

Joshua Ferrer

Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles	2020-Present
Ph.D., Political Science (2025)	
M.A., Political Science (2022)	
University of Otago / Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo	2019-2020
M.A. with Distinction, Politics	
Amherst College	2013-2017
B.A. with Distinction, Political Science and Music, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , <i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>	
Worcester College, Oxford University	2016
Visiting Student in Politics	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Election administration, representation, local and state politics, voter turnout, primary elections

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Ferrer, Joshua. 2025. "To Elect or Appoint? Evidence from Local Election Administration." Forthcoming, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.
- Honorable Mention - Best Paper in Urban and Local Politics Presented at 2024 APSA
 - CUSP Working Paper Series in American Politics selection
- Carnes, Nicholas, Joshua Ferrer, Miriam Golden, Esme Lillywhite, Noam Lupu, and Eugenia Nazrullaeva. 2025. "The Global Legislators Database: Characteristics of National Legislators in the World's Democracies." *British Journal of Political Science*. DOI: 10.1017/S000712342400053X
- Ferrer, Joshua and Christopher Palmisano. 2025. "Beyond the Trump Presidency: The Racial Underpinnings of White Americans' Anti-Democratic Beliefs." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. DOI: 10.1017/rep.2025.1
- Ferrer, Joshua, Igor Geyn, and Daniel M. Thompson. 2024. "How Partisan is Local Election Administration?" *American Political Science Review*. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055423000631
- Barreto, Matt, Claudia Alegre, Isaiah Bailey, Alexandria Davis, Joshua Ferrer, Joyce Nguy, Christopher Palmisano, and Crystal Robertson. 2024. "Black Lives Matter and the Racialized Support for the January 6 Insurrection." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. DOI: 10.1177/00027162241228395
- Ferrer, Joshua. 2022. "The Effects of Proportional Representation on Election Lawmaking: Evidence from New Zealand." *Representation*. DOI: 10.1080/00344893.2022.2032292

Ferrer, Joshua. 2021. "Re-evaluating Consensus in New Zealand Election Reform." *Political Science*. DOI: 10.1080/00323187.2020.1859337

PUBLISHED BOOK CHAPTERS

Ferrer, Joshua and Igor Geyn. 2024. "Electing America's Election Officials," in *Local Election Administrators in the United States: The Frontline of Democracy*, Paul Gronke, David Kimball, Thessalia Merivaki, Mara Suttman-Lea, Christian Grose, and Bridgett King, ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

WORKING PAPERS

Does Leader Turnover Degrade Local Government Performance? Evidence from Local Election Officials. (Revise and Resubmit, *American Journal of Political Science*). With Daniel M. Thompson.

Do Local Election Officials Represent Their Constituents?

The Effect of Partisan Primaries on Turnout and Representation.

Partisanship in Local Bureaucratic Appointments: Evidence from Election Administration.

Are Election Reforms Passed Democratically? Evidence from New Zealand.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The Effect of Open Primaries on Turnout and Representation (with Michael Thorning and J.D. Rackey). *Bipartisan Policy Center*. 2024.

Election Official Turnover Rates from 2000-2024 (with Daniel M. Thompson and Rachel Orey). *Bipartisan Policy Center*. 2024.

Contested Killings Replication: A Comment on Morris and Shoub (2023) (with Jacques Courbe and Graham Straus). *Institute for Replication (I4R)*. 2024.

2022 Primary Turnout: Trends and Lessons for Boosting Participation (with Michael Thorning). *Bipartisan Policy Center*. 2023.

Online Political Campaigning in New Zealand. *Transparency International New Zealand*. 2020.

2018 Primary Turnout and Reforms (with John Fortier, Michael Thorning, and Matthew Weil). *Bipartisan Policy Center*. 2018.

NEWS AND BLOGS

Partisan or Not? Local Election Officials Don't Tilt Elections in Favor of Their Party's Candidates. *The Conversation*. 2022.

Did Last Year's Black Lives Matter Protests Push Cities to Defund Police? Yes and No. (with Joyce Nguy). *Washington Post*. 2021.

Consensus-Based NZ Electoral Reform Is a Lovely Idea. And It's Mostly a Myth. *The Spinoff*. 2020.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Dept of Political Science, Claremont Graduate University, Sept 2024

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2024 (organized panel), 2023 and 2022
Local Political Economy APSA Pre-Conference, 2024
SoCal Political Institutions and Political Economy Conference, 2024 (Caltech), 2024 (CGU), 2023
Election Science, Reform, and Administration Conference, 2024, 2023, 2022, and 2021
Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2025, 2024, and 2022
Primary Election Research Symposium, 2024
UCLA January 6 CMPS Conference, 2024
Keeping the Republic Conference, Notre Dame, 2025 and 2023
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2023 and 2022
New Zealand Political Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2019

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Year Fellowship Award, University of California, Los Angeles, 2024-2025 (\$20,000)
APSA Representation and Electoral Systems Graduate Student Research Grant, 2024 (\$1,000)
Election Workforce Grant, Bipartisan Policy Center, 2024 (\$37,000)
Partisan Primaries Research Grant, Unite America, 2024 (\$20,000)
Political Psychology Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2023 (\$2,000)
Graduate Research Mentorship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2021-2022 (\$20,000)
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2021 (\$6,000)
Alumni Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2020-2021 (\$20,000)
Yaman Didem MA Thesis Prize for best thesis in Politics, University of Otago, 2020
New Zealand Politics Postgraduate Paper Prize, New Zealand Political Studies Association, 2019
Fulbright Graduate Student Award to New Zealand, 2019

TEACHING

UCLA, Instructor of Record:

Intro to American Politics (Summer Institute), 2024

UCLA, TA:

National Institutions: Congress, 2024

Intro to American Politics, 2023 and 2022

Political Parties and American Democracy, 2023

Undergraduate Research Experience, 2022-present

University of Otago, Departmental Tutor:

Politics of the European Union, 2019.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer: *Political Behavior, Party Politics, Election Law Journal, Representation*

SELECTED PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Consultant, Bipartisan Policy Center.	2022-Present
Graduate Student Researcher, Professor Daniel M. Thompson, UCLA.	2023
Graduate Student Researcher, Professor Lynn Vavreck, UCLA.	2022-2023
Graduate Student Researcher, Professor Miriam Golden, UCLA.	2020-2021
Domestic Policy Council Intern, The White House.	2015

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Dan Thompson, Assistant Professor, UCLA. (dthompson@polisci.ucla.edu).

Matt A. Barreto, Professor, UCLA. (barretom@ucla.edu).

Kathleen Bawn, Professor, UCLA. (kbawn@polisci.ucla.edu).

Rick Hasen, Professor, UCLA. (hasen@law.ucla.edu).