Branden Bohrnsen

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Education

Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan — Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Science — 2025 - 2031 *(expected)*

- Subfields: comparative politics and public policy
- Research: political economy, climate, development, methods

Department of Political Science, UCLA — Los Angeles, CA
B.A. in Political Science with Highest Honors — 2022 - 2024

- Advisor: Prof. Michael L. Ross

Projects

Measuring Local Welfare in the Philippines
Pre-Analysis Plan — 2025 - Present

- I measure local welfare in the Philippines over time using contemporaneous household-level surveys and item response theory. The data is validated against official government estimates using exogenous shocks to welfare.

Polarized Climate Policy
Draft — 2023 - Present

- Climate policy is a result of the distributive conflict between environmental interests and the incumbent fossil fuel industry. Consequently, conservative and private interest group opposition may be concentrated on the policies posing the greatest immediate threat to the fossil fuel industry, and weaker policies may be "hedged" or otherwise supported.

Experience

RA for Prof. Alexander Gazmararian | University of Michigan — 07/2025 - Present

RA for Prof. Cesi Cruz | University of Michigan — 01/2024 - Present

- Ample processing and analysis of network, spatial, and experimental data
- Lead research assistant on project "Handling Misinformation: Lessons from the Mexican and American Infospheres" using Otree to build a behavioral game

RA for Prof. Daniel Posner | UCLA — 06/2024 - 04/2025

- Lead research assistant on project "Measuring Intermarriage in Africa"
- Extensive data cleaning and estimation on census, spatial, and survey data

Awards

- **Highest Honors**, UCLA Department of Political Science — 2024
- **The Stuart C. Waugh and Scott L. Waugh Endowed Scholarship**, UCLA College Honors — 2024
- **Keck Research Fellowship**, UCLA Undergraduate Research Center — 2023
- **Rosalind W. Alcott Scholarship**, UCLA College Honors — 2023
- **Research Revealed**, UCLA Undergraduate Research Center — 2023

Skills

Languages: English, German (beginner)
Programming: R (advanced), Python (intermediate), GDScript (advanced), C++ (beginner)