Kirk Bansak

University of California, Berkeley
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Academic Appointments

University of California, Berkeley
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2025 – Present.
Inaugural Faculty Director, Yardi Scholarship.
Member, Academic Senate Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE).
Placement Director, Department of Political Science.
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2022 – 2025.

University of California, San Diego
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019 – 2022.

Affiliations

Faculty Affiliate, Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative (BIMI), UC Berkeley.
Faculty Affiliate, Immigration Policy Lab (IPL), Stanford University and ETH Zurich.

Education

Stanford University
Ph.D., Political Science, 2019.
Research Areas: Political Methodology, Political Economy.
M.S., Statistics, 2017.

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University
M.A.L.D. (Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy), 2013.

Harvard University
A.B., Anthropology, 2009.
Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors in Field.
Foreign Language Citation: Chinese (Mandarin).

Peer-Reviewed Research

24. "Classifying Strategy Use in Multi-Attribute Subjective Choice: Application to Conjoint Experiments in Political Science," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 123, No. 40 (2026) (with N. Banavar).

23. "Dynamic Matching with Post-allocation Service and its Application to Refugee Resettlement," *Management Science* (2026, Accepted) (with S. Lee, V. Manshadi, R. Niazadeh, and E. Paulson).
Conference version appeared in *25th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC '24)*

22. "Odd Profiles in Conjoint Experimental Designs: Effects on Survey-Taking Attention and Behavior," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 33, No. 4 (2025) (with L. Jenke).

21. "Public Attitudes on Performance for Algorithmic and Human Decision-Makers," *PNAS Nexus*, Vol. 3, No. 12 (2024) (with E. Paulson).
Conference version appeared in *7th AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES '24)*

20. "Outcome-Driven Dynamic Refugee Assignment with Allocation Balancing," *Operations Research*, Vol. 72, No. 6 (2024) (with E. Paulson).
Conference version appeared in *23rd ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC '22)*

19. "Learning under Random Distributional Shifts," *Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS '24)*, PMLR Vol. 238 (2024) (with E. Paulson and D. Rothenhäusler).

18. "Europeans' Support for Refugees of Varying Background is Stable Over Time," *Nature*, Vol. 620, No. 7975 (2023) (with J. Hainmueller and D. Hangartner).

17. "How Membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Transforms Public Support for War," *PNAS Nexus*, Vol. 2, No. 7 (2023) (with M. Tomz and J. Weeks).

16. "Using Conjoint Experiments to Analyze Election Outcomes: The Essential Role of the Average Marginal Component Effect (AMCE)," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (2023) (with J. Hainmueller, D. Hopkins, and T. Yamamoto).

15. "Are Subnational Policymakers' Policy Preferences Nationalized? Evidence from Surveys of Township, Municipal, County, and State Officials," *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 48, No. 2 (2023) (with N. Lee and M. Landgrave).

14. "Why Austerity? The Mass Politics of a Contested Policy," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 115, No. 2 (2021) (with M. Bechtel and Y. Margalit).

13. "Combining Outcome-Based and Preference-Based Matching: A Constrained Priority Mechanism," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (2022) (with A. Acharya and J. Hainmueller).

12. "Estimating Causal Moderation Effects with Randomized Treatments and Non-Randomized Moderators," *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A*, Vol. 184, No. 1 (2021).

11. "Using Eye-Tracking to Understand Decision-Making in Conjoint Experiments," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (2021) (with L. Jenke, J. Hainmueller, and D. Hangartner).

10. "A Generalized Approach to Power Analysis for Local Average Treatment Effects," *Statistical Science*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (2020).

9. "Comparative Causal Mediation and Relaxing the Assumption of No Mediator-Outcome Confounding: An Application to International Law and Audience Costs," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (2020).

8. "Left-Right Ideology and the Debate over International Bailouts: The Case of Grexit" (with M. Bechtel, J. Hainmueller, and Y. Margalit), *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 82, No. 2 (2020).

7. "Beyond the Breaking Point? Survey Satisficing in Conjoint Experiments," *Political Science Research and Methods*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (2021) (with J. Hainmueller, D. Hopkins, and T. Yamamoto).

6. "Can Non-Experts Really Emulate Statistical Learning Methods? A Comment on 'The Accuracy, Fairness, and Limits of Predicting Recidivism'," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 27, No. 3 (2019).

5. "Improving Refugee Integration Through Data-Driven Algorithmic Assignment," *Science*, Vol. 359, No. 6373 (2018) (with J. Ferwerda, J. Hainmueller, A. Dillon, D. Hangartner, D. Lawrence, and J. Weinstein).

4. "The Number of Choice Tasks and Survey Satisficing in Conjoint Experiments," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (2018) (with J. Hainmueller, D. Hopkins, and T. Yamamoto).

3. "Europeans Support a Proportional Allocation of Asylum Seekers," *Nature Human Behaviour*, Vol. 1, No. 0133 (2017) (with J. Hainmueller and D. Hangartner).

2. "How Economic, Humanitarian, and Religious Concerns Shape European Attitudes Toward Asylum Seekers," *Science*, Vol. 354, No. 6309 (2016) (with J. Hainmueller and D. Hangartner).

Pre-PhD:

1. "Biodefense and Transparency: The Dual-Use Dilemma," *The Nonproliferation Review*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (2011).

Edited Volumes

0b. "Conjoint Survey Experiments," in *Advances in Experimental Political Science*, J. Druckman and D. Green (eds.), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021 (with J. Hainmueller, D. Hopkins, and T. Yamamoto).

Pre-PhD:

0a. "Governance of Emerging Dual-Use Technologies," in *Innovation, Dual Use, and Security: Managing the Risks of Emerging Biological and Chemical Technologies*, J. Tucker (ed.), Cambridge: MIT Press, 2012 (with J. Tucker).

Working Papers

"AI-based Matching Improves Refugee Employment in a Double-blind Randomized Trial" (with J. Hainmueller, D. Hangartner, J. Ferwerda, E. Paulson, A. Delevoye, N. Adams-Cohen, A. Ramaswami, S. Kurer, J. Pianzola, M. Hotard).

"Robustness of Refugee-Matching Gains to Off-Policy Evaluation Choices" (with E. Paulson, D. Rothenhäusler, J. Ferwerda, J. Hainmueller, M. Hotard).

"A Dual Perspective on Decision-Focused Learning: Scalable Training via Dual-Guided Surrogates" (with E. Paulson and P. Rodriguez-Diaz), *NeurIPS 2025 MLxOR Workshop*.

"CTRL Your Shift: Clustered Transfer Residual Learning for Many Small Datasets" (with G. Jain, D. Rothenhäusler, and E. Paulson).

"Effect Heterogeneity and the Challenges of Causal Attribution in Regression Discontinuity Designs" (with T. Nowacki).

"Algorithmic Decision-Making, Fairness, and the Distribution of Impact: Application to Refugee Matching in Sweden" (with L. Martén).

"A Client Oriented Approach to Leveraging Administrative Data with Application to Skilled Immigration Programs" (with J. Ferwerda, N. Adams-Cohen, J. Fei, D. Lawrence, J. Weinstein, and J. Hainmueller).

Statistical Software

"ccmEstimator: Comparative Causal Mediation Estimation," Comprehensive R Archive Network, (2021) (with X. Wu).

"powerLATE: Generalized Power Analysis for LATE," Comprehensive R Archive Network, (2020) (with E. Yang).

Research Grants

Research grant (Co-investigator), Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2021.
€237,806 (EUR)

Research grant (Co-investigator), Stanford Impact Labs, 2021.
$500,000 (USD)

Research grant (Co-investigator), Rockefeller Foundation, 2018.
$282,474 (USD)

Research grant (Co-investigator), Schmidt Sciences, 2018.
$265,000 (USD)

Research grant (Co-investigator), Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence Seed Grant, Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab and Graduate School of Business, 2018.
$49,028 (USD)

Research grant, Qualtrics Behavioral Research Grants, 2015.

Research grant, Stanford Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society, 2014.

Research grant, Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation, 2014.

Research grant, Dean's Discretionary Fund, Fletcher School, 2011.

Honors

Gosnell Prize for Excellence in Political Methodology, 2021. Awarded by the Society of Political Methodology for the best work in political methodology presented at any political science conference during the preceding year.

Facebook Ph.D. Fellowship (Computational Social Science), 2018, "designed to encourage and support promising doctoral students engaged in innovative and relevant research across computer science and engineering."

Centennial Teaching Assistant Award, Stanford, 2016, "recognizes outstanding teaching assistants for their tremendous service and dedication in providing excellent classroom instruction for Stanford students."

Computational Social Science Fellowship, IRiSS/CSS, Stanford, 2017, "designed to provide students with extra funds to conduct innovative research that applies computational techniques to social science research."

Immigration Policy Lab Collaborative Research Fellowship, Stanford, 2017.

Edmund A. Gullion Prize, Fletcher School, 2013, for graduating student who "best exemplifies high academic achievement."

DACOR Bacon House Foundation Fellowship, Fletcher School, 2012.

Roome International Fund Scholarship, Fletcher School, 2011 – 2013.

Ambassadors Walter and Leonore Annenberg Fellowship, Council of American Ambassadors, 2008.

Advising

PhD Students (*Dissertation Committee Member*)

Maya Lu, UC Berkeley (ongoing)

Chloe Prendergast, UC Berkeley (ongoing)

Sharik Laliwala, UC Berkeley (ongoing)

Adam Bouyamourn, UC Berkeley (graduated 2025)
– Postdoc in Politics, Statistics and Machine Learning, Princeton University

Eddie Yang, UCSD (graduated 2024)
– Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Purdue University

Undergraduate Students (*Research Advising*)

Carisma De Anda, UC Berkeley, *Senior Honors Thesis Advisee, 2025-2026*

Maya De Ganyar, UC Berkeley, *Senior Honors Thesis Advisee, 2025-2026*

Chris Lee, UC Berkeley, *Senior Honors Thesis Advisee, 2025-2026*

Iman Qureshi, UC Berkeley, *DeCal Program Advisee, 2024-2025*
– Recipient of the Departmental Citation in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in Political Science
– MSc Student, Applied Social Data Science, London School of Economics and Political Science

Mark Verzhbinsky, UC Berkeley, *Senior Honors Thesis Advisee, 2024-2025*
– Finalist for the Departmental Citation

Sandra Barcenas Fuerte, UC Berkeley, *Independent Research Study Advisee, 2023*
– PhD Student, University of Southern California

Ryusei Best Hayashi, UC Berkeley, *Independent Field Study Advisee, 2023*
– Founder and CEO, Reach Best

Alex Zhao, UCSD, *McNair Scholarship Advisee, 2021*
– PhD Student, UCSD

Maya Lu, UCSD, *Senior Honors Thesis Advisee, 2021-2022*
– Arend Lijphart Award for Best Overall Performance
– PhD Student, UC Berkeley

Anna Pelz, UCSD, *Senior Honors Thesis Advisee, 2021-2022*
– DeWitt Higgs Award for Most Outstanding Honors Thesis in Law and Public Policy
– PhD Student, UC Berkeley

Lynette Dang, UCSD, *Senior Honors Thesis Advisee, 2020-2021*
– Arend Lijphart Award for Best Overall Performance
– Senior Analyst, Global Brand and Market Analytics, Astellas Pharma

Service

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Business and Politics*, *Climatic Change*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Economic Journal*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *International Organization*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A*, *Nature*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Nature Machine Intelligence*, *Political Analysis*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Communication*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Psychological Science*, *Psychotherapy Research*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Research and Politics*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Science Advances*, *Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences*.

Member, Academic Senate Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE), UC Berkeley, 2026 –

Editorial Board Member, *Political Analysis*, 2025 –

Placement Director, Political Science Department, UC Berkeley, 2024 –

Inaugural Faculty Director, Yardi Scholarship, UC Berkeley, 2023 –

Methodology Subfield Coordinator, Political Science Department, UC Berkeley, 2025 – 2026.

Faculty Interviewer, Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship (Southern California interviews), UC Berkeley, 2024.

Academic Committee, Berkeley Changemaker Minor, UC Berkeley, 2023 – 2024.

Diversity Committee, Society for Political Methodology, 2022 – 2025.

Faculty search committee member, UC Berkeley, 2022 – 2023.

Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, UCSD Political Science Department, 2020 – 2022.

Faculty search committee member, UCSD (Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute), 2020.

Teaching assistant mentor (political methodology), Department of Political Science, Stanford, Sep. 2016 – June 2019.

Graduate liaison to Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS), Stanford, Sep. 2016 – June 2019.

Non-resident tutor (Quincy House), Harvard, Sep. 2011 – June 2013.