

Statistical analyst and external evaluator in partnership with Delta Health Alliance. Lead analyst for several federally-funded and state-funded programs including the Mississippi Delta Medicaid Population Health Demonstration Project, Delta Futures Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, and several programs relating to the Indianola and Deer Creek Promise Communities. Implemented a battery of research designs including regression analysis, causal inference models (matching/regression discontinuity), multilevel modeling, power analysis, and economic projections.

Independent data science consultant, May 2017 - present.

Data science, statistical, and program evaluation consulting services.

University of Memphis, Adjunct Instructor, September 2018 - May 2018.

Developed and taught upper-level online course surveying international political economy.

University of Rochester, Research Assistant, 2013-2017.

Lead analyst and dataset developer relating to academic survey of firm and state determinants of foreign direct investment flows.

University of Rochester, Teaching Assistant, 2014-2016.

Teaching assistant for various undergraduate and graduate courses in political science.

Princeton Review of Tennessee, Tutor and Course Instructor, 2009-2012.

Senior tutor, course instructor, marketer, and recruiter for Memphis-based operations.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Scholar Intern, 2010.

Scholarly research relating to projects in trade policy and Czech studies.

Publications

Published

"The Politics of Euro Adoption in Slovenia and the Czech Republic", in the *Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics* 10.1 (2010), p.66-84.

Under Review

"Development of an Enhanced Patient-Centered Medical Home Diabetes Self-Management Intervention: A Study Protocol", with Janeane N. Anderson, Shenetta A. Drone, Ilana Graetz, and Karen C. Matthews. Under review at *BMC Health Services Research*.

"The Politics of Informational Diplomacy: Evidence from the Trafficking-in-Persons Report and Wikileaks." Under review at the *British Journal of Political Science*.

Working Papers

"The Power of Promise Neighborhoods to Promote Literacy Skills: Evidence from Indianola", corresponding author, with Peter Albrecht, Anna Church, Wesley James, Chris King, Karen Matthews, and Karin Scott.

"Disaggregating Determinants of Embassy Performance Using Machine Learning."

Teaching

As Course Instructor

Political Science 4510 (undergraduate), Politics and the Global Economy, University of Memphis, Spring 2018.

As Teaching Assistant

Political Science 244K (undergraduate), Politics and Markets, University of Rochester, Fall 2016.

Political Science 106 (undergraduate), Introduction to International Relations, University of Rochester, Fall 2015.

Political Science 480 (graduate), Scope of Political Science, University of Rochester, Spring 2015.

Political Science 101 (undergraduate), Introduction to Comparative Politics, University of Rochester, Fall 2014.

Selected Honors and Awards

Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies, 2016-17.

Ph.D. Scholarship, Institute for Humane Studies, 2015-16.

Visiting Dissertation Fellowship, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, 2015-16.

Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, 2013-15.

Marcus L. Urann Fellowship, Phi Kappa Phi, 2012-13.

Dean's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student, University of Memphis, 2012.

Selected Conference Presentations

Southern Political Science Association Conference, New Orleans, 2017.

Graduate Student Paper Workshop, Department of Economics, George Mason University, 2016.

Text as Data Conference (attendee), New York University, 2015.

Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2015.

Watson Seminar Series, Department of Political Science, University of Rochester, 2015.

Tennessee Political Science Association Conference, Tennessee State University, 2012.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Weber State University, 2012.

Skills

Statistical software: R, SQL, STATA, Excel. Some exposure to Python and BASH.

Analytical tools: Econometrics/biostatistics, machine learning, data manipulation, text as data.

Substantive areas: Population health, interstate diplomacy and bureaucracy, elementary education.