

MAX WELCH

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Education

Ph.D. Political Science. University of California, Davis. 2028 (*expected*).

Subfields: Comparative Politics, Methodology

Committee: James Adams (chair), Lauren Peritz, Hanno Hilbig

M.A. Political Science. Michigan State University. 2020.

B.S. Political Science, minor in Computer Science. University of Idaho. 2018.

Research & Teaching Interests

Parties and Elections, Party Institutions, Representation, Western and European Politics, Natural Language Processing

Working Papers & Works in Progress

“The Programmatic Constraints of Party Ties to Civil Society” (*Revise and Resubmit* at European Journal of Political Research)

“Leading from the Backbench: How MP Candidates’ Current Policy Preferences Predict Parties’ Future Policy Shifts” with James Adams

“Representation in the World Health Assembly” with Lauren Peritz, Katheryn Russ, Carl Stahmer, Xiao Hui Tai, and Nick Ulle

“Populist Accommodation and Social Status” with Nicolas Bichay

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

UCD Political Science Graduate Research Award (\$1500)	2026
UCD Political Science Departmental Travel Award (\$1000)	2026
UCD Political Science Summer Research Collaborative Grant (with James Adams) (\$5000)	2024

Conference and Workshop Participation

2026

Midwest Political Science Association (*Paper*): “Leading from the Backbench: How MP Candidates’ Current Policy Preferences Predict Parties’ Future Policy Shifts” with James Adams

2025

Midwest Political Science Association (*Paper*): “The Constraining Effect of Party-Civil Society Ties”

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

University of California, Davis

POL 011C Politics of Film, Spring 2024.

POL 140A Comparative Electoral Systems, Fall 2023.

POL 140C Comparative Institutions Legislatures, Spring 2025.

POL 140D When Institutions Fail, Fall 2024.

POL 142A Comparative Political Development, Winter 2024.

POL 160 American Political Parties, Winter 2025.

ICPSR Summer Program

Regression Analysis, 2026.

Discussion Section Instructor**University of California, Davis**

POL 002 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Winter 2026.

POL 051 Scientific Study of Politics, Fall 2025, Spring 2026.

Research Experience

Research Assistant

UC Davis DataLab, Co-PI: Lauren Peritz, Katheryn Russ, Xiao Hui Tai, Carl Stahmer, automated text analysis of World Health Assembly speeches, 2025-2026.

AI and Democracy, PI: Hanno Hilbig, 2026.

Service

Department

University of California, Davis

Graduate Student Mentor. 2025.

Professional Memberships

Midwest Political Science Association

Skills

Technical: R, Python, L^AT_EX

Updated June 2026