



**MPSA 2026**  
**Pre-Conference Workshop**

## **Causal Inference Using R for Political Scientists**

Instructor: Dr. Lewis A. Luartz, *Chapman University*

**Wednesday April 22, 2026**

**12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Crystal Ballroom

The goal of this workshop is to prepare you for your own research using R to evaluate causal relationships. This workshop will provide you with tools and examples that you may find essential to achieving this goal in your own work by helping you to:

- Distinguish between causal and correlational questions
- Visualize causal relationships in R
- Use R to analyze data through experiments, matching, Instrumental Variables (IV), Regression Discontinuity Designs (RDDs), and Difference-in-Difference (DiD) designs
- Perform diagnostics and robustness checks on your results
- Communicate causal results for an academic audience

Workshop Prerequisites: A working knowledge of R, including the ability to import data and conduct analyses up to the level of ordinary least squares (OLS) regression or logistic regression is required. Attendees must have access to a computer that can run the latest versions of R and, optionally, R Studio.

This free workshop is open to registered MPSA conference attendees. Space is limited and participants will be registered on a first-come-first-served basis.

If you would like to attend the workshop, please register [here](#).

About the Instructor:

Dr. Lewis A. Luartz is an Instructional Assistant Professor of Political Science at Chapman University, where he regularly offers courses in political science research methodology. His research interests lie in comparative politics and mass political behavior, particularly in the areas of elections and political parties. His work can be found in multiple peer-reviewed journals including the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties*; *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*; *Swiss Political Science Review*; *Politics of the Low Countries*; and *Journal of the National Medical Association*.