

Alesha Elean Lewis

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Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Urbana, IL) 2022-2027
Doctorate of Philosophy in Political Science
Major Field: American Politics, Minor Field: Comparative Politics

Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX) 2017-2021
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Political Science

Research Interests

Political psychology; race, ethnicity & politics; political participation; biology & politics

Research Experience & Grants

Undergraduate Inclusivity & Expansion Fellowship Jul 2020-May 2021
Society for Political Methodology

- Enrolled in courses and workshops led by faculty from various universities through Inter-university Consortium for Political & Social Research (ICPSR)
 - Introduction to LaTeX Processing System, Introduction to Python, Game Theory and Social Choice Theory (all virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- Chosen to conduct research with faculty mentor Dr. Daniel Hopkins (University of Pennsylvania, Department of Political Science)
 - Work included: analyzing open-ended survey responses on perceptions of political parties and politicians in the United States, Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom; analyzing Congress members' Tweets

King Creativity Grant Project Oct 2020-April 2021
Southwestern University

- Applied for and received research funding (\$900) from Southwestern University's King Creativity committee
- Conducted mixed methods research project under supervision of faculty sponsor, Dr. Erin Crockett (Department of Psychology)
- Recruited participants with Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Collected data via online survey
- Conducted linear regressions, correlational analyses and independent samples t-tests using statistical software
- Interviewed members of population of interest to determine impacts of group affiliation

Summer Predoctoral Institute Jun 2022-Jul 2022
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Worked with Dr. Cara Wong to research the effect of racial trauma on black civic engagement
- Used existing data from the Pew Research Center to study civic engagement rates and group consciousness between blacks and the U.S. general public
- Awarded \$4,500 fellowship

Genomic Security and Privacy Research Assistantship Jun 2023-Dec 2022

Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- 25% RA appointment
 - Will work with Dr. Aleksander Książkiewicz to: create Qualtrics surveys, complete approval paperwork for the Institutional Review Board (IRB), statistically analyze survey data, and organize focus groups
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Awards

Outstanding Scholar Award (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Summer Predoctoral Institute, July 2022)

Graduate College Fellowship (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate College, August 2022, \$25,000 for three years)

Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Sep 2020

Virtual

Advisor: Dr. Emily Sydnor

- Poster presentation titled: "Passion & polarization: How political controversy fosters extremity of opinion"

Research & Creative Works Symposium

Apr 2021

Southwestern University

Advisor: Dr. Erin Crockett

- Oral presentation titled: "Acquiring identities: Differences in collective identity in white versus non-white sororities"

Illinois Summer Research Symposium

Jul 2022

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Advisor: Dr. Cara Wong

- Poster presentation and roundtable discussion titled: "Racial trauma as a catalyst for civic engagement"

Politics of Race, Immigration, & Ethnicity Consortium

Jan 2023

Arizona State University

Advisor: Dr. Cara Wong

- Oral presentation titled: "Racial trauma and the implications for collective action"
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Technical Skills

R; SPSS; LaTeX; Qualtrics; LIWC

Academic Professionalization

Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Fellow

Jun 2020-Jul 2020

Duke University

- Engaged in virtual workshops with emphasis on research writing and GRE strategies
- Attended virtual guest faculty lectures on research in various sub-specialties in political science

- Participated in virtual professional development sessions
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Non-academic Professionalization

Political Science Graduate Student Association

Oct 2022-Present

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- First-year representative; attend monthly meetings to plan department events, address grievances among graduate students, allocate funds for conference travel