

# Derek Wakefield

236 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

- 2025           Bucknell University Startup Fund, \$30,000
- 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

- 2026 Southern Political Science Association
- 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**

- Spring 2026 POL 140: Introduction to American Politics  
 POL 296: Quantitative Analysis  
 Fall 2025 POL 140: Introduction to American Politics  
 POL 246: Race and Ethnic Politics in the US

**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**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b><u>Technical:</u></b>    | R, RMarkdown, LaTeX, Git, Qualtrics, Word, Excel, PowerPoint |
| <b><u>Languages:</u></b>    | English – Native speaker<br>Spanish – Proficient             |
| <b><u>Quantitative:</u></b> | Large-N datasets, surveys, experiments                       |
| <b><u>Qualitative:</u></b>  | Interviews, participant observation, historical analysis     |

**SERVICE**

- 2025- Vice President of the Midwestern Political Science Association Latina/o Caucus  
Faculty Advisor for Bucknell Student Voting Initiative
- 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

REVIEWS

American Journal of Political Science, Political Behavior, Journal of Race and Ethnic Politics, Journal of International Studies, Political Research Quarterly