

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Ph.D., Political Science

American Politics (primary), Methods (secondary), Race & Ethnicity Politics (minor)

Training Status: Candidate

Advisors: Dan Thompson, PhD, & Lynn Vavreck, PhD

Fellowships: GSRM (2023), GRM (2023-24 & 2024-25), GSR (2024 & 2025)

Affiliations: [California Center for Population Research](#), [Practical Causal Inference Lab](#)

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

Master of Public Administration (Public Policy Focus/Accelerated Program), **May 2022**

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Political Science

Honors: 308 Grace Street Scholar

B.A., Political Science, *summa cum laude*, May 2022

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Political Science

Minors: Public Policy (Dept. of Political Science), Social Innovation & Leadership
(Honors College)

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, President’s List, Dean’s List, Political Science Faculty Award

FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Research Mentorship (GRM), UCLA Graduate Division, Fellowship for mentored research with Dr. Dan Thompson for full academic year (August 2024-June 2025)

Graduate Student Researcher (GSR), UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Research assistant with Dr. James Macinko for CDC funded research on firearm mortality (April 2024-Present)

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (GSRM), UCLA Graduate Division, Fellowship for mentored research with Dr. Lynn Vavreck for summer term (June-August 2023)

Graduate Research Mentorship (GRM), UCLA Graduate Division, Fellowship for mentored research with Dr. Lynn Vavreck and Dr. Dan Thompson for full academic year (August 2023-June 2024)

308 Grace Street Scholar, UA MPA Program, Fellowship for independent policy research (2022)

AWARDS

ISH Research Innovation Fund Recipient (Summer 2023). Grant awarded by the UCLA Initiative to Study Hate for research project: Hate-Inspired Mass Violence and Vicissitudes in Legislative Behavior and Governmental Responses.

Best Paper Award – UA Department of Political Science (Spring 2022). Award from the faculty of the UA Dept. of Political Science to the graduate or undergraduate student with the best individual research paper.

Distinguished Leader Award (Spring 2022). Awarded for outstanding student leadership and service by the UA Division of Student Life.

Will Byington Student Officer of the Year Award (Spring 2021) Awarded top honor for student organization officers for service as President of *Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault*.

Outstanding Sophomore (Spring 2020) University-wide award recognizing one sophomore for extraordinary contributions to the UA campus and Tuscaloosa community.

University of Alabama University Fellows Experience (8/2018–5/2022). One of 24 students recruited annually for four-year fully funded honors program at UA with curriculum focused on social justice and leadership.

Nominations: UCLA department nominee for National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program (4/2023). UA institutional nominee & State of Texas Finalist for Harry S. Truman Scholarship (4/2021). Faculty nominee for The Morris Lehman Mayer Premier Award at UA (4/2022). Faculty nominee for The William P. and Estan J. Bloom Premier Award at UA (4/2021).

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Papers

- Kappelman, J.** and Fording, R. (2021). “The Effect of State Gun Laws on Youth Suicide by Firearm: 1981-2017.” *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 51:368–377.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12713>.
- Kappelman, J.** (2021). “Just a Minor Infringement: How Florida’s Extreme Risk Protection Order Applies to At-Risk Youth and Other Household Members.” *Law and Psychology Review*. The University of Alabama School of Law, 45th Edition. ISSN 0098-5961.

Working Papers

- Kappelman, J.** (2025) “Do People Change Private Behaviors in Response to Elections? Evidence from Administrative Data” Forthcoming.
- Chen, H. & **Kappelman, J.** (2025). “Are Politicians Responsive to Mass Shootings? Evidence from U.S. State Legislatures” Forthcoming. Preprint available at [arxiv](https://arxiv.org/abs/2501.00000)
- Kappelman, J.** & Silver, D. & Bae, J.Y. & Butler, K. & Shinkre, T. & Bargagli-Stoffi, F.J. & Macinko, J. (2025). “Sensitive Places, Persistent Violence: Effectiveness of ‘Bar Ban’ Laws in Reducing Gun Violence Near Alcohol Vendors.” Forthcoming.
- Kappelman, J.** & Silver, D. & Macinko, J. (2025). “The Contribution of Alcohol to Violent Deaths in the United States, 2015-2022.” Forthcoming.
- Kappelman, J.** (2025). “The *Heller* Effect: How Expanding the Second Amendment Increased Handgun Purchasing.” Forthcoming. Preprint available at [jakappelman.com](https://www.jakappelman.com)

Other Academic/Public Policy Publications

- Advisory Council on Wellness (2022). “The Efficacy of Campus Education & Resources on Student Sexual Health and Wellbeing” White paper. Available from Ruperto M. Perez, Assoc. VP for Student Health and Well-being, UA.
- Brady United (September 16, 2021). “The Truth About Suicide and Guns.” Brady United Against Gun Violence. <https://brady-static.s3.amazonaws.com/Gun-Suicide-Prevention.pdf>.
- Advisory Council on Wellness (2021). “Exploring the psychological and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students at The University of Alabama.” White paper. Available from Ruperto M. Perez, Assoc. VP for Student Health and Well-being, UA.
- Advisory Council on Wellness (2020) “Exploring Mental Health Issues on the University of Alabama Campus.” White Paper. Available from Ruperto M. Perez, Associate Vice President for Student Health and Well-being, The University of Alabama.

Research Conference Presentations

- Kappelman, J.**, Silver, D. & Macinko, J. (December 2024). Exploring Alcohol and Firearm Involvement in Violent Deaths in the United States, 2015-2022 2024 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms. Seattle, WA.
- Chen, H. & **Kappelman, J.** (December 2024). Are Politicians Responsive to Mass Shootings? Evidence from U.S. State Legislatures. 2024 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms. Seattle, WA.
- Chen, H. & **Kappelman, J.** (September 2024). Does Tragedy Beget Policy Change? Assessing the Effects of Mass Shootings on Voting Behaviors Among California Legislators. 2024 American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- Kappelman, J.** (January 2022). Fear, Racism, and [In]Security: Investigating the Effects of Political Events and Behaviors Contributing to Surging Firearms Sales in 2020. 2022 Southern Political Science Association Conference. San Antonio, TX.

Kappelman, J. and Fording, R.. (March 2021). COVID-19 and Sky-Rocketing Gun Sales. 2021 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA) Conference at the University of Alabama. First place award for social science research.

Perez, R.M., Phillips, J.W., Rapadas, A.B., & **Kappelman, J.A.** (January 2021). Innovating student health and wellbeing: University of Alabama Advisory Council on Wellness. 2021 NASPA Region III Alabama virtual drive-in conference.

Kappelman, J. and Fording, R. (November 2020). The Effect of State Gun Laws on Youth Suicide by Firearm: 1981-2017. 2020 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) virtual conference.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health (4/2024-Present). Researcher on project supervised by Dr. James Macinko. Project work focuses on assessing risk factors associated with firearm-involvement in administrative database on violent deaths (the CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System). Project supported by the CDC.

Adjunct Researcher, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA (9/2024-1/2025). Worked as an adjunct research associate with Drake Warren and Ellen Pint on a project in RAND's HSRD FFRDC. Selected to return to RAND after term as a Summer Associate.

Summer Associate, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA (6/2024-9/2024). Worked as summer research associate with Drake Warren and Ellen Pint on a project in RAND's HSRD FFRDC.

Retail Sales Associate, Whole Earth Provision Company, Austin, TX (5/2022-8/2022). Worked as retail sales associate for local small business specializing in selling outdoor equipment and clothes.

State Policy Intern, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Washington, D.C. (1/2021-5/2021). Served as a policy intern for the Brady Campaign's state policy team. Conducted extensive research on gun violence prevention measures, tracked relevant bills in all state legislatures, efficiently prepared one-sheeters, memos, and testimony for official Brady usage. Attended meetings with lawmakers and staff to push for comprehensive gun reform. Prepared updated and overhauled official Brady Report on Suicide and Guns.

Congressional Intern, U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett (TX-25), Austin, TX and Washington, D.C. (5/2018-8/2018 & 8/2020-12/2020). Worked extensively on gun violence prevention efforts nationally and locally and other relevant constituency issues. Conducted background research for Congressman's legislative agenda, including research on pharmaceutical pricing, opportunity zones, and COVID-19 response. Attended House caucus meetings, constituent meetings, local organization events, and committee hearings for Ways and Means committee. Served as intern in Austin, TX District Office (2018) and remotely in Washington, D.C. Office (2020).

Founder & President, One Mind at a Time, Austin, TX & Amhara Region, Ethiopia (12/2016-Present). Founder and President of 501(c)3 Non-Profit that works in rural NW Ethiopian schools to improve local education system. Raised over \$20,000 to date, with funds going to projects supporting the Tumet Primary School in Tumet, Amhara Region, Ethiopia.

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Volunteer, Western Snowy Plover Conservation Project with Los Angeles Audubon Society, Los Angeles, CA (1/2024-Present). Volunteer with project surveying for a Federally Threatened species found on Los Angeles County beaches.

Volunteer, Los Angeles Raptor Study, Los Angeles, CA (3/2024-Present). Volunteer with a project to monitor raptor nests (hawks, owls, and falcons) as part of a massive community-led scientific study.