

Alexander M. Tahk

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
Assistant Professor of Political Science, August 2010–Present

Madison, Wisconsin

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2010

Palo Alto, California

Fields: Methodology, American Politics

Committee: Simon Jackman (chair), Jon A. Krosnick, John Ferejohn, Kevin Quinn

Dissertation: “Essays on the statistical analysis of roll-call votes and judicial citations.”

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
M.S. in Statistics, 2006

Palo Alto, California

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
S.B. in Mathematics, 2002
S.B. in Political Science, 2002

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Award for outstanding undergraduate thesis in political science.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ELLINGTON MANAGEMENT GROUP
Portfolio Management Associate, April 2007–January 2009

Old Greenwich, Connecticut

Developed and calibrated new statistical models of subprime mortgages and mortgage-backed securities. Programmed model estimation routines in C++ and Python. Analyzed data using R and SQL.

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“A Continuous-Time, Latent-Variable Model of Time-Series Data.” 2015. *Political Analysis* 23 (2): 278–298.

“Nominating Commissions, Judicial Retention, and Forward-Looking Behavior on State Supreme Courts: An Empirical Examination of Selection and Retention Methods” [with Ryan J. Owens, Patrick C. Wohlfarth, and Amanda C. Bryan]. 2015. *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 15 (2): 211–238.

“Prevalence and Moderators of the Candidate Name-Order Effect: Evidence from All Statewide General Elections in California” [with Josh Pasek, Daniel Schneider, Jon A. Krosnick, Eyal Ophir, and Claire Milligan]. 2014. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 78 (2): 416–439.

“What Can We Learn About the Ideology of the Newest Supreme Court Justices?” [with Stephen Jessee]. 2011. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44 (3): 524–529.

“Specification Issues in Assessing the Moderating Role of Issue Importance: A Comment on Grynaviski and Corrigan (2006)” [with Neil Malhotra]. 2011. *Political Analysis* 19 (3): 342–350.

“Determinants of Turnout and Candidate Choice in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election: Illuminating the Impact of Racial Prejudice and Other Considerations” [with Josh Pasek, Yphtach Lelkes, Jon A. Krosnick, Keith Payne, Omair Akhtar, and Trevor Tompson]. 2009. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 73 (5): 943–994.

“Institutions and Equilibrium in the United States Supreme Court” [with Robert Anderson]. 2007. *American Political Science Review* 101 (4): 811–825.

“Reconsidering the Impact of Behavior Prediction Questions on Illegal Drug Use: The Importance of Using Proper Analytical Methods” [with Daniel Schneider and Jon A. Krosnick]. 2007. *Social Influence* 2 (3): 178–196.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Impact of Policy Change Threat on Financial Contributions to Interest Groups” [with Joanne M. Miller, Jon A. Krosnick, Allyson Holbrook, and Laura Dionne]. 2016. In *Political Psychology: New Explorations*, ed. Jon A. Krosnick, I-Chant A. Chiang, and Tobias H. Stark. New York: Psychology Press.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

“Nonparametric Ideal-Point Estimation and Inference” (conditional acceptance at *Political Analysis*).

“Lower Court (Non)Compliance With Supreme Court Jurisprudential Regimes” [with Christopher Krewson and Ryan J. Owens] (revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Law and Courts*).

“Are Classic Psychological Findings Observed in Representative Samples of American Adults?” [with David Yeager, Jon A. Krosnick, Allyson Holbrook, and Penny Visser] (revise and resubmit at *Perspectives on Psychological Science*).

“Taking the Action Space Seriously: A Dirichlet-Process Ideal-Point Model.”

“Properties of Ideal-Point Estimators.”

“Evolution of Public Discourse” [with Jennifer Brookhart].

WORKING PAPERS

“What Roll-Call Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Ideology.”

“Tax-Embedded Programs and the Politics of Public Policy” [with Susannah Tahk].

“Do the News Media Shape How Americans Think About Politics? New Statistical Procedures Cast New Light on an Old Hypothesis” [with Jon A. Krosnick, Dean Lacy, and Laura Dionne].

“Nonparametric Estimation of Ideal Points using Locally Linear Embedding.”

“Examining the Quality of Supreme Court Opinions” [with Ryan J. Owens].

“Are Policy Makers Out of Step with Their Constituency When It Comes to Immigration?” [with Margaret Peters].

“Using Nominees’ Words to Determine Their Ideologies” [with Ryan J. Owens and Justin Wedeking].

“Categorizing Judicial Opinions using Citation Data.”

“The Optimal Length of Rating Scales to Maximize Reliability and Validity” [with Jon A. Krosnick].

OTHER RESEARCH

Conference on Ideal-Point Models [co-organized with Devin Caughey, Bret Hanlon, Stephen Jessee, Chris Warshaw, and Teppei Yamamoto].

Thematic Methodology Meeting held May 1–2, 2015.

<http://idealpoint.tahk.us/>

Supreme Court Ideology Project [with Stephen Jessee].

<http://sct.tahk.us/>

CARMAgeddon R package.

<http://monocar.tahk.us/>

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Introduction to Statistics in Political Science
Multivariate Statistical Inference
Maximum Likelihood Estimation for the Social Sciences
Game Theory and Political Analysis
Bayesian Statistics for Social Science Models
Introduction to the American Judicial System
The Judicial Process
Directed Reading on Bayesian Statistics
Directed Reading on Advanced Bayesian Statistics
Directed Reading on Latent Variable Models

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Math Camp for Political Science (two-week refresher for incoming graduate students)

ADVISING

PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES – DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Marc Ratkovic (Ph.D. 2011)

Placement: Princeton University

Nick Judge (Ph.D. 2013)

Placement: Revolution Analytics

Pär Jason Engle (Ph.D. 2015)

Placement: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Kyle Marquardt (Ph.D. 2015)

Placement: Research Fellow, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg

James Sieja (Ph.D. 2015)

Placement: St. Lawrence University

Ruoxi Li (Ph.D. 2015)

Placement: California State University San Marcos

Brad Jones (Ph.D. 2016)

Placement: Research Associate, Pew Research Center

Steven Wilson (Ph.D. 2016)

Placement: University of Nevada

Jennifer Brookhart (Ph.D. 2016)

Sarah Bouchat (ABD)

Placement: Northwestern University

Chris Krewson (ABD)

Zachary Barnett-Howell (ABD)

Alex Alduncin

PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES – DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

John Davis (Ph.D. 2016)

Placement: Civis Analytics

Mike Wurm (ABD)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND INVITED TALKS

Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology

Paper presented: 2016, 2011, 2010.

Poster presented: 2009, 2008, 2006, 2004.

Discussant: 2015, 2013.

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

Paper presented: 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2008.

Discussant: 2013, 2012, 2011.

Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association

Paper presented: 2015, 2012, 2007, 2006, 2005.

Discussant: 2011.

Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association

Paper presented: 2015, 2014, 2012.

Annual Meeting of the European Political Science Association

Paper presented: 2016.

Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research

Paper presented: 2007.

Latent Variable Modeling Week, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, 2016.

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Statistics, 2015.

Conference on Ideal-Point Models, 2016.

Political Methodology Research Seminar, Princeton University, 2013.

United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney, 2009.

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Political Science, 2009.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committee, Statistical Software Award, Society for Political Methodology.

Grant reviewer: National Science Foundation

Manuscript referee: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *American Politics Research*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*; *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of the American Statistical Association*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Public Choice*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*; *Political Analysis*; *Statistics and Public Policy*; Springer; Routledge

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Coordinator, American Politics Workshop.

Coordinator, Models and Data reading group.

Member, Graduate program committee.

Member, Preliminary examination appeals committee.

Member, Joel Dean Reading Room committee.

Member, Computer services committee.

Member, Publicity and website committee.