

Sharif Amlani

PHD · AMERICAN POLITICS

West Sacramento, California

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Research Interests

Research Interests: American politics, political methodology, U.S. Congress, campaign finance, elections and voting behavior, political polarization, generative AI, synthetic respondents, agentic workflows

Education

University of California – Davis

Davis, CA

PHD, POLITICAL SCIENCE

2023

- Committee: Scott MacKenzie, Erik Engstrom, Michael Rocca, & Walter Stone
- Dissertation: “Competing Principals: The Influence of Out-of-District Donors on Congressional Representation”

University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM

BACHELOR OF ARTS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, *summa cum laude*

2015

- Thesis Chair: Michael Rocca
- Honors Thesis: “When the Pork Barrel Runs Dry: The Ban on Earmarks and its Effect on the 2012 Election”
- Honors College Commencement 2015 — Student Speaker

Work Experience

UC Center Sacramento (University of California)

Sacramento, CA

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

2026 – Present

- **POL 196E: Research Methods for Political Science and Public Policy** (Summer 2026, Fall 2026) — design and deliver a term-long applied methods course covering research design, causal inference, measurement, data analysis in R, and data visualization; students complete a policy brief or original research project presented at the UCCS Undergraduate Research Showcase
- **Student mentorship** — advise undergraduates one-on-one through their term-long research projects (question formulation, data collection, analysis, writing, and poster presentation) and support their internship placements across California state government, legislative offices, and Sacramento-area nonprofits
- **Research initiatives** — leading development of the **Sacramento Policy Innovation Lab** (city-funded municipal field-experiment lab), an **AI Research Dissemination Pipeline** (forecasting California legislative priorities and matching UC faculty research to policymakers), and applied field experiments using UCCS’s Sacramento political network
- **Prior role:** Class Coordinator, Applied Research (Spring 2021 – Spring 2023, 8 consecutive quarters) — coordinated undergraduate research placements across California state government and nonprofits

HumanAI (Survey Fluency)

Sacramento, CA

FOUNDER & CEO

2025 – Present

- **Survey Fluency (flagship product)** — building an AI-powered survey analysis platform that automates topline, cross-tabs, executive summaries, and PowerPoint generation from raw survey data, reducing 25-hour manual workflows to 10 minutes
- **Agentic AI workflows** — designed and deployed LangChain and LangGraph pipelines using Claude and OpenAI APIs to autonomously plan, execute, and critique statistical analyses with 95% accuracy
- **Production engineering** — built and deployed backend API on Google Cloud Run with Docker, CI/CD, FastAPI, and Supabase authentication
- **Customer development** — conducting discovery with political pollsters and market research firms; managing active design-partner pilots with KL Communications, Beacon Research, and C+R Research
- **Synthetic Respondents** — developed AI digital-twin research using LLM/ML to predict survey response distributions across demographic subgroups
- **SkyDeck Pad-13** — selected as founder for UC Berkeley’s Pad-13 incubator program (acceptance rate ~3%)

Moody’s Analytics

San Francisco, CA

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE METRICS PLATFORM

2023 – 2025

- **Performance recognition** — rated as *exceptional* by colleagues and manager for performance and contributions
- **Generative AI product leadership** — led generative AI product development for the Commercial Mortgage Metrics (CMM) platform, building AI agents for commercial real estate credit risk analysis
- **AI agents shipped** — developed and deployed the Run CMM Agent, CMM Reporting Agent, and Red Flag Agent to automate credit risk workflows, outsourcing manual analyst work to AI
- **Pipelines and integrations** — built API integrations and standardized reporting processes for commercial mortgage data processing using Python and R, reducing workloads from 3 days to 3 minutes
- **Enterprise deployment** — translated advanced quantitative methods into production-grade enterprise data and modeling products used by more than 20 clients whose valuations exceed \$1 trillion

Congressional Experience

U.S. Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham

FRED HARRIS CONGRESSIONAL INTERN

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich

INTERN

U.S. Representative Martin Heinrich

INTERN

U.S. Representative Martin Heinrich

INTERN

Washington D.C.

Fall 2014

Albuquerque, NM

Summer 2013

Albuquerque, NM

Summer 2012

Albuquerque, NM

Summer 2011

Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. Kiesel, Spencer & **Sharif Amlani** (2025). “[Affective Polarization in a Word: Open-Ended and Self-Coded Evaluations of Partisan Affect.](#)” *PLOS ONE* 20(1): e0310772.
2. **Amlani, Sharif**, Spencer Kiesel, and Ross Butters.”[Polarization in COVID-19 Vaccine Discussion Networks.](#)” *American Politics Research* 51.2 (2023): 260-273.
3. Algara, Carlos, **Sharif Amlani**, Samuel Collitt, Isaac Hale, & Sara Kazemian. “[Nail in the Coffin or Lifeline? Evaluating the Electoral Impact of COVID-19 on President Trump in the 2020 Election.](#)” *Political Behavior*.(2022): 1-29.
4. **Amlani, Sharif** & Samuel Collitt (2021). “[The Impact of Vote-By-Mail Policy on Turnout and Vote Share in the 2020 Election.](#)” *Election Law Journal*.
5. **Amlani, Sharif** & Carlos Algara (2021). “[Partisanship & Nationalization in American Elections: Evidence from Presidential, Senatorial, & Gubernatorial Elections in the U.S. Counties, 1872–2020.](#)” *Electoral Studies* 73 (October 1, 2021): 102387.
 - **Research featured in The Economist: [The Democrats’ structural disadvantage is not caused by demographics alone](#) (October 29, 2021).**

Other Articles

1. **Amlani, Sharif**, and Spencer Kiesel. “[Analysis | How much do vaccinated Americans dislike the unvaccinated? We measured.](#)” *The Monkey Cage | Washington Post*, January 27, 2021.
2. **Amlani, Sharif**, Ross Butters, and Spencer Kiesel. “[Analysis | With Nearly 800,000 U.S. Covid Deaths, What’s Keeping People from Getting Vaccinated? Their Own Social Circles.](#)” *The Monkey Cage | Washington Post*, December 14, 2021.
 - **Research featured in The Washington Post: [Will Pfizer’s pill presage a return to normal?](#) (December 15, 2021).**
3. **Amlani, Sharif** (2015). “[Cosponsorship in Congress: Does the Number Matter?](#)” *The Journal of Politics and International Affairs* 9.1: 120-139.
4. Rocca, Michael, **Sharif Amlani**, Lisa Sanchez, & Julia Hellwege (2015). “[Crony Capitalism, Corruption and the Economy in the State of New Mexico.](#)” *Thornburg Foundation*.

Working Papers

1. **Amlani, Sharif**, Samuel Collitt, Christopher Hare, & Spencer Kiesel. (Original Affective Polarization Survey Research). “Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Affective Polarization: A Study of Partisan Bias in Dating, Housing, and Consumerism.” *Working Paper*. **Under Review**.
2. **Amlani, Sharif**. “Please Make a Donation Today, Says Lindsey Graham: How Fox News Influences Out-of-District Contributions.” *Working Paper*.

Invited Talks & Conference Presentations

Midwest Political Science Association Conference

Conjoint Analysis of Interpersonal Affective Polarization: A Pilot Study of Partisan Bias in Dating, Housing, and Consumerism (With Spencer Kiesel)	April 2021
The Impact of Vote-By-Mail Policy on Turnout and Vote Share in the 2020 Election (With Samuel Collitt)	April 2021
Candidate Strategies in Two-Stage Elections Beginning with a Primary: Uncertainty over Public Opinion Can Drive Elite Polarization (With James Adams)	April 2019
Donor and Cosponsorship: Evidence from a Network Analysis	April 2019
Candidate Strategies in Two-Stage Elections Beginning with a Primary: Uncertainty over Public Opinion Can Drive Elite Polarization (With James Adams)	April 2018

Western Political Science Association Conference

The Impact of Vote-By-Mail Policy on Turnout and Vote Share in the 2020 Election (With Samuel Collitt)	April 2021
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Migration Research Center Faculty Symposium

Emotional Reactions to Migrant Deaths on the U.S.-Mexico Border (and why we should care) (With Bradford Jones)	December 2020
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Western Social Science Association Conference

Congress and Baseball: Charging the Mound	April 2014
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Research Assistantships

UC Davis Aggie Square

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER	Sacramento, CA Fall 2021 - Spring 2023
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UC Center Sacramento

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER	Sacramento, CA Fall 2020 - Spring 2023
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Political Networks Conference

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER	Davis, CA Spring 2021
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Professor Michael S. Rocca

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT	Albuquerque, NM Summer - Fall 2015
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Teaching

Class Coordinator

Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Spring 2023
Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Winter 2023
Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Fall 2022
Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Summer 2022
Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Spring 2022
Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Winter 2022
Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Fall 2021
Applied Research , UC Center Sacramento	Spring 2021

Mentorship

Political Science Undergraduate Honors Program , R Consultant	Winter 2019
Political Science Undergraduate Honors Program , R Consultant	Winter 2018

Teaching Assistant

Research Methods Seminar , Jordan Kujala	Summer 2021
Public Sector Policy , Ross Butters	Spring 2021
Public Sector Policy , Ross Butters	Winter 2021
American Politics Seminar , Ross Butters	Winter 2021
Political Methodology , Rachel Bernhard	Fall 2020
Political Methodology , Christopher Hare	Spring 2020
American Politics , Cheryl Boudreau	Winter 2020
Political Methodology , Bradford Jones	Fall 2019
American Politics , Scott MacKenzie	Summer 2019
Political Methodology , Bradford Jones	Summer 2019
National Security Policy , Lindsay Reid	Spring 2019
Mass Media & Politics , Amber Boydston	Winter 2019
Political Psychology , Cheryl Boudreau	Fall 2018
Race and Ethnic Politics , Bradford Jones	Spring 2018
International Relations , Heather Elko McKibben	Winter 2018
Chicano Politics , Bradford Jones	Fall 2017
Constitutional Politics , Mark Verbitsky	Spring 2017
Media and Politics , Amber Boydston	Winter 2017

Workshops

Excel Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Fall 2021
Excel Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Summer 2021
R Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Spring 2021
R Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Winter 2021
R Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Fall 2020
STATA Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Spring 2021
STATA Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Winter 2021
STATA Workshop , UC Center Sacramento	Fall 2020
R Workshop , Undergraduate Honors Program	Winter 2019
R Workshop , Undergraduate Honors Program	Winter 2018

Awards

2020	Summer Collaborative Grant, with Scott MacKenzie , UC Davis, Department of Political Science	\$5,000
2019	Department Travel Grant to the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association , UC Davis, Department of Political Science	\$500
2019	Summer Methods Travel Award , UC Davis, Department of Political Science	\$1,500
2018	Summer Collaborative Grant, with James Adams , UC Davis, Department of Political Science	\$5,000
2018	Department Travel Grant to the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association , UC Davis, Department of Political Science	\$500

Service

2018	Graduate Student Association , Political Science Representative
2017	Graduate Student Association , Political Science Representative

Skills

Programming	R (Advanced), Python (Advanced), SQL, STATA, Tableau
Generative AI	LangChain, LangGraph, OpenAI API, Anthropic API, Prompt Engineering, RAG, Agentic Workflows, MCP
Platforms & Tools	Google Cloud Run, Docker, CI/CD, FastAPI, Streamlit, Supabase, Git/GitHub, Excel, Qualtrics
Statistical Methods	OLS, MLE, GLM, Machine Learning, Causal Inference, Experimental Methods (Conjoint, A/B), Survey Design, Social Network Analysis, Measurement & Scaling, Duration Modeling, Text Analysis
Data Visualization	ggplot2, Plotly, Matplotlib

References

Dr. Scott MacKenzie

Professor

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University of California, Davis

Davis, CA 95616

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Dr. Michael S. Rocca

Professor

Department of Political Science

University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131

✉ msrocca@unm.edu

Dr. Christopher Hare

Associate Professor

Department of Political Science

University of California, Davis

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Dr. Erik J. Engstrom

Professor

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