

Current:
Atlanta, GA

Kevin D. Russell
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Hometown:
Lima, OH

EDUCATION

Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, expected May 2027

Master of Arts in Political Science, 2024

Doctoral Committee: Dr. Kiela Crabtree, Dr. Bernard Fraga, Dr. Andra Gillespie (Chair), Dr. Zachary Peskowitz

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA

Bachelor of Arts, June 2017

Major: Political Science; Minor: African American Studies

Political Science Department Certificate of Quantitative Achievement

RESEARCH INTEREST

Political behavior of racial and ethnic groups in the United States;
Financial contributions to political campaigns among Black communities;

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, Emory University 2021-Present

Collect data on electoral outcomes and funds raised, gather and review literature on subjects such as issue voting, education policy, and racial messaging, and provide transcriptions and copy-editing to assist faculty.

Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University 2015-2017

Performed content analysis on multiple decades of editorial data based on a specific coding scheme and reporting statistical trends in the data to get a sense of U.S. presidential performance and public reaction to presidents' actions with the goal of producing a ranking of modern American presidents.

WORKING PAPERS

Russell, Kevin DeSean, (nd) "From Protest to Pocketbooks: Black Donors to Electoral Campaigns."

Russell, Kevin D., Ash Shankar, Kevin Sparrow (nd) "Black Intersectional Identities: Diverging Patterns of Participation, Party Identification, and Ideology."

Russell, Kevin DeSean, (nd) "Black Candidate Appeals and Donations by Individuals."

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming languages: R, Stata

Quantitative research methods: surveys, voting data, donation data

Qualitative research methods: guided interviews, focus groups

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Russell, Kevin DeSean, (nd) “From Protest to Pocketbooks: Black Donors to Electoral Campaigns.” 2025 Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, New Orleans, LA

Russell, Kevin DeSean, (nd) “From Protest to Pocketbooks: Political Donations by Racial Identity and Motivations for Black Giving.” 2024 Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Los Angeles, CA

Russell, Kevin DeSean, (nd) “Black Candidate Appeals and Donations by Individuals.” 2024 Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium, Charlotte, NC

Russell, Kevin DeSean, (nd) “Relative Contributions and Determinants of Black Campaign Donations.” 2023 Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Atlanta, GA

Russell, Kevin DeSean, (nd) “Relative Contributions and Determinants of Black Campaign Donations.” 2023 Atlanta Symposium of Political Science, Atlanta, GA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN PUBLICATIONS

Alvin B. Tillery Jr. and Hanes Walton Jr. “Presidential Greatness in the Black Press: Ranking the Modern Presidents on Civil Rights Policy and Race Relations, 1900–2016.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2017, pp. 71-88.

HONORS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

Member, Bouchet Graduate Honor Society	04/2025-Present
Junior Fellow, Emory Diversifying Graduate Education	08/2024-07/2025
Diversity Fellowship Program, American Political Science Association	Spring 2023
Centennial Scholar Fellowship, Emory University	08/2021-Present

Northwestern Scholarship , Northwestern University	09/2013-06/2017
Dean's List , Northwestern University	01/2016-06/2017
Kakehashi Project , Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Intl Cooperation Center	March, 2017
Summer Internship Grant Program , Northwestern University	06/2016-09/2016
Posner Fellowship , Northwestern University	06/2015-09/2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co-Instructor, POLS 100: U.S. National Politics , Emory University	01/2025-05/2025
Lectured on parties, party identification, congress, participation, elections, among other topics Graded midterm exam and weekly writing assignments.	
Instructor, Professional Development , Emory University	05/2025-07/2025
Improved content for and led in-person sessions for undergraduate summer research assistants	
Teaching Assistant, Research Design and Methods , Emory University	01/2024-05/2024
Led weekly discussion sections and gave personalized feedback to students on research designs.	
Grader, Intro to American Government , Emory University	01/2023-05/2023
Graded midterm exam and weekly writing assignments.	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Junior Fellow, Laney Graduate School EDGE , Emory University	08/2024-07/2025
Led Learning About Laney Symposium and presented research poster. Attended graduate school fairs as student recruiter and fostered inclusive environment during on-campus events.	
Recruitment, Political Science Department , Emory University	2022-2024
Attended Ralph Bunche Summer Institute as student recruiter. Spoke to admitted students about their enrollment decision.	
Advisor to the Office of the Provost , Emory University	01/2023-02/2023
Consulted during the interview process for the position of Director of Truth, Healing, and Transformation.	

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Interviewer, Alumni Admission Council, *Northwestern University* 08/2019-Present
Meet with prospective students to supplement application materials with insights from one-on-one conversations.

Mentor, Evanston Scholars, *Evanston Township High School* 09/2019-06/2025
Support a high school junior through their college experience, from application through graduation.

Internal Co-Chair, Young Professionals Board, *John Howard Association* 04/2019-11/2020
Oversaw recruitment efforts and doubled board membership.

Moderator, Sustained Dialogue, *Northwestern University* 02/2016-06/2017
Facilitated open and respectful group dialogues among students on personal, campus-wide, and national issues after completing 18 hours of training.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Business Development Representative, Infutor Data Solutions, *Chicago, IL* 04/2020-07/2021
Profile strategic accounts, identify key players, research and obtain business requirements, and present solutions to begin sales cycle for companies looking to improve customer acquisition, growth, and experience through consumer data. Set meetings for account executives with companies that fit the ideal client profile through tactful communication with external executives.

Annual Performance Review: “Kevin demonstrates all of the core values to make him a long-term, high growth at Infutor. His focus on creativity and skill development will be key to insuring his increasing success.” 12/2020

Senior Site Development Specialist, SAC Wireless, *Chicago, IL* 11/2017-03/2020
Directed and managed project development processes to facilitate the installation of new cellular equipment for Sprint at its rented telecommunication sites. Charged with obtaining land owner approval, jurisdictional zoning approval and building permit, and final client sign-off on hundreds of sites.

Annual Performance Review: “Extraordinary Impact” 01/2020

Intern, Common Cause Illinois, *Chicago, IL* 09/2016-12/2016
Organized poll-watching volunteers at over 100 polling places for the 2016 Presidential election and composed hundreds of tweets and dozens of Facebook posts for CCIL social media efforts. Compelled two aldermen to commit votes for the Fair Elections Ordinance, which creates a small-donor public-financing system for Chicago elected officials.

Special Projects Intern, *U.S. Department of Commerce, Advocacy Center, Washington D.C.*
06/2016-09/2016

Collaborated with the Executive Director to support the goal of helping U.S. companies to win foreign government contracts across the globe. Created ten dashboards to summarize Advocacy Center data, including dollars raised and clients served.

Administrative Assistant, NU Department of Political Science, *Evanston, IL* 09/2016-08/2017
Converted over 30 years of course syllabi into electronic files. Responded to phone calls and directed visitors.

Campus Ambassador, Monster Energy Drinks, *Evanston, IL* 09/2014-06/2017
Distributed energy drinks in collaboration with student organizations and university events.
Communicated with superiors with documentation of efforts.

Customer Service Rep., Henry Crown Sports Pavilion, *Evanston, IL* 09/2013-08/2017
Provided fitness equipment to patrons together with other CSRs and observed use to ensure patron safety while using equipment.