

Zachary Esses Johnson, M.Sc., M.P.P., J.D.

Doctoral Student in Government at the University of Virginia

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Research Interests

Political Economy, Taxation, Public Finance, Measurement, Computational Statistics, Causal Inference

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Government University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA	2023 – 2028
Master of Public Policy University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA	2021 – 2023
Master of Science, Behavioral Science London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK	2020 – 2021
Juris Doctor University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada	2014 – 2017
Bachelor of Arts with Distinction, Political Studies University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada	2011 – 2014

Professional Experience

Researcher , The Miller Center, University of Virginia Charlottesville, USA	2024 – Present
Editorial Assistant , American Journal of Political Science Charlottesville, USA	2023 – Present
State Taxation Intern , The Tax Foundation Washington, DC, USA	2023
Associate Lawyer , Legacy Tax + Trust Lawyers Vancouver, Canada	2018 – 2020
Articling Student , DLA Piper LLP Vancouver, Canada	2017 – 2018

Research Experience

Research Assistant , Department of Politics, University of Virginia Supervisor: Carol Mershon, Ph.D. Charlottesville, USA	2024
Research Assistant , Department of Politics, University of Virginia Supervisor: Albert Rivero, J.D., Ph.D. Charlottesville, USA	2023
Research Assistant , Gould School of Law, University of Southern California Supervisors: Abby Wood, J.D., Ph.D., and Pamela McCann, Ph.D. Los Angeles, USA	2022 – 2023

Practicum Student , California Common Cause/MALDEF Los Angeles, USA	2022 – 2023
Associate Researcher , Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics Supervisor: Jason Doctor, Ph.D. Los Angeles, USA	2021 – 2023
External Research Associate , AltaMed Institute for Health Equity Los Angeles, USA	2021 – 2022
Research Student , London School of Economics Supervisor: Liam Delaney, Ph.D. Project: Behavioral Science & National Preparedness for Risks London, UK	2021

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant , University of Virginia Class: Regression Analysis (Graduate) Charlottesville, USA	2025 – Present
Teaching Assistant , University of Virginia Class: Indian and Pakistani Politics (Undergraduate) Charlottesville, USA	2024
Course Grader , University of Southern California Class: Public Financial Management and Budgeting (Graduate) Los Angeles, USA	2023
Course Grader , University of Southern California Class: Contemporary International Politics (Undergraduate) Los Angeles, USA	2021

Presentations

Diffusion of Violent Political Protest - Geographic Evidence from Bangladesh Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico	2025
Food Insecurity and COVID-19 Antibody Status Among Medically-Underserved Latinx Communities in Southern California AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Washington, DC	2022
COVID-19 Vaccination Beliefs and Intentions Among Medically-Underserved Latinx Communities in Southern California: An Application of a Modified Theory of Planned Behavior AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Washington, DC	2022

Awards

Bob Biller Award - Finalist University of Southern California	2023
Sol Price School of Public Policy Scholarship University of Southern California (60,000)	2021
Undergraduate Research Award University of Manitoba (5,000)	2015

Coding/Software Skills

R, Python, Stata, L^AT_EX, Excel, Gorilla, Qualtrics

Languages

English (Native), French (Basic), Turkish (Beginner)