

## Dr. Kevin A. McAlister

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CONTACT INFORMATION	532 North Kilgo Circle Modern Languages Building, 4th floor Atlanta, Georgia 30322	336-465-4570 kevin.mcalister@emory.edu <a href="http://www.kevinmcalister.org">www.kevinmcalister.org</a>
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Bayesian Statistics, Bayesian Nonparametric Methods, Machine Learning, Statistical Computing, Social Choice Theory, Electoral Systems and Representation, Legislative Studies	
CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<b>Emory University</b> , Atlanta, GA Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Quantitative Theory and Methods.	
EDUCATION	<b>University of Michigan</b> , Ann Arbor, MI Ph.D., Political Science, August 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dissertation Title: <i>Essays on Latent Variable Models and Roll Call Scaling</i></li><li>- Committee: Walter Mebane (Co-Chair), Kevin Quinn (Co-Chair), Christopher Fariss, Scott Page</li><li>- Winner of 2018 John T. Williams Award from the Society of Political Methodology for best dissertation proposal in the area of political methodology.</li></ul> M.A., Statistics, August 2020 <b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> , St. Louis, MO M.A., Political Science, August 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Advisors: Norman Schofield, Jacob Montgomery</li></ul> <b>University of North Carolina</b> , Chapel Hill, NC B.A., Political Science/Statistics and Operations Research, August 2011	
REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS	1. Gallego, Maria, Norman Schofield, Kevin McAlister, and Jee Seon Jeon. "The variable choice set logit model applied to the 2004 Canadian election." <i>Public Choice</i> 158, no. 3-4 (2014): 427-463.	
AWARDS	Samuel Eldersveld Outstanding Paper Award. 2018-2019. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Best paper presented at a professionally sponsored conference by a University of Michigan graduate student in 2018-2019.</li></ul> John T. Williams Dissertation Prize, Society for Political Methodology. 2018. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Best dissertation proposal in the area of political methodology.</li></ul> Rackham Predoctoral Research Grant. Ann Arbor, MI. 2018. Gerald R. Ford Fellowship, Ann Arbor, MI. 2018. Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Grant, Ann Arbor, MI. 2018. Rackham Precandidate Research Grant. Ann Arbor, MI. 2018.	

University of Michigan Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. Ann Arbor, MI. 2015.

EITM Alumni Travel Scholarship for the EITM Annual Meetings. Chicago, IL. 2013.

Washington University in St. Louis Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. St. Louis, MO. 2011

WORKING PAPERS

1. "Disagreement and Dimensionality: A Varying Dimensions Approach to Roll Call Scaling in the U.S. Congress" *Under Review*
2. "Ordered Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey Scaling: Improving Bias Correction on the Liberal-Conservative Scale" (with Erin Cikanek and Hwayong Shin) *Under Review*
3. "A Bayesian Nonparametric Approach to Estimating Group Dynamics in Roll Call Scaling"
4. "Interval Estimation on the Marginal Likelihood"
5. "Context Matters! Nonparametric Feature Discovery with Covariates for Latent Variable Models"
6. "Developments in Positive Empirical Models of Election Frauds: Varying Dimensions" (with Walter Mebane and Diogo Ferrari).
7. Estimating State Interest From Treaty Negotiations (with Kevin Cope and James D. Morrow)

CONFERENCES  
AND INVITED  
PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks:

- "Analyzing and Modeling Elections with Varying Party Bundles: Applications to Post-2010 British Elections." 2nd International Conference on Political Economy and Institutional Analysis (Baiona, 2012)
- "Money, Activism and Targeted Vote Maximization." Presented at Conference in Honor of Norman Schofield. CNISS, Washington University in St. Louis, April 26-27, 2013 (with Ian Turner).
- "Money, Activism and Targeted Vote Maximization." Presented at Institutions in Context: Inequality. Tampere, Finland, June 1-8, 2013.

Conferences:

- Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association 2013,2017.
- Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association 2013,2015-2020.
- Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association 2015-2020.
- Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting 2016-2020.

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

Emory University, Department of Quantitative Theory and Methods:

- Introduction to Research Design Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- Introduction to Bayesian Statistics Spring 2021

Full Instructor at University of Michigan, Department of Political Science:

- Computing for the Social Sciences Spring 2017
- Math Camp for Incoming Graduate Students Fall 2018

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) at University of Michigan, Department of Political Science:

- Congress and the Presidency with Lynn Rivers Spring 2020
- Multivariate Data Analysis with Walter Mebane Fall 2019
- Model Thinking with Scott Page Fall 2017

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) at Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Political Science:

- Intermediate Game Theory with Randy Calvert Spring 2013
- Introduction to Statistics for the Social Sciences with Jacob Montgomery Fall 2012

PREVIOUS  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist at Amazon (2013 - 2015)

- Responsibilities included creating new and innovative tools for extracting information from data related to large-scale A/B experiments. I also provided statistical consulting for projects across the Amazon behavioral science teams. I developed software for robot detection and throttling, an interaction tool that detected potential treatment effect conflicts between A/B experiments using real-time data, algorithms for server usage prediction during peak purchasing times, and a new fast-hash technique for assigning consistent experimental treatments across sessions on the site.

SERVICE

Manuscript Referee  
The R Journal  
AJPS  
APSR

University of Michigan Department Service

Professional Development Committee (2017-2018)  
Undergraduate Honors Thesis Consultant/Reviewer (2019,2020)

SOFTWARE

**npfa** - R package that estimates a number of nonparametric factor analysis models with IBP priors on dimensions and DP priors on latent variables.  
**eforensics** - R package to estimate fraud in elections using Finite Mixture Models  
**OBAM** - R package to quickly estimate Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey scaling models under extended-rank likelihood functions  
**iTrees** - R package to estimate infinite tree hierarchical clusters using tree-structured stick breaking priors

PATENTS

Systems for Determining Long-Term Effects in Statistical Hypothesis Testing (U.S. Patent 10,152,458 B1)