

Jonathan A. Solis

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POSITION

AidData Research Lab
College of William & Mary, Global Research Institute
Senior Research Analyst, Jan. 2021-present
Research Analyst, Jan. 2019-Jan. 2021

University of Houston
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Dissertation Completion Fellow, Aug. 2017-May 2018

City of New Orleans
Office of Community Development/Code Enforcement Bureau
Outreach Coordinator, Sept. 2009-Aug. 2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Political Science, May 2018
University of Houston

- Dissertation: Media Attacks and Political Institutions
- Committee: Ryan Kennedy (chair), Eduardo Aleman, Lydia Tiede, and Elizabeth Stein (outside reader)

M.A., Department of Political Science, May 2009
University of New Orleans

B.A. in Mass Communication, May 2007
Louisiana State University
minors: political science, history

POLICY REPORTS

Looking west? Gauging perceptions of the US in Europe and Eurasia. 2020. T Sethi and **JA Solis**. (client funded report not yet publicly available)

Silk road diplomacy: Deconstructing Beijing's toolkit to influence South and Central Asia. 2019. S Custer, T Sethi, **JA Solis**, JJ Lin, S Ghose, A Gupta, R Knight, A Baehr. Link: <https://www.aiddata.org/publications/silk-road-diplomacy>

Influencing the Narrative: How the Chinese government mobilizes students and media to burnish its image. 2019. Samantha Custer, M Prakash, **JA Solis**, R Knight, JJ Lin. Link: <https://www.aiddata.org/publications/influencing-the-narrative>

POLICY WORK IN PROGRESS

Leading USAID-funded project examining the influence of foreign, malign actors in the media space in 17 Europe & Eurasian countries. The team includes four AidData staff members and 7 student research assistants. The project includes four focus areas:

(i) *Constructing an index measuring a country's resilience to foreign, malign influence (Media Resilience to Malign Influence Index).*

(ii) *Mapping the presence of Russian state-owned media and owners of domestic media in E&E countries.*

(iii) *Quantifying sentiment of content E&E domestic media.*

(iv) *Measuring elite perceptions of the media environment (resilience, transparency, and level of disinformation) in E&E countries.*

**PEER-REVIEW
ARTICLES**

“The Press-safety Paradox of Democracies: Regime-type Duration and Journalist Killings.” 2021. **JA Solis**. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 17(1): pp. 1-22. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/fpa/oraa007>

“Measuring Media Freedom: An Item Response Theory Analysis of Existing Indicators.” 2020. **JA Solis**, P Waggoner. *British Journal of Political Science*, 1-20. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123420000101>

“The Media Smells like Sulfur!!! Leaders and Verbal Attacks against the Fourth Estate in Unconsolidated Democracies.” 2020. **JA Solis**, I Sagarzazu. *Political Communication*, 37(1), pp. 20-45. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2019.1660440>

“Constituent communication through telephone town halls: A field experiment involving members of congress.” 2019. C Abernathy, K Esterling, J Freebourn, R Kennedy, W Minozzi, MA Neblo, **JA Solis**. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 44(4), pp. 617-646. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12242>

“Leaders, Tenure, and the Politics of Sovereign Credit.” 2018. P Shea, **JA Solis**. *International Interactions*, 44(2), pp. 294-320. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2018.1406932>

“Corruption is bad news for a free press: Reassessing the relationship between media freedom and corruption.” 2017. **JA Solis**, L Antenangeli. *Social Science Quarterly*, 98(3), pp. 1112-1113. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12438>

**UNDER
REVIEW**

“Defending the Watchdogs: How Citizens and Courts Protect the Press.” 2021. **JA Solis**, K Zvobgo. r&r at *Journal of Human Rights*. Pre-print: <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.17192.52487>

**RESEARCH
PROJECTS**

Congress 3.0 Project

Collaboration project among U.S. Congressional members, the Democracy Fund, the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF), and academics from Ohio State, UC-Riverside, Northeastern, and Harvard on improving Congress-constituent communication. Research assistance provided under the guidance of Ryan Kennedy. *August 2015-May 2018*

**RESEARCH
INTERESTS**

- Quantitative analysis, measurement theory, and time-series analysis
- Comparative political communication and media freedom
- Democratization
- Physical integrity of journalists

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATION
(selected)**

2020 American Political Science Association

- Defending the Watchdogs: How Citizens and Courts Protect the Press (with K Zvobgo)

2017 American Political Science Association

- Measuring Media Freedom: An Item Response Theory Analysis of Existing Indicators
- Constituent Communication through Telephone Town Halls: A Field Experiment Involving Members of Congress (with C Abernathy, K Esterling, J Freeborn, R Kennedy, W Minozzi, M Neblo)

2016 EITM Summer Institute, Houston, TX

- Corruption is Bad News for a Free Press (with L Antenangeli)

2014 American Political Science Association

- Leaders, Tenure, and the Politics of Sovereign Credit (with P Shea)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- **Empirical Implication of Theoretical Modeling (EITM)**, *University of Houston*: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
- **New World of Comparative Political Communication Conference**, *Texas A&M University*: May 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor: Introduction to U.S. Federal Government

Lone Star College—University Park, summer 2014 (online course), summer 2015, summer 2016 (online course), summer 2017, fall 2018

Instructor: Introduction to Texas Government

Lone Star College—University Park, summer 2015 (online course), summer 2016 (online course), summer 2017 (hybrid online/face-to-face), summer 2018, fall 2018, spring 2019, summer 2019

Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Comparative Politics, F Cantu (professor) University of Houston, fall 2013, spring 2014, fall 2014

Teaching Assistant: Law and Society, L Tiede (professor) University of Houston, fall 2013

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- University of Houston, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences: Dissertation Completion Grant (2017-18), 2017
- International Studies Association Travel Grant, 2015 & 2016
- University of Houston, Graduate Institutional Grant, 2013
- Louisiana State University Study Abroad Scholarship, 2006
- Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (T.O.P.S.) Scholarship, Fall 2003-Spring 2007

SKILLS

- R, Stata, LaTeX, G Suite tools, and Microsoft Applications, including Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Original data collection and analysis
- Advanced Spanish, beginner Portuguese

DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Peer reviewer for: Political Communication, International Journal of Press/Politics, International Studies Quarterly, and Journal of Information Technology & Politics