

Dr. Kevin A. McAlister

CONTACT INFORMATION	36 Eagle Row 579 Psychology and Interdisciplinary Sciences Atlanta, Georgia 30322	kevin.mcalister@emory.edu www.kevinmcalister.org
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Bayesian Statistics, Bayesian Nonparametric Methods, Generative Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence	
CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT	Emory University , Atlanta, GA Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Data and Decision Sciences Senior Faculty Fellow, Center for Artificial Intelligence Learning	
PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Emory University , Atlanta, GA Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Quantitative Theory and Methods. (2020 - 2022)	
EDUCATION	University of Michigan , Ann Arbor, MI Ph.D., Political Science, August 2020 - Dissertation Title: <i>Essays on Latent Variable Models and Roll Call Scaling</i> - Committee: Walter Mebane (Co-Chair), Kevin Quinn (Co-Chair), Christopher Fariss, Scott Page - Winner of 2018 John T. Williams Award from the Society of Political Methodology for best dissertation proposal in the area of political methodology. M.A., Statistics, August 2020 Washington University in St. Louis , St. Louis, MO M.A., Political Science, August 2013 - Advisors: Norman Schofield, Jacob Montgomery University of North Carolina , Chapel Hill, NC B.A., Political Science/Public Policy/Statistics, 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.	
SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS, WORKING PAPERS, AND PAPERS IN PROGRESS	1. "Disagreement and Dimensionality: A Varying Dimensions Approach to Roll Call Scaling in the U.S. Congress" <i>Invited to Revise and Resubmit at the Journal of Politics</i> 2. "Measuring Election Frauds" (with Walter Mebane, Diogo Ferrari, and Patrick Wu) <i>Under Review</i> . 3. "Interval Estimation on the Marginal Likelihood" 4. "A Bayesian Nonparametric Approach to Estimating Group Dynamics in Roll Call Scaling"	

AWARDS	Emory QTM Most Influential Professor Award (given by the graduating class of 2025)
	Emory QTM Most Influential Professor Award (given by the graduating class of 2024)
	Samuel Eldersveld Outstanding Paper Award for “Ordered Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey Scaling: Improving Bias Correction on the Liberal-Conservative Scale”. 2018-2019.
	- Best paper presented at a professionally sponsored conference by a University of Michigan graduate student in 2018-2019.
	John T. Williams Dissertation Prize, Society for Political Methodology. 2018.
	- Best dissertation proposal in the area of political methodology.
	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.
CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS	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
	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 2013,2015-2022.
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	- Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association 2015-2022.
	- Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting 2016-2022.
	Emory University, Department of Quantitative Theory and Methods:
	- Introduction to Research Design Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

- Introduction to Bayesian Statistics Spring 2021
- Introduction to Statistical Machine Learning Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
- Introduction to Deep Learning and Generative Machine Learning Spring 2024, Spring 2025
- Design and Logic For Data Science (Graduate) Fall 2023, Fall 2024
- Data Science Capstone Project Lead (Graduate) Spring 2024, Spring 2025
- Measurement and Classification Research Lab Spring 2022
- Faculty lead for QTM Capstone Project (UPS) Spring 2023
- Faculty lead for QTM Capstone Project (Atlanta Affordable Housing) Spring 2024

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

SERVICE

Department Service

Director of Undergraduate Research, Emory QTM Dept. (2022 - 2024)

- Director for QTM honors program
- Director for QTM fellows, interns, and research assistants
- Coordinator for QTM capstone projects

Emory University DataThink (2024)

Undergraduate Mentoring

Honors students:

Anna Ringwood (Psychology; 2022)
 Matt Zhang (Computer Science; 2023)
 Oliver Wang (Applied Math and Statistics; 2023)
 Ruth Nelson (Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology; 2023)
 Annie Luo (QTM; 2023; Chair)
 Manavi Anantula (QTM; 2023; Chair)
 Pinyue Wang (QTM; 2024; Chair)
 Ellie Abbott (Biology; 2024)
 Evan Yang (QTM; 2024; Co-Chair)
 Aileen He (Applied Math and Statistics; 2024)
 Harper Wang (QTM; 2024)
 Max Shumway (QTM; 2025; Chair)
 Katie Clark (QTM; 2025; Chair)
 Manny Bettencourt (QTM; 2025; Chair)
 Michael Wang (QTM; 2025)
 Chris Wang (QTM; 2025)
 Tina Shewarega (QTM; 2025)
 James Park (QTM; 2025)

Research:

Atlanta Building Permit Database (2023,2024)
 Summer Data Science for Social Good Practicum (2022,2023)

Measurement and Classification Research Lab (2022)
Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (2021)

Manuscript Referee

The R Journal; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Journal of Politics; Political Science Research and Methods; Journal of Statistical Software

University of Michigan Department Service

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

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.

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)