

Jacob Harris

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EDUCATION

Cornell University

Ph.D. in Government

Major: American Politics

Minor: Methods

Ithaca, NY

Aug. 2020 – May 2025 (expected)

Brigham Young University

Bachelor's of Art in Political Science (with distinction), cum laude

Thesis: "Getting Tough:" The Relationship Between Religion, Racial Resentment, and Punitive Attitudes

Provo, UT

Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2019

Southern Utah University

Associate of Arts in General Studies

Cedar City, UT

Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American politics, prison proliferation, criminal justice, public opinion, political psychology, elections and voting behavior

PUBLICATIONS

2021

- *Under review.* Jacob W. Harris, Melissa S. Jones, and Quin Monson. White Evangelism, Punitive Sentiment, and the Mediating Effect of Racial Resentment.

2020

- Jacob W. Harris and Melissa S. Jones. Shaping youths' perceptions and attitudes toward the police: Differences in direct and vicarious encounters with police. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 67.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Does Jones Beat Janczewski? Testing the Relationship Between the Perceptual Fluency of Political Candidates' Surnames and Election Outcomes
- Does Rural Prison Building Mobilize Voters?
- Accounting for Racial Attitudes in Understanding the Relationship Between Religion and Support for the Death Penalty: An Analysis with GSS Data

FUNDING

- Rural Black Lives Microgrant, Cornell University (\$350)
- Graduate Research Funds, Cornell University (\$5000)
- Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- Jack and Marilyn Roberts Family Endowment Award (\$500)
- Full Tuition Scholarship, Brigham Young University
- Full Tuition Scholarship, Southern Utah University

PRESENTATIONS

- “Getting Tough:” The Effects of Racial Resentment and Religion on Punitive Attitudes. BYU Political Science Poster Conference. December 10, 2019. Provo, UT.
- Shaping Youth Attitudes Toward Police: Differences in Direct and Vicarious Police Encounters. BYU Political Science Poster Conference. December 10, 2019. Provo, UT.
- To Bond or to Bridge: The Social Capital Dilemma in America. Mary Lou Fulton Poster Conference. April 11, 2019. Provo, UT.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Researcher (Winter 2021 - Current)

Prison Proliferation Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Under the direction of Dr. John Eason, the Prison Proliferation Project is a team of graduate researchers who collaboratively study the causes and consequences of prison building in America.

Research Assistant (Winter 2021 - Current)

Department of Government, Cornell University

Assistant to Professor Peter Enns, conducted a thorough review of public opinion surveys to update an over-time measure of public punitiveness. Also, used data from the National Crime Victimization Survey to create a modified measure of public punitiveness.

Research Assistant (Summer 2019 – Summer 2020)

Brigham Young University and the Utah County Attorney’s Office

Assistant to Professor Quinn Mecham and County Attorney David Leavitt, conducted research on a pilot pre-filing diversion program in Utah County. Also, wrote and administered a survey for the attorneys in the County Attorney’s Office to measure the effects of the program on their workload.

Research Assistant (May – August 2019)

Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University

Assisted Professors Darren Hawkins and Dan Nielson with building a website designed to make randomized controlled trials in developing countries more accessible to policymakers. This included reading RCT studies in conducted in developing countries, extracting information from them, and coding the information into pithy summaries available to policymakers.

Survey Design (January – April 2019)

Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University

Under Professor Quin Monson, in a group of 10-12 students, participated in writing, analyzing, and presenting the results of a survey undertaken for the Utah women’s organization Better Days 2020. The data from the survey played an important role in Better days 2020 securing approximately \$500,000 from the Utah state legislature.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University

Comparative Politics with Professor Quinn Mecham (Fall 2019)

Graded papers, graded exams, held office hours, and conducted exam review sessions.

Teaching Assistant

Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University

Political Inquiry with Professor Darren Hawkins (Winter 2019)

Conducted weekly lab sessions with a group of 20 students, graded papers, and held office hours.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Data Analyst (Summer 2020)

Y2 Analytics

Wrangled, analyzed, and visualized data for corporate (Facebook, Microsoft, United Health, etc.), political, and municipal clients using R. Employed the tidyverse, mscharts, and original functions to create detailed client presentations.

Content Writer and Account Manager (Fall 2016 – present)

Spot On Solutions

Authored over 1000 online blogs for law firms, digital marketing companies, and cleaning and restoration companies.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

R, Stata, Qualtrics, L^AT_EX

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Honorable Mention, 2020 BYU Political Science Poster Contest
- Dean's List, Brigham Young University
- Pi Sigma Alpha honor society member, Brigham Young University
- Dean's List, Southern Utah University

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Founder of the Cornell Collaborative Scholarship Network (Winter 2021 - current)
- Cornell fall forum undergraduate research conference judge (October 31, 2020)
- Pandemic Policython mentor (October 23-24, 2020)
- Workplace Religious Accommodation Database (WRAD) researcher (2019)
- Court Appointed Service Advocate (CASA) volunteer (2018)
- Two-year religious service missionary in Atlanta, GA (2014-2016)

Last updated February 2021