

# Derek Wakefield

323 Academic West  
Department of Political Science  
Bucknell University

derek.wakefield@bucknell.edu  
[www.derekwakefield.com](http://www.derekwakefield.com)

## EMPLOYMENT

2025- **Assistant Professor**, Department of Political Science, Bucknell University  
2023-2025 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Department of Political Science, Emory University

## EDUCATION

2023 Ph.D. in Politics and Social Policy, **Princeton University**  
Dissertation: *Misengaged, Not Disengaged: How Campaigns Persuade Latino Voters with Economic Messaging* (defended in August 2023)  
Committee: Tali Mendelberg (chair), LaFleur Stephens-Dougan, Ismail White, Michael Jones-Correa (University of Pennsylvania)

2016 B.A. in Political Science (major) and Feminist Studies (minor), **University of California Santa Barbara**  
Graduated with High Honors and Distinction  
Honors Thesis: *Understanding Latino Politics in Austin, Texas.*  
Advisors: Pei-te Lien, Lorraine McDonnell, Volker Welter

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Wakefield, Derek**, Bernard Fraga, and Colin Fisk. (2025) “Partisan Change with Generational Turnover: Latino Party Identification from 1989 to 2023.” *Journal of Race and Ethnic Politics*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2025.31>

**Wakefield, Derek.** (2025) “It’s the Economy: The Effect of Economic Policy Appeals on Latino Independents.” *Political Behavior*. DOI: [10.1007/s11109-025-10004-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-025-10004-y)

## RESEARCH

### Topics of Interest

Latino politics, American politics, political behavior, race and ethnic politics, political psychology, political communication, experiments, surveys, mixed methods

Working Papers

Valenzuela, Ali, **Derek Wakefield**, and Chris Flores. “Who’s Targeting Latinos? How Democrats and Republicans Use Latino Identity Cues in Televised Campaign Ads from 2000-2016”

**Wakefield, Derek.** “How the Young Lords Represent a Radical Latino Panethnic Identity”

Brown-Weinstock, Rachel, and **Derek Wakefield**. “The Racist Card: Denial of Racism as a Conservative Counterstrategy”

**Wakefield, Derek**, Tyler Reny, Joshua Dyck, and Gregg Johnson. “Bringing Retrospection Back In: How the Economy Shapes Latino Voting in the US”

Works in Progress

Alex Flores, Guadalupe Madrigal, and **Derek Wakefield**. “The Informational and Symbolic Effects of Spanish-Language Campaign Appeals”

Alex Frydman, Alejandro Flores, and **Derek Wakefield**. “Interviews with Latine Students About Partisan Politics and Ideology”

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Honorable Mention, MPSA Latino Politics Caucus Best Graduate Student Paper Award for presented paper “Not Just Ethnic Voters: The Effect of Economic and Immigration Appeals on Latinos.”

2022 Best of Access, Diversity and Inclusion (BADI) Awards by Princeton Graduate School Office of Access, Diversity, and Inclusion. Awarded for co-founding student group “Students of Color and Allies” in 2019 with Sonya Kim, Sonny Chen, and Rikio Inouye.

2020 Princeton University Teaching Award for Introduction to American Politics (Spring 2020). Awarded to Politics Ph.D. students who made a “significant and exceptional contribution to undergraduate teaching.”

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2022 Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science (PRESS) Student Grant, \$1500

2021 PRESS Student Grant, \$1500

Mamdouha S. Bobst Multi-Center Dissertation Grant, \$3400

Center for the Study of Democratic Politics (CSDP) Dissertation Grant, \$5000

2019 PRESS Student Grant, \$1000

**PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS****Conferences and Invited Talks**

2025      Equis Labs w/ Carlos Odio and Rachel Stein Valenzuela  
              “The Latino Vote” Podcast w/ Chuck Rocha and Mike Madrid  
              Southern Political Science Association  
              Midwestern Political Science Association

2024      University of Colorado, Boulder Race and Ethnic Politics Lab  
              American Political Science Association  
              Mobilizing Low Propensity Voters Conference at University of Houston  
              Western Political Science Association  
              Midwestern Political Science Association

2023      American Political Science Association  
              Political Psychology Lab at University of California, Los Angeles (October 8, 2023)  
              Symposium on Immigration, Race and Ethnicity (SPIRE) at Yale University (September 28, 2023)  
              Western Political Science Association  
              Midwestern Political Science Association  
              The Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC) at Arizona State University (January 20, 2023)

2022      University of Missouri, S. Truman Research Group for Immigration and Political Economy (November 15, 2022)  
              Indiana University at Bloomington, American Politics Workshop (November 1, 2022)  
              Western Political Science Association  
              Midwestern Political Science Association

2018      American Political Science Association, Latino Caucus

**Other Presentations**

2024      “Introduction to R” for the APSA Committee on the Status of Graduate Students

2018-2023    American Politics Graduate Research Seminar, Princeton University

2020-2022    “Experiments 101: How to Run a Survey Experiment” for PRESS

2019-2021    “Conjoint Experiments in Qualtrics” for PRESS

2019-2021    Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science (PRESS) Workshop

**OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

2021-2023      Graduate Consultant of Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science

2017-2021      Graduate Coordinator of Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science

2017-2019      Research Assistant for Ali Valenzuela

**TEACHING****Bucknell University**

Fall 2025      POL 140: Introduction to American Politics (undergraduate)

                    POL 246: Race and Ethnic Politics in the US (undergraduate)

**Emory University**

2024/2025      POL 394/585: Introduction to Data Analysis using R (undergraduate and graduate)

2023              POL 533: Latinx Politics (undergraduate), co-instructor with Professor Bernard Fraga

**Princeton University**

2022              POL 535: The Presidency and the Executive (undergraduate), TA for Dr. Lauren Wright

2021              POL 506: Qualitative Methods (graduate), TA for Professor Layna Mosley

2020              POL 220: Introduction to American Politics (undergraduate), head TA for Dr. Sarah Staszak

                    POL 220: Introduction to American Politics (undergraduate), head TA for Professor Paul Frymer. ***Received the University Teaching Award this semester.***

2019              POL 981: Junior Paper Workshops (undergraduate), TA for Professor LaFleur Stephens-Dougan (race and ethnic politics) and Dr. Joanna Wuest (law and civil rights)

**SKILLS**

Technical:      R, RMarkdown, LaTeX, Git, Qualtrics

Languages:      English – Native speaker  
                    Spanish – Proficient

Quantitative:      Large-N datasets, surveys, experiments

Qualitative:      Interviews, participant observation, historical analysis

**SERVICE**

2025-              Currently serving as Vice President of the Midwestern Political Science Association Latina/o Caucus

2024-25              Secretary of Midwestern Political Science Association Latina/o Caucus

2019      Co-founded Students of Color and Allies to cultivate a social space and support network for students of color and white allies at Princeton

2018      Graduate Student Representative for the Politics Department

2017-2019      Politics Graduate Representative for the Princeton Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion