

## CIARA STERBENZ

Department of Political Science  
3269 Bunche Hall  
11282 Portola Plaza  
Los Angeles CA 90095  
Email: [cster@g.ucla.edu](mailto:cster@g.ucla.edu)  
Website: <https://www.csterbenz.com>  
Tel: (505) 412 – 1698

### **EDUCATION**

#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

PhD in Political Science – Summer 2024

Master of Arts – Winter 2021

Master of Applied Statistics (Articulated Program) – Anticipated Spring 2025

#### **Columbia University in the City of New York, Columbia College**

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – Spring 2016

Bachelor of Arts in Physics – Spring 2016

Dean's List – Fall 2013, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016 (6/8 semesters)

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

*Rosenwald Postdoctoral Fellow in US Foreign Policy and International Security at Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College – AY2024-25*

*US-Korea NextGen Scholar at Center for Strategic and International Studies – 2024-2025*

*US-Asia Grand Strategy Pre-Doctoral Fellow at Korean Studies Institute, University of Southern California – AY2023-24*

*US-Asia Grand Strategy Pre-Doctoral Fellow at Korean Studies Institute, University of Southern California – AY2022-23*

*Political Psychology Dissertation Fellowship at UCLA– Winter 2022*

*Graduate Student Research Mentorship Award at UCLA – Summer 2019*

*Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship at UCLA – Awarded for AY 2018-19\**

*Graduate Student Research Mentorship at UCLA – Summer 2018*

*Edwin E. Pauley Fellowship at UCLA – AY2017-18*

---

\* Funds awarded, but unfortunately not received due to federal grant to all of UCLA for Asian Languages not being renewed

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Hartman, E., Hazlett, C., & Sterbenz, C. (2024). Kpop: A kernel balancing approach for reducing specification assumptions in survey weighting. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A: Statistics in Society*

Sterbenz, C., Trager, R. (2019). Autonomous Weapons and Coercive Threats. *Pulse*, website special topic, “AI in Strategic Context: Development Paths, Impacts, and Governance.”

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Sterbenz, C. *Convenient Rivals: Executive Appeals to Collective Memory in Nationalist Standoffs*. Book Project. Fall 2024.

Sterbenz, C. “Autocratic Power Consolidation in Times of Conflict.” Working Paper. January, 2021.

Sterbenz, C. “Conflict and the Fate of Autocratic Leaders.” Working Paper. January, 2020.

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

“Working with Data in the Social Sciences.” January 2024. USC *Korean Studies Institute* Undergraduate Fellows Program

“Diversionary Diplomacy: Elite Rhetoric in Nationalist Standoffs.” September 2024. APSA Annual Meeting in “Foreign Policy Panel: Elite Cues, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy”

“Diversionary Diplomacy: Elite Rhetoric in Nationalist Standoffs.” February 2023. USC Korean Studies Institute Working Paper Series.

“Employing LLMs in Social Science Research: Large-Volume Classification of Elite Rhetoric.” March 2023. Invited Talk at USC Information Sciences Institute.

“Diversionary Diplomacy: Elite Rhetoric in Nationalist Standoffs.” October 2023. Bridging Asia Conference hosted by USC Korean Studies Institute.

“Autocratic Power Consolidation in Times of Conflict.” March 2021. Annual ISA Meeting in “Back to the First Image: Leaders and Conflicts.”

“Kpop: A Kernel Balancing Approach for Reducing Specification Assumptions in Survey Weighting.” April 2021. UCLA Causal Inference Group.

“Kpop: A Kernel Balancing Approach for Reducing Specification Assumptions in Survey Weighting.” with Erin Hartman and Chad Hazlett. July 2020. PolMeth XXXVII.

“Conflict and the Fate of Autocratic Leaders.” January 2020. UCLA Burkle Center Graduate Conference on Great Power Politics.

## **TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

*Instructor* for major requirement "Introduction to Data Analysis" for Political Science undergraduates (Summer 2023)

*Instructor* for upper-division, specialized-topic seminar for undergraduates "Politics of East Asia: Unique Puzzles for International Relations" (Summer 2023, Summer 2021)

*Instructor* for Introductory Math Camp preparation course for incoming Political Science PhD Students (Fall 2021)

*Math Maven Mentor* offering weekly one-to-one mentorship in statistics and political methodology for graduate students in the Political Science Department (AY 2021-22, AY 2022-23, AY 2023-24)

- In collaboration with Derek Holliday, developed website to house original R tutorials and resources for students in the graduate methods sequence (<https://methodsmavens-psucla.github.io/>)

*Graduate Teaching Assistant* for the following graduate-level courses in the core methods sequence at UCLA for Political Science PhD Students

- *200C Causal Inference for Social Science* with Chad Hazlett (Spring 2020, 2021)
- *200D Maximum Likelihood Estimation* with Jeff Lewis (Winter 2021, 2022)
- *200E Experimental Design for Social Science* with Graeme Blair (Spring 2022)

*Undergraduate Teaching Assistant* for Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2021)

*Political Science Graduate Student Association Co-President* with Derek Holliday. AY 2018-19

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

*Graduate Student Researcher* for Associate Professors Chad Hazlett (UCLA) and Erin Hartman (UC Berkley) in support of co-authored collaborative project – Fall 2019 – Fall 2020

- Assisted in writing the R package KBAL to perform kernel balancing for causal identification of treatment effects among treatment and control groups as well as for representative weighting of a survey sample to a population (currently under review with CRAN for distribution)
- Analysis of original survey results conducted in January 2020 and application of the kernel balancing method to calibrate samples to the US population for 2016 Presidential Election

*Graduate Student Researcher* for Associate Professor Robert Trager (UCLA) – Summer 2018 – Fall 2019

- Developing measurement approaches toward the concept of “relationship status” between international actors with the *ICEWS* database
- Preparing and organizing *ICEWS* database for future network analysis work
- Co-authored a paper for the UCLA School of Law *AI in Strategic Context Conference* on the impact of Autonomous Weapons Systems on the conduct of threat-making and signaling
- Assistant Editor for *International Studies Quarterly*

*Student Researcher* for LANSCE Facility at Los Alamos National Lab, Los Alamos, NM – Summer 2015, 2014, 2013

- Created original C++ program to re-analyze *KamLAND* experimental neutrino oscillation data with new anti-neutrino spectra from the *Daya Bay* experiment and presented results at 2015 Fall *American Physical Society Division of Nuclear Physics Annual Meeting*
- Responsible for electronics testing and installment for *CAPTAIN* liquid-Argon neutrino experiment
- Analyzed and modeled data from *MiniBOONE* and *CAPTAIN* neutrino experiments

### **ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

Language – Korean (proficient), French (proficient)

Programming proficiency in R, Python, Java, C++