

# MASON REECE

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## EDUCATION

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### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

est. May 2027

- PhD in Political Science, focus in American Politics and Models & Methods

### Rice University

May 2022

- BA in Political Science with Honors and BA in Social Policy Analysis
- Distinction in Research and Creative Works, Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude

## ELECTIONS EXPERIENCE

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### ACADEMIC

#### National Voter Satisfaction

Fall 2020 – Spring 2022

*Dr. Robert M. Stein, Dr. Lonna Atkeson, Dr. Trey Hood, Colin Jones*

- NSF funded national research on voters' experience in the 2020 election
- Surveyed 1.2+ million voters in every state using Qualtrics with L2 and Dynata political data

#### Measuring and Improving the Impact of Using Stadiums for Voting

Spring 2021 – Spring 2022

*Dr. Tova Wang, Dr. Frank Guridy, Dr. Michael Hanmer, Dr. David Nickerson, Dr. Robert M. Stein, Asha Jones*

- Evaluating the novel use of stadiums and arenas as polling locations in the 2020 election with a multi-university team
- Currently conducting aggregate level analysis and planning for individual-level surveys and data analysis

#### Harris County Clerk's Office

Fall 2020

*Dr. Robert M. Stein, Dr. Elizabeth Vann, Carolyn Daly, Arisa Sadeghpour*

- Surveyed 12,500 voters on their preferences and intentions for the presidential election with a research team, then built multiple statistical models on voters using R
- The Clerk used our work to secure \$12 million to implement new voting methods and defend changes in Texas Supreme Court
- Rice University COVID-19 Response/ BRIDGE Rapid Response funded research project

#### Center for Election Innovation and Research

Summer 2021

*Research Intern*

- Collected data on new state voting laws for the Election Official Legal Defense Network
- Helped write report analyzing Automatic Voter Registration in Georgia

#### Research Intern for Dr. Robert M. Stein and Dr. Elizabeth Vann

Spring 2020 – Spring 2022

- Assisted Dr. Stein and Dr. Vann in several small research projects, including survey feedback, voter file analysis, and report writing
- Helped facilitate election polling in Harris County for use in "Waiting to Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election"

#### Research Intern for Dr. Melissa Marschall

Summer 2019

- Analyzed data to inform a proposal from Houston in Action to implement Election Day Vote Centers in Harris County, TX

### ADVOCACY

#### Houston Youth Voters Conference

Summer 2020 – Winter 2021

- Led the organization of the conference in 2021
- Helped organize four webinars in 2020 on youth voter empowerment with a team of over 20 organizers from multiple schools
- Developed innovative virtual solutions and created educational content for the webinars

#### Civic Duty Rice President, Treasurer and Member

Spring 2019 – Spring 2022

- Lead club members through Rice and Houston voter registration and civic engagement opportunities
- Distributed voter registration forms across campus and helped coordinate campus wide registration efforts
- Wrote two op-eds in the university newspaper to communicate relevant [election information](#) and [voter issues](#)

## ADMINISTRATION

### Election Day Presiding Judge at the Rice Polling Location

Summer 2020 – Spring 2022

- Served as presiding judge – the first Rice student to do so – and recruited 23 student poll workers to help serve 14,000 voters
- Exchanged over 600 emails, numerous phone calls, text messages and Zoom meetings to organize and empower voters at Rice
- Winner of the APSA's undergraduate poll worker essay contest, published in [Political Science Today](#)

### Harris County Democratic Party Precinct 0361 Chair

Summer 2020 – Spring 2022

- Elected to a two year term to register, inform and motivate voters in collaboration with campus stakeholders

## WRITTEN WORK

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### Publications

- Jones, C., Stein, R. M., Atkeson, L., Hood, M. V., Reece, M. (2021). *Measuring Election Confidence in 2020*. <https://electionlab.mit.edu/articles/measuring-election-confidence-2020>.
- Stein, R. M., Reece, M., Alilonu, C., Saha, D. (2021). *Drive-thru voting in Texas*. <https://news.rice.edu/news/2021/drive-through-voting-hit-harris-county-voters-according-newly-released-rice-u-survey>
- Reece, Mason (2021). Undergraduate Poll Worker Essay Contest Winners. *Political Science Today*, 1(2), 20–22. <http://doi.org/10.1017/psj.2021.27>
- Reece, M., Daly, C. Sadeghpour, A. (2020). Data on Voter Behavior and COVID-19 Fuels Student Research. *Government Technology*. <https://www.govtech.com/analytics/data-on-voter-behavior-and-covid-19-fuels-student-research.html>

### Working Papers

- **Reece, Mason**, Gabrielle Péloquin-Skulski, Kate Murray, Joseph R. Loffredo, Kevin E. Acevedo Jetter, Fernanda Gonzalez, Zachary Garai, Alejandro Flores, Luka Bulić Bračulj, Samuel Baltz, Charles Stewart III. *Hidden Partisanship in American Elections*.
- Reece, Mason. *Ideal Point Estimation of Voters Using Cast Vote Records*.
- Reece, Mason. *Measuring and Improving the Impact of Using Stadiums and Arenas for Voting*. Undergraduate political science honors thesis.
- Atkeson, L., Hood, T., Jones, C. **Reece, M.**, Stein, R. M. *Restoring Voter Confidence: Conditional Explanations for the Partisan Effects on Voter Confidence*. Submitted, awaiting review.
- Atkeson, L., Hood, T., Jones, C. **Reece, M.**, Stein, R. M. *Postal Voting in the 2020 Election*. Submitted, awaiting review.

## AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

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Sallyport Award	2022
Judge Woodrow Seals Award	2022
Rhodes Scholarship Finalist	2022
Marshall Scholarship Finalist	2022
Truman Scholarship Finalist	2021
Douglas S. Harlan Award (\$1,000)	2021
Morty Rich Scholarship (\$10,000)	2021
Jesse Jones Leadership Summer in DC Internship Program (\$7,500 per year)	2020-2021
MetroLab Student Cup Grand Prize (\$1,500) (with Carolyn Daly and Arisa Sadeghpour)	2020
Trustee Distinguished Merit Scholarship (\$25,000 per year)	2018-2022
ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge's Student Honor Roll	2021
Social Policy Analysis Best Paper Award (\$100) (with Carolyn Daly)	2021
Political Science Undergraduate Research Fund (\$500)	2020

## PRESENTATIONS

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Hidden Partisanship in American Elections at the SPSA Conference	2024
Rice University's Social Science Advisory Board	2021
Moderated "Advancing Democratic Access and Inclusion beyond the 2020 Election"	2020
COVID-19 & the Election: Understanding Voter Preferences and Intentions	2020

## SKILLS

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**Advanced:** R (tidyverse and base), Stata, ArcGIS Pro, Qualtrics, Git, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**Intermediate:** Python, Machine Learning, Mapbox

## CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

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**2024:** SPSA, ESRA  
**2023:** ESRA  
**2022:** SPSA  
**2021:** Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration (ESRA)  
**2020:** MPSA

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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- Hanszen College** Fall 2018 – Spring 2023
- Advised 24 freshmen across two years, helped them choose classes, learn about traditions, and transition to college
  - Academic advisor for three years, helping students plan their schedules and connecting them with campuswide resources
  - Free academic tutor for three years in political science and social policy analysis, led study sessions and provided advice on future opportunities in the social sciences. Managed the tutor program at Hanszen my senior year
  - College parliamentarian and co-head of several committees (Awards, Alumni, Baking, Bike, Kitchen, and Merch)
- Alternative Spring Break Site Leader** Fall 2019 – Spring 2020
- Researched interpersonal violence and facilitated community engagement for 12 students
  - Facilitated weekly meetings that would have culminated in a week-long service experience in Nashville, TN (cancelled because of Covid-19)
- Social Policy Analysis Capstone** Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
- Evaluated the impact of Texas' Community Youth Development program using Google Street View
  - Analyzed data using IRT, GIS and regression, culminating in a research paper
- Data Science Capstone** Spring 2021
- Used spatial regression and machine learning to help the City of Houston combat extreme urban heat
- Houston Action Research Team** Fall 2019
- Interviewed 20+ newspapers, organizations, and judges on best practices in judicial endorsements
  - Surveyed 2,500 voters, analyzed data, wrote 78-page report, presented recommendations for evaluating candidates and communicating information to voters; recommendations implemented by the *Houston Chronicle*
- Baker Institute for Public Policy's Center for the Middle East** Fall 2018 – Spring 2020  
*Research Intern for Dr. A.Kadir Yildirim*
- Developed an interactive map, "[Map: Islam and Authority in the Middle East](#)", visualizing the aggregate results of an original 12-country public opinion survey, using Mapbox, ArcGIS Pro and JavaScript
  - Visualized data for "[The New Guardians of Religion: Islam And Authority in The Middle East](#)"
- American University Political Science** Summer 2020  
*Research Intern for Dr. Chris Edelson*
- Reviewed case law and literature on the American executive and assisted in writing "[No Watchman in the Night: How Presidential and Congressional Responses to the Coronavirus Pandemic Undermine the Hamiltonian-Madisonian Model of Accountability](#)", published in *Congress & the Presidency*
- Rice Journal for Public Policy, Head Short Form Editor** Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
- Led a team of 8 writers and editors in writing short policy pieces on relevant current issues
- Rice Cycling and Triathlon Club, Cycling President** Spring 2019 – Spring 2022
- Coach cyclists of all levels in weekly practices
  - Category 3 road racer with 15,000+ lifetime miles and 24 races completed