

Rachel Porter

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APPOINTMENTS

University of Notre Dame

Assistant Professor, Political Science & Computational Social Science 2022-Present
Faculty Fellow, Lucy Family Institute for Data & Society

EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Political Science 2016-2022
M.A., Political Science 2018

The University of Georgia

B.A., Political Science & International Affairs 2016
Distinctions: Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Political Institutions | Campaigns & Elections | Computational Social Science
U.S. Congress | Women in Politics | Natural Language Processing | Big Data Analysis

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Porter, Rachel and Tyler Steelman. 2022. [No Experience Required: Early Donations and Amateur Success in Congressional Primary Elections](#). *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. Early View: Online First.

Ladam, Christina, Austin Bussing, Alexander C. Furnas, Josh McCrain, David R. Miller, and Rachel Porter. 2022. [The Junior Americanist Workshop Series \(JAWS\)](#). *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(3), 552-553.

McDonald, Maura, Rachel Porter and Sarah Treul. 2020. ["Running as a Woman? Gender and the 2018 Congressional Election."](#) *Political Research Quarterly*, 73(4): 967-987.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Carson, Jamie L., Jason M. Roberts, and Rachel Porter. 2020. ["The Nationalization of Congressional Elections"](#) in *New Directions in Congressional Politics*, Routledge.

Lynch, Michael S., Anthony J. Madonna, and Rachel Surminsky. 2016. ["Irregular Order: Examining the Changing Congressional Amending Process"](#) in *Party and Procedure in the United States Congress*, Rowland & Little.

WORKING PAPERS

[Changing the Dialogue: Descriptive Candidacies & Position-Taking in Campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives](#), with Sarah A. Treul (Invited to Revise & Resubmit)

[Policy Facts or Partisan Friction?: Elite Communication on America's Opioid Epidemic](#)

[Estimating the Ideological Extremity of Primary Electorates](#)

[Reevaluating Electoral Experience as a Predictor for Success in Congressional Elections](#), with Sarah A. Treul

IN PROGRESS	Measuring Early Monetary Giving in Elections for the U.S. House of Representatives, <i>with Sarah A. Treul and Colin R. Case</i>	
	Estimating Common Topics from Multiple Corpora using Keyword-Assisted Topic Models, <i>with Kosuke Imai and Santiago Olivella</i>	
	Setting the Narrative: Campaign Styles in Congressional Elections, <i>with Sarah A. Treul</i> (book manuscript under development)	
OTHER PUBLICATIONS	Treul, Sarah and Rachel Porter. 20 April, 2018. "Inexperienced candidates are becoming more common, but only in one party." <i>Mischiefs of Faction</i> - Vox	
	Surminsky, Rachel and Michael S. Lynch. 20 November, 2014. "When Congress sues the president, it's likely to fail." <i>The Monkey Cage</i> - Washington Post	
FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS	Dissertation Completion Fellowship , UNC Graudate School (\$20,500 <i>plus tuition</i>)	2021
	Social Data Dissertation Fellowship , Social Science Research Council (\$15,000)	2020
	Thomas M. Uhlman Fellowship, UNC Political Science (\$5000/year)	2016
	Summer Research Fellowship, UNC Political Science, (\$3000/year)	
GRANTS & AWARDS	Centennial Research Grant, American Political Science Association (\$10,000) <i>Co-PIs: David Miller, Josh McCrain, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam</i>	2022
	Darlene Walker Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000)	2020
	Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, UNC Political Science	2019
	Hughes Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$2000)	
	Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000)	2018
TEACHING	University of Notre Dame	
	<i>Instructor of Record</i>	
	POLS 60040: American Political Institutions	FA 2022
	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	
	<i>Instructor of Record</i>	
	POLI 281: Data in Politics I	FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SSII 2021
	POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics	Spring 2019
	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	
	POLI 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics	FA 2018
	POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics	FA 2017, SP 2018
	Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, UNC - Chapel Hill	
	<i>Short Course Instructor</i>	
	Collecting & Analyzing Text in R	SP 2019, FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SP 2021
INVITED TALKS	Washington University in St. Louis	October 2021
	Bowling Green State University	September 2021
	The University of Notre Dame	February 2021
	The University of Georgia	September 2020

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS	American Political Science Association Annual Conference	2022
	Carl Albert Center Legislative Politics Conference	
	American Political Science Association Annual Conference	2021
	Political Communication; APSA Pre-Conference	
	Frontiers in Money and Politics; APSA Pre-Conference	
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Extended Poster Session)	
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	
	American Political Science Association Annual Conference	2020
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Extended Poster Session)	
	Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference	
	American Political Science Association Annual Conference	2019
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Poster Session)	
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	
	UNC-Chapel Hill Methods and Design Workshop	
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Poster Session)	2018
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	
	UNC-Chapel Hill Methods and Design Workshop	
DATA SCIENCE & TECH STACK	Languages: R (expert), Stata (expert), Python (proficient)	
	Programs: Qualtrics (survey & experimental design), Latex, Adobe Creative Suite	
	Machine Learning: caret, Tensorflow / Keras, ML models for topic discovery	
	High Performance Computing: AWS, Linux-based computing systems	
	Statistical Modeling: classic regression models, generalized linear models, multilevel modeling, measurement models for sampling bias correction	
VOLUNTEER & SERVICE	Reviewer: Journal of Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Electoral Studies, Research & Politics, American Journal of Political Science, Political Behavior, Politics & Gender	
	Graduate Student President, UNC Department of Political Science (2021-2022)	
	Co-Founder & Co-Organizer, Junior Americanist Workshop Series (2020-2022)	
	Program Coordinator, American Politics Working Group (2017-2019)	
	Field Representative, UNC Department of Political Science (2018-2019)	