Alex Tolkin

Postdoctoral Associate, Duke Initiative on Survey Methodology

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EDUCATION

2025   Joint PhD in Political Science and Communication, **University of Pennsylvania**
- Dissertation: *The Effects of Televised Sports Viewing on Beliefs About Political Competition*
- Dissertation Committee: Diana Mutz, Yphtach Lelkes, Michelle Margolis, Michael X. Delli-Carpini

2023   MA in Communication, **University of Pennsylvania**

2013   BA in Political Science, **Washington University in Saint Louis**
- Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

Tolkin, Alex. 2026 (Forthcoming). "Reluctant Partisans, not Undercover Partisans: Why Americans Increasingly Identify as Independent." *Public Opinion Quarterly.*

Tolkin, Alex. 2025. "Good Sports or Sore Losers: Sports Fans and Perceptions of Election Legitimacy." *Political Behavior.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-025-10077-9

WORKING PAPERS

How Question Format Influences Feeling Thermometer Measures (with D. Sunshine Hillygus)

From Terrorism to Great Power Competition: How Changing International Threats Affect Americans' Support for Global Engagement (with Jonathan Schulman)

A Constant Competition: Sports and Zero-Sum Thinking.

Sports Versus War: Disambiguating the Game Frame

TEACHING

Teaching Fellow	**Quantitative Research Methods in Communication**	2022
Teaching Fellow	**Introduction to American Politics**	2020
Teaching Fellow	**Introduction to Data Science**	2019

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Upenn Political Science Graduate Student Summer Grant ($1000)	2023
Polarization Research Lab (survey time)	2022
Annenberg Summer Fellowship ($4,000/year)	2019-2023

INVITED TALKS

Good Sports Or Sore Losers? Sports, Ritual, and Perceptions of Election Legitimacy

- UMass Amherst Emerging Scholar Research Talk

Conference Talks and Invited Presentations

2025:

Southern Association for Public Opinion Research	Raleigh, NC
American Political Science Association	Vancouver, Canada
Midwest Political Science Association	Chicago, IL

2024:

American Political Science Association	Philadelphia, PA
International Communication Association	Gold Coast, Australia
Midwest Political Science Association	Chicago, IL
Southern Political Science Association	New Orleans, LA

2023:

Directions of Polarization, Social Norms, and Trust in Societies Workshop	Cambridge, MA
American Political Science Association	Los Angeles, CA
International Communication Association	Toronto, Canada
Toronto Political Behavior Workshop	Toronto, Canada
Polarization Research Lab	Stanford, CA

2022:

American Political Science Association	Montreal, Canada
Midwest Political Science Association	Chicago, IL

2021:

American Political Science Association	Virtual

2019:

American Political Science Association	Washington, DC
International Communication Association	Washington, DC

Service

Representative	Graduate Student Council	2019-2020
Coordinator	Democracy and Information Group	2019-2020

Professional Experience

2015 - 2018   Data Scientist, *Locus Analytics*

2013 - 2015   Technical Services, *Epic Systems*

Programming Skills

R, Python, Stata, LaTeX