

# Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld

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## Current Appointment

- 2020–Present **Assistant Professor**, *University of California, Los Angeles*.  
Department of Political Science, by courtesy.
- 2016–Present **Assistant Professor**, *University of California, Los Angeles*.  
Department of Public Policy, Luskin School of Public Affairs.

## Affiliations

- 2018–Present **Faculty Affiliate**, Center for Social Statistics.
- 2017–Present **Faculty Affiliate**, Global Public Affairs.
- 2017–Present **Faculty Affiliate**, California Center for Population Research.

## Education

- 2012–2016 **Ph.D.**, *University of California, San Diego*.
- 2010–2012 **M.A.**, *University of California, San Diego*.
- 2004–2008 **B.A.**, *Washington University in St. Louis*, Economics, Anthropology *Summa Cum Laude*.

## Book

1. Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. 2018. *Twitter as Data*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## Articles

11. Boxell, Levi and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**. 2022. *Taxing dissent: The impact of a social media tax in Uganda*. *World Development*. (158):105950.
10. Joo, Jungseock and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**. 2022. *Image as Data: Automated Visual Content Analysis for Visual Presentations of Political Actors and Events*. *Computational Communication Research*. (4)1:1-61.
9. **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**, Alexander Chan, and Jungseock Joo. 2022. *How State and Protester Violence Affect Protest Dynamics*. *Journal of Politics* (84)2.
8. Chang, Keng-chi, William R. Hobbs, Margaret E. Roberts, and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**. 2022. *COVID-19 Increased Censorship Circumvention and Access to Sensitive Topics in China*. *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119(4):e2102818119.
7. Shane Steinert-Threlkeld and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**. 2021. *How Social Networks Affect the Repression-Dissent Puzzle*. *PLoS ONE* 16(5):e250784.
6. Sobolev, Anton, Keith Chen, Jungseock Joo, and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**. 2020. News and Social Media Accurately Measure Protest Size Variation. *American Political Science Review*, 114(4):1343-1351. DOI: [doi:10.1017/S0003055420000295](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055420000295).

5. Driscoll, Jesse and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**. 2020. Social media and Russian territorial irredentism: some facts and a conjecture. *Post-Soviet Affairs*. 36(2): 101-121. DOI: [10.1080/1060586X.2019.1701879](https://doi.org/10.1080/1060586X.2019.1701879).
4. **Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C.** 2017. Longitudinal Network Centrality Using Incomplete Data. *Political Analysis*. 25(3): 308-328. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/pan.2017.6>
3. **Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C.** 2017. **Spontaneous Collective Action: Peripheral Mobilization During the Arab Spring**. *American Political Science Review* 111(2): 379-403.
  - Best Paper Award, Conflict Processes Section, APSA 2015
  - Media: *New York Times*, *Phys.org*, *Scientific American*, *Seeker*
2. Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**, and David G. Victor. 2016. **Predictability Versus Flexibility - Secrecy in International Investment Arbitration**. *World Politics* 68(3): 413-453.
1. **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**, Delia Mocanu, Alessandro Vespignani, and James Fowler. 2015. **Online Social Networks and Offline Protest**. *EPJ Data Science* 4(19).

### Conference Proceedings

3. Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. and Jungseock Joo. 2022. MMCHIVED: Multimodal Chile and Venezuela Protest Event Data. *Proceedings of the Sixteenth International AAI Conference on Web and Social Media*. **Accepted version**.
2. Xi, Nan, Di Ma, Marcus Liou, **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**, Jason Anastasopoulos, and Jungseock Joo. 2020. **Understanding the Political Ideology of Legislators from Social Media Images**. In *Proceedings of the Fourteenth International AAI Conference on Web and Social Media*., 14(1):726-737.
1. Won, Donghyeon, **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**, and Jungseock Joo. 2017. **Protest Activity Detection and Perceived Violence Estimation from Social Media Images**. In *Proceedings of the 25th ACM International Conference on Multimedia*, 78694.
  - Media: *The Register*

### In Process

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|-------------------|--|
| Revise & resubmit | Mask Mandates Work, Especially in Republican Counties. With Timothy Groeling, Jungseock Joo, Georgia Kernell, Xiaofeng Lin, and Jun Luo.                                       |
| Under review      | Collective Identity in Collective Action: Evidence from the 2020 Summer BLM Protests. With Claudia Kahn, Sarah Hashash, and R. Michael Alvarez.                                |
| Under review      | Fanning the Frames: How Protest Portrayals Vary by Media Type, Location, and Ideology. With Alexander Chan, Karsten Donnay, Jungseock Joo, Philipp Kling, and Thomas Zeitzoff. |
| Working           | Civilian Signalling on Social Media During Civil War. With Anita Gohdes.   |
| Working           | netMeth: A Python Package for Network Based Movement Monitoring  |

### Software

1. Kevin C. Coakley and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld**. **rehydratoR: Downloads Tweets from a List of Tweet IDs**. Published on 01.25.2019.
  - ≈ 14,000 downloads as of 08.01.2022

### Invited Contributions

6. Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. 2022. **Moving Beyond Newspapers and Text to Study Contentious Politics**. *The Political Economist: Newsletter of the Section on Political Economy, American Political Science Association*. (XVI)4:19-23.

5. Gohdes, Anita and Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld. 2021. [Changing Sources: Social Media Activity During Civil War](#). *Digital Activism and Authoritarian Adaptation in the Middle East*, POMEPS Studies (43):103-109.
4. Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. 2021. [Plus Ça Change: New Media and Eternal Protest](#). *APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter* (XXXI)1: 50-57.
3. Barberá, Pablo and Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld. [How to Use Social Media Data for Political Science Research](#). *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*, eds. Curini L. and Franzese, R. Expected 2020.
2. Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. 2019. [Commentary: The Future of Event Data is Images](#). *Sociological Methodology*. (49)1: 68-75.
1. Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. 2018. [News and Views: Moralization, Protest, and Violence](#). *Nature Human Behavior*, (2): 370-371. DOI:10.1038/s41562-018-0359-7

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## Grants

- 07.2019 – 06.2020 UCLA Luskin Endowment for Thought Leadership (\$16,904)
  - Grant to host Computational International Relations workshop
  - Co-PI with Jungseock Joo
- 07.2019 – 06.2020 UCLA Burkle Institute (\$10,000)
  - Grant to host Computational International Relations workshop
  - Co-PI with Jungseock Joo
- 09.2018 – 08.2021 NSF RIDIR #1831848 (\$944,182)
  - “Integrated Communication Database and Computational Tools”
  - Co-PI with Jungseock Joo, Tim Groeling, and Francis Steen
- 07.2018 – 08.2019 UCLA California Center for Population Research Seed Grant (\$15,000)
  - Co-PI with Jungseock Joo
- 07.2017 – 08.2018 UCLA Faculty Career Development Grant (\$10,700)
- 07.2017 – 08.2018 UCLA Faculty Research Grant (\$7,200)
- 07.2017 – 08.2018 UCLA Big Data Transdisciplinary Seed Grant (\$38,000)
  - Co-PI with Jungseock Joo
- 07.2014 – 03.2015 USAID Understanding Social Movements (\$48,000)
  - Co-PI with James Fowler

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## Awards

- 06.2022 Faculty of the Year, Department of Public Policy
  - Selected by staff and students
- 09.2015 Best Paper Award, Conflict Processes Section of APSA
  - For early version of “Spontaneous Collective Action” (*APSR* 2017)

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## Professional Blogs

- 10.2019 Joo, Jungseock and **Zachary C. Steinert-Threlkeld** [Image as data: Automated visual content analysis for social science](#). Sage Ocean: October 25, 2019.
- 12.2015 **Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C.** and Jesse Driscoll. [Can we prevent terrorism by checking immigrants' social media accounts? No](#). Monkey Cage: December 29, 2015.
- 03.2015 Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. [Advances in Understanding Protest with Big Data](#) Mobilizing Ideas: March 9, 2015.

- 02.2015 Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. [Online and Offline Activism in Egypt and Bahrain](#). Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development: February 28, 2015.
- 03.2014 Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary C. [Machine Coded Events Data and Hand-Coded Data](#). Political Violence at a Glance: March 19, 2014.

### Invited Talks

- 2022 Mohammed VI Polytechnic University; City University of Hong Kong; Chinese University of Hong Kong (Summer Institute of Computational Social Science)
- 2021 Yale University; POMEPS - Cyberpolitics in MENA; WZB Berlin Social Science Center
- 2020 University of California, Berkeley; MIT; Northeastern University; Qatar Computing Research Institute\*; NYU Abu Dhabi Frontiers of Network Science\*; Virtual Workshop on Race, Politics, Policing, and Social Movements (Facebook); NYU SMaPP Lab
- 2019 University of Toronto Citizen Lab; NYU Center for Data Science; SUNY - Stony Brook; NYU Social Media and Political Participation Lab; University of Pennsylvania; UCLA (Sociology); USC Information Sciences Institute; UCLA Summer Institute in Computational Social Science; University of Konstanz; University of Essex Summer School; Columbia University.
- 2018 Santa Fe Institute; Facebook; George Mason University; University of Central Florida; SoCal Social Media Workshop; UCLA (Psychology); Cornell Political Economy Conference (Discussant)
- 2017 USC Networked Democracy Lab; Marschak Colloquium
- 2016 Conflict Consortium; Information and Communications Technology and Governance
- 2012 – 2015 Berkeley Institute of Design; Conflict Consortium; New Era Foreign Policy Conference; UC Institute for Prediction Technology

\* = Cancelled due to COVID-19

### Conference Presentations

- 2022 Western Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes; Methods Cafe
- 2021 International Studies Association; Midwestern Political Science Association; American Political Science Association
- 2020 European Political Science Association\*; International Studies Association\*; Political Methodology; American Political Science Association
- 2019 Southern Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Political Networks; International Conference on Computational Social Science; Politics and Computational Social Science; American Political Science Association; Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration; Peace Science
- 2018 American Political Science Association; European Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Peace Science; Political Networks
- 2017 American Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Peace Science
- 2016 Sunbelt
- 2015 American Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Peace Science; Political Networks
- 2014 American Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Political Networks
- 2013 American Political Science Association; Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research; Political Networks

\* = Cancelled due to COVID-19

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## Conference Organization

- 07.07.2021 Data-Informed Governance
- Spring 2021 Politics and Big Data Speaker Series
- 02.28.2020 Computational International Relations Workshop
- 08.25.2017 The Future of Humans as Sensors for Social Science Research

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## Service

- Reviewer *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Sociological Review, Communication Theory, Computational Communication Research, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Democratization, Electoral Studies, EPJ Data Science, Government and Opposition, Information, Communication and Society, International Journal of Press/Politics, International Organization, International Studies Review, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Mediterranean Politics, Mobilization: An International Quarterly, Nature Human Behavior, Political Analysis, Political Communication, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Research & Methods, Politics and the Life Sciences, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Public Library of Science ONE, Review of Middle East Studies, Science Advances, Social Network Analysis and Mining, Social Networks, Sociological Methods and Research, Socius, World Politics*
- Program Committee Political Networks (2021), Politics and Computational Social Science (2021, 2022)
- Chair APSA (2018, 2019); EPSA (2018); ISA (2019); Political Networks (2021)
- Discussant American Political Science Association (2018, 2019, 2021); Conflict Consortium Virtual Workshop (2018); European Political Science Association (2018); International Studies Association (2019); Midwest Political Science Association (2021); Peace Science (2018); UCLA Graduate Student Comparative Workshop (2017, 2018, 2019); Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (2019); Western Political Science Association (2022)
- Advising Emmanuel Castel (U), Katherine Cho (Ph.D.), Maxwell Gordy (U), Huitong Mao (U), Nicholas Havey (Ph.D.), Conner Philson (Ph.D.), Nolan Thompson (U), Valerie Wirtschafter (Ph.D.), Bradley Mankoff (Ph.D.)

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## Teaching

### Workshops

- July 2021 Institute for Political Methodology short course, "Generating Event Data from Social Media".\*
- September 2020 American Political Science Association short course, "Generating Event Data from Social Media".
- October 2018 Association for Computing Machinery - Multimedia (ACM-MM) tutorial, "Social and Political Event Analysis based on Rich Media."

### University of California, Los Angeles

- Winter 2022 Network Science Using R (G). Applied Policy Project (G).
- Fall 2021 Statistical Methods for Public Policy (G). Applied Policy Project (G).
- Spring 2021 Applied Policy Project (G).

Winter 2021 Applied Policy Project (G).  
 Fall 2020 Statistical Methods for Public Policy (G). Applied Policy Project (G).  
 Spring 2020 Social Movements in Theory and Practice (G)  
 Fall 2019 Statistical Methods for Public Policy (G). Network Science Using R (UG, G, PhD).  
 Winter 2019 Social Movements in Theory and Practice (G)  
 Fall 2018 Statistical Methods for Public Policy (G). Politics, Media, and Social Networks (G).  
 Winter 2018 Network Science Using R (G).  
 Fall 2017 Statistical Methods for Public Policy (G). Subnational Conflict (G).  
 Winter 2017 Social Networks and Collective Action (G, UG)  
 Fall 2016 Statistical Methods for Public Policy (G). Subnational Conflict (G).

### University of California, San Diego

2011 – 2016 California Politics, East Asian Thought, International Relations After the Cold War, Judicial Politics, The Modern World Economy, Politics and Warfare, The Rise of Modern Europe, The Supreme Court and the Constitution

\* = Cancelled due to COVID-19

### Skills

Computing Python, R, \*Nix, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, AWS, MongoDB, Stata, Gephi  
 Language French (*il y a longtemps*), Turkish (*çok az*)  
 Miscellaneous YIMBY, racquet sports, basketball, coffee, civilian aviation, cars

### Previously

#### Awards

09.2014 – 06.2015 Herbert F. York Global Security Dissertation Fellowship  
 2013, 2014 Sanford Lakoff Fellowship  
 2013, 2015 Political Networks Conference Fellowship  
 Summer 2012 Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship  
 Summer 2008 Critical Language Scholarship  
 2008 – 2009 Junior Fellow, American Academy of Political and Social Science  
 08.2006 – 05.2008 Undergraduate Honors Fellowship

#### Employment

08.2008 – 08.2010 Systems Integration Analyst, Accenture