



Washington University in St. Louis

WEIDENBAUM CENTER ON THE ECONOMY, GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC POLICY

I recently received my PhD in political science from UCLA and am currently a postdoctoral research fellow in the Weidenbaum Center for the Economy, Government, and Public Policy at Washington University in St. Louis. My main fields of expertise are American Politics, Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior, and Quantitative Research Methods. Currently, my research examines the causes and consequences of intergroup conflict and falls into three broad areas: (1) racial and ethnic politics; (2) campaigns and elections; and (3) gender and politics. I have published projects across these three areas, with work appearing in top political science journals such as the *American Political Science Review* and *British Journal of Political Science*, as well as in prominent subfield journals such as *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Political Psychology*, and *Politics and Gender*.

During my time in graduate school I discovered that I deeply enjoy academic research and have an aptitude for taking on projects that address timely social and political issues. The next step in my developing academic career is to obtain a tenure-track position in a department that will nurture my continued growth as a scholar, teacher, and mentor. I believe that I would be an excellent candidate for an assistant professor position for a number of reasons.

First, I have demonstrated early in my career my ability to be productive, as I have already produced 15 publications with several more articles under review. In addition to quantity, my developing record offers quality, as my research is landing in top journals and is making an impact on the field as evidenced by my rapidly growing Google Scholar citation count. This work has been recognized with a variety of awards including best paper awards from my department and from WPSA as well as an emerging scholar in political psychology award from the APSA. Further, my research has already received substantial media coverage in leading outlets including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Economist*, and *Vox*, among others.

Complimenting my already published research is a large pipeline of ongoing projects in various stages. I currently have numerous active projects on outgroup attitudes including: (1) the effects of identity primes and elite rhetoric on immigration attitudes in both the U.S. and in 18 European countries; (2) the effects of police shootings and mass protest on attitudes toward the police and perceptions of discrimination against African Americans in the U.S.; (3) the racial foundations of attitudes about inequality in the U.S.; (4) the racial foundations of attitudes about abortion in the U.S.; (5) the effects of refugee resettlement on attitudes and behaviors in the U.S.; and (6) the relationship between racial attitudes, political polarization, and the distribution of films about racism in the U.S.

I am also developing a book project on how elite cues and social forces shape intergroup attitudes. Existing work on the origins of outgroup attitudes suggest that they are socialized early in life, remain stable throughout adulthood, and do not change as a function of elite politics. Recently, however, racial attitudes have been liberalizing rapidly among various groups in the United States, suggesting that existing theories are not sufficient for understanding contemporary political trends. Leveraging existing and original survey data together with a series of survey, lab, and field experiments, I show that outgroup attitudes *are* responsive to norms established by elites and are reinforced by peers within salient social groups. This work not only upends our understanding of the origins of outgroup attitudes in politics but has important implications for American democracy in an era of rapid demographic change.

Second, my research and teaching interests would compliment most department offerings. I am a dedicated and passionate teacher and I am prepared to teach courses at the introductory, upper division, and graduate levels on topics such as American government, public opinion and voting behavior,

political psychology, racial attitudes, racial and ethnic politics, campaigns and elections, and political communication. I have already served as a Teaching Assistant for courses in American Politics and Political Communications and my teaching evaluations were consistently among the best in the department.

Further, I received excellent methodological training at UW and UCLA and have worked hard to stay abreast of methodological developments as they develop in both political science as well as other fields. My publication record illustrates my ability to use diverse and creative sources of data and methods to answer a broad range of substantively important research questions. My research involves designing and analyzing experiments (laboratory, survey, and field) as well as observational data with both correlational and quasi-experimental methods (difference-in-differences, synthetic control, regression discontinuity). Further, my research involves the collection of large datasets from diverse sources including the pooling of dozens of public opinion surveys, the merging of public opinion data with administrative data from various government sources (i.e., the U.S. Census Bureau) and websites (using various data scraping and digitizing techniques), county and state election returns databases, and spatial data (using weighted spatial joins and ecological inference). Thus, in addition to teaching a variety of substantive courses, I could also teach courses in undergraduate and graduate-level methods and skills building. Indeed, I have already designed and led two undergraduate classes on data analysis, research design, and visualization, a series of graduate workshops in statistical programming offered each year to incoming students, and served as the department statistical programming consultant for four years at UCLA.

Third, I would contribute actively to institution-building in your department through fundraising, public engagement, and collaborations.

I am an active fundraiser and am deeply concerned with public engagement. I have collaborated with colleagues to receive research grants, totaling over \$250k, from the National Endowment for Democracy and New American Economy, a Bloomberg philanthropy, to conduct research on elites and immigration attitudes in the U.S. and Europe. Further, I frequently write about politics for a national audience. I have published Op-Eds in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, *New York Daily News*, the *National Journal*, and *The Hill*, including two recent submissions that brought social science theories and original data to bear on issues related to public health and politics during the coronavirus pandemic.

I have ample experience working collaboratively as a team member and team leader. From 2019-2020, I was the project coordinator for the Democracy Fund + UCLA Nationscape project. I helped design, pilot test, and execute weekly surveys of N=6,250 adults in the U.S. and served as the liaison between Democracy Fund's Voter Study Group and the UCLA research team. The project will be the largest publicly available survey of political opinions ever conducted in the U.S. In March 2020, I formed a collaborative team of researchers across four institutions and oversaw the design and execution of the first national three-wave panel study of coronavirus attitudes, a dataset that has already yielded several peer-reviewed publications and has received press coverage. I have also served as a consultant providing services related to survey and experimental design, data collection, and analysis for a variety of clients ranging from NGOs, to private research firms, to academics in other departments and expert witnesses in voting rights lawsuits.

Finally, I believe strongly in building and sustaining community in a department. I have a proven record of co-authoring and collaborating with both junior and senior academics and graduate students, within and across institutions and substantive fields. I will be a dedicated and supportive colleague who will be present in the department, co-author with and mentor graduate students and undergraduates, build supportive and non-judgmental spaces where students and colleagues feel comfortable sharing

and workshopping ideas, and expand my network of scholars doing cutting edge research on important social and political issues.

You can learn more on my website at www.tylerreny.com.

Tyler T. Reny, PhD