

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Ph.D., Political Science

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

Training Status: Precandidate, coursework in progress

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

Fellowships: GSRM (2023), GRM (2023-24)

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,
Political Science Best Paper Award, Outstanding Sophomore, Will Byington Student
Officer of the Year Award, Distinguished Leader Award, University Fellows

FELLOWSHIPS

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.

308 Grace Street Scholar (Fall 2021) Selected as top returning student for UA’s MPA program to conduct funded policy research. Prepared paper “Multiple-Use Forest Management in Alabama: An Effective Balance of Interests or an Unrealistic Ideal?”

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 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.

Other Academic/Public Policy Publications

- Kappelman, J.** (2022). “Fear, Racism, and [In]Security: Investigating the Effects of Political Events and Behaviors Contributing to Surging Firearms Sales in 2020.” Forthcoming.
- Kappelman, J.** (2022). “Multiple-Use Forest Management in Alabama: An Effective Balance of Interests or an Unrealistic Ideal?” Forthcoming.
- 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.** (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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Hate-Inspired Mass Violence and Vicissitudes in Legislative Behavior and Governmental Responses, UCLA Department of Political Science (4/2023-Present). Research project conducted with graduate peer coauthor, Barney Chen.

- Project examines the effects of mass public shootings on legislator behavior and responses by legislative institutions and specifically investigates whether mass public shootings with hate affiliations produce different effects than events without such ties.
- Project received funding from the UCLA Initiative to Study Hate (ISH), July 2023

Is Buying a Gun a Political Act? Investigating the Role of Out-Group and Identity-Based Hate in Firearm Purchasing, UCLA Department of Political Science (2/2023-Present). Individual research project.

- Project examines how out-group and identity-based hate influences firearm purchasing on an individual level using survey and administrative data.
- Fellowship application submitted to the UCLA Initiative to Study Hate (ISH) for project funding, May 2023.

Is Buying a Gun a Political Act? Evidence from Administrative Data, UCLA Department of Political Science (1/2023-Present). Individual research project with faculty oversight.

- Project examines how political events and motivators have shaped firearm purchasing behavior over a period from 1999-2023.
- Project received funding from UCLA's Graduate Division via the GSRM and GRM fellowship awards.
- Project overseen by Dr. Lynn Vavreck (UCLA Dept. of Political Science) and Dr. Dan Thompson (UCLA Dept. of Political Science).

Gubernatorial Elections and Gun Sales, UCLA Department of Political Science (10/2022-Present). Individual research project with faculty oversight.

- Project examines how gubernatorial elections and state-level two-party vote share has affected gun purchasing behavior within states.
- Project being overseen by Drs. Vavreck and Thompson.

Fear, Racism, and [In]Security: Investigating the Effects of Political Events and Behaviors Contributing to Surging Firearms Sales in 2020, UA Department of Political Science & University of Alabama School of Law (6/2020-5/2022). Individual research project with faculty oversight.

- Project focused on how individual-level political attitudes correlated with state-level increases in firearm purchasing for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Presented initial findings at URCA 2021 and SPSA 2022.
- Project overseen by Dr. Richard Fording (UA Dept. of Political Science) and Prof. Fredrick Vars (UA Law).

The Truth About Suicide and Guns, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (1/2021-5/2021). Research project and report overseen by internship supervisor.

- Interned on the State Policy team for the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Responsible for bill tracking, drafting memos, talking points, testimonies, etc. Asked to completely overhaul and update the official Brady Report on the intersection of the national suicide epidemic and the role of firearms.

Research Assistant, UA Division of Student Life (4/2021-5/2022).

- Worked as research assistant for Dr. Ruperto Perez, UA's Assoc. VP for Student Health and Well-being. Managed data set collected from 3+ year survey of UA student body and investigated student health outcomes. Compiled data for multiple internal UA publications.

Chair of Advisory Council on Wellness & Research Team Lead, UA Division of Student Life (8/2020-5/2022).

- Appointed as Chair of 12-member Advisory Council on Wellness (8/2021-5/2022) and previously appointed as Research Team Lead (8/2020-5/2021). As Chair, tasked with overseeing process of writing an internal white paper investigating student sexual health and wellbeing at UA. As Research Team Lead, tasked with overseeing research team investigating mental health of students during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Work resulted in 3 total white papers: "Exploring Mental Health Issues on the University of Alabama Campus" (2020); "Exploring the psychological and social impact of the COVID-19

pandemic on students at The University of Alabama” (2021); and “The Efficacy of Campus Education & Resources on Student Sexual Health and Wellbeing” (2022).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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-sheets, 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

Blackburn Institute Member, University of Alabama Division of Student Life, Tuscaloosa, AL (4/2019-5/2022). Member of leadership development and civic engagement program dedicated specifically to improving the state of Alabama.

Chair & Member, Advisory Council on Wellness, Tuscaloosa, AL (4/2019-5/2022). Appointed to council of 12 UA students to advise Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellbeing. Provided recommendations in various white papers published by council, ranging from mental health concerns and psychiatric care to a study of impact of COVID-19 on psychological and social wellbeing. Appointed Chair of Council for 2021-22 year.

Vice President, Treasurer and Andrew Goodman Foundation Campus Ambassador, Vote Everywhere UA, Tuscaloosa, AL (5/2020-5/2022). Served as Treasurer for leading voting and civil rights student group on campus at UA. Organization recognized numerous times with national and statewide awards for dedication to encouraging civic engagement among underrepresented and marginalized groups. Organized free transportation for student, faculty, and staff voters to election day polling places. Conducted extensive background/legal research for ongoing civil rights activities and voting rights campaigns. Organized speaking events with issue experts.

President, UA Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault (MARS), Tuscaloosa, AL (9/2019-4/2021). Founder of student organization fighting sexual assault on campus by engaging male-identifying leaders in advocating for victims and raising money for on-campus resources. Worked with UA Administrators to design campus climate survey to study prevalence of issue. Engaged 50+ new members in first year, launched training program in 20+ student life organizations.

Senator & Speaker of First Year Council, UA Student Government Administration, Tuscaloosa, AL (8/2018-3/2020). Elected as Speaker of First Year Council and later as a Senator for the College of Arts & Sciences, representing over 18,000 undergraduate students in my college at the University of Alabama.

PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

Texas State Lobbyist and Austin Organizing Lead, March For Our Lives, Austin, TX (2/2018-8/2018). Organized 20,000+ person march in Austin, TX for gun reform following Parkland, FL school shooting. Took on responsibilities as Texas State Lobbyist and provided expert testimony before multiple committee hearings of the Texas State House of Representatives and Senate. Conducted extensive lobbying and grassroots organizing efforts throughout central Texas and led efforts to pass the only piece of municipal legislation in the country following the Marjory Stoneman-Douglas High School Shooting through the Austin City Council. Recognized by the Austin City Council and U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett for leadership on gun safety in Texas.

Gun Reform Advocate (2/2018-Present). In addition to my work with March For Our Lives and the Brady Campaign, I have advocated for gun reform in a number of instances, including providing expert written testimony for a hearing for the Judiciary Committee of United States House of Representatives.