

Jacob Rampino

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Education

University of Chicago, Master of Arts, 2027

Master of Arts Program in Computational Social Science

Concentration: General

Thesis title: *Detecting Antisemitism: Multi-Aspect Operationalization of a Contested Concept*

Advisor: Dr. Isaac Mehlhaff

Florida State University, Bachelor of Science, 2025

Bachelor of Science Program in Political Science

Thesis title: *Identifying and Analyzing Selectivity in News Media Coverage Through Hierarchical Topic Modeling: Israel-Palestine as a Case Study*

Advisor: Dr. Holger Kern

Honors in the Major, Magna Cum Laude

Conference Presentations

“Measuring and Analyzing Media Bias from Text,” Florida State University 24th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, Tallahassee, 2024

Teaching Experience

“Python Programming with Social Science Applications,” Jean Clipperton, 2026

Serving as a Teaching Assistant, assisting students understand and apply Python concepts for assignments both in-class and during weekly office hours. Assist with grading assignments, giving structured feedback, as well as explaining and correcting errors to improve student performance.

Professional Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Chicago (January 2026 – Present)

Designed an LLM and Political DEBATE stance detection pipeline for hypothesis generation and evaluating entailment agreement across 87,000+ posts. Constructed a randomized labeling survey on Qualtrics integrated using JavaScript to collect a ground-truth dataset for validating and fine-tuning entailment tasks. Cleaned over 9.1 million Reddit posts across 10 years, and designed and implemented a topic modeling pipeline to cluster them, optimizing HDBSCAN parameters using a parallelized grid search on high-performance computing clusters.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Florida State University (August 2023 – April 2024)

Deployed Structural Topic Models in R to analyze how topics and beliefs on immigration vary across self-identified partisan affiliation. Measured partisan bias across 6 major outlets by scoring article text against 2,000 Congressional speech phrases, finding up to 5.4-point ideological divergence between outlet pairs on a -6 to +6 scale. Hand-coded survey responses on immigration attitudes, classifying sentiment to generate labeled training data.

Methodological Training

Natural language inference; clustering; dimensionality reduction; topic modeling; time-series analysis; supervised classification; regression modeling; survey design; distributed computing.