

# Rachel Porter

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## APPOINTMENTS

### University of Notre Dame

Assistant Professor, Political Science

2022-Present

Faculty Fellow, Lucy Family Institute for Data & Society

## EDUCATION

### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Political Science

2022

Fields: American Politics & Political Methodology

Dissertation: [Some Politics Are Still Local: Strategic Position Taking in Congress & Elections](#)

E.E. Schattschneider Award for best dissertation in American government, 2023

M.A., Political Science

2018

### The University of Georgia

B.A., Political Science & International Affairs

2016

Distinctions: Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Porter, Rachel**, Sarah A. Treul, and Maura McDonald. "Changing the Dialogue: Descriptive Candidacies & Position Taking in Campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives." Forthcoming at *The Journal of Politics*.
2. **Porter, Rachel** and Sarah A. Treul. "Evaluating (In)Experience in Congressional Elections." Forthcoming at *The American Journal of Political Science*.  
- Featured on [Mischievous Faction-Vox](#), [FiveThirtyEight](#), and [The Science of Politics](#)
3. **Porter, Rachel** and Tyler Steelman. 2023. "No Experience Required: Early Donations and Amateur Success in Congressional Primaries." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 48(2): 455-466.
4. 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.
5. McDonald, Maura, **Rachel Porter** and Sarah A. Treul. 2020. "Running as a Woman? Gender and the 2018 Congressional Election." *Political Research Quarterly*, 73(4): 967-987.

## WORKING PAPERS

[Conceptualizing and Measuring Early Campaign Fundraising in Congressional Elections](#), with Colin R. Case (Invited to Revise and Resubmit at *Political Science Research & Methods*)

[Congressional Campaign Style and Bipartisan Tendencies](#), with Colin R. Case and Emily Cottle Ommundsen

[Intra-Party Variation on Climate Change Positions in U.S. House Elections](#), with Ben Francis and Bill Kakenmaster

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

## BOOK PROJECTS

The Amateur Advantage: Understanding the Rise of Inexperience in Congress & Congressional Elections, with Sarah A. Treul

Some Politics Are Still Local: Issue Attention in Congress & Elections

## PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Candidate Positioning & Issue Polarization in Congressional Elections, with Colin R. Case

Small Dollars & Globalization: How Layoffs Translate to Costly Political Action, with Maggie MacDonald, Megan Brown, James Bisbee, and Patrick Y. Wu

The Impact of Small Dollar Donations and Donors in Congressional Campaigns, with Maggie MacDonald and Megan Brown

The Consequences of 2020 Election Denial in American State Legislatures, with Abigail Hemmen, Emily Anderson, Emma Schroeder, G  ssica de Freitas, and Jeffrey Harden

## 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.

## PUBLIC WRITING

Treul, Sarah and Rachel Porter. 20 April, 2018. "[Inexperienced candidates are becoming more common, but only in one party.](#)" *Mischiefs of Faction* - Vox

Surminsky, Rachel and Michael S. Lynch. 20 November, 2014. "[When Congress sues the president, it's likely to fail.](#)" *The Monkey Cage* - Washington Post

## MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Featured Guest on the Niskanen Center's *The Science of Politics* Podcast  
Episode Title: [How primary elections enable polarized amateurs](#)

## GRANTS & AWARDS

### Awards & Honors

E.E. Schattschneider Award, American Political Science Association	2023
Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, UNC Political Science	2019
Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, University of Georgia	2016

### Internal Funding

Notre Dame ISLA, International Travel Grant (\$1,000)	2024
UNC Graduate School, Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$20,500 <i>plus tuition</i> )	2021
Hughes Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$2000)	2020
UNC Political Science, Darlene Walker Summer Research Award (\$3000)	2019
Thomas M. Ullman Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000)	2018
UNC Political Science, Thomas M. Ullman Fellowship (\$5000/year)	2016-2021
UNC Political Science, Summer Research Fellowship (\$3000/year)	2016-2021

### External Funding

Unite America, Evaluating Partisan Primaries & Reform Solutions (\$20,745) <i>Co-PI: Colin R. Case</i>	2023
Center for Effective Lawmaking, Accountability Research Grant (\$1,000) <i>Co-PIs: Colin R. Case and Emily Cottle Ommundsen</i>	2023
American Political Science Association, Centennial Research Grant (\$10,000) <i>Co-PIs: Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam, Josh McCrain, and David Miller</i>	2022
Social Science Research Council, Social Data Dissertation Fellowship (\$15,000)	2020

### TEACHING

#### University of Notre Dame

*Instructor of Record*

POLS 30005: The United States Congress	FA 2023; SP 2024
POLS 40811: Quantitative Political Analysis	SP 2023; SP 2024
POLS 60040: American Political Institutions (Graduate Seminar)	FA 2022

#### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Instructor of Record*

<a href="#">POLI 281: Data in Politics I</a>	FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SSII 2021
<a href="#">POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics</a>	SP 2019

*Teaching Assistant*

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

*Short Course Instructor*

<a href="#">Collecting &amp; Analyzing Text in R</a>	SP 2019, FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SP 2021
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### INVITED TALKS

2024: UC San Diego, American Politics Workshop
2023: University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop; Women in Legislative Studies (WiLS) Seminar; Georgetown University, American Government Seminar Series
2022: Purdue University, Political Science Workshop
2021: The University of Notre Dame, Rooney Center Workshop Series; Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS) Seminar; Bowling Green State University, Speaker Series; Washington University in St. Louis, Political Science Speaker Series
2020: University of Georgia, Emerging Issues in Political Science

### SMALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2024: UC Berkeley, Winter American Politics Research Meeting; Washington University in St. Louis, Stories that Win Symposium (scheduled); Unite America Research Symposium, Washington D.C. (scheduled); University of Notre Dame, Keeping the Republic Conference (scheduled); Washington University in St. Louis, Visions in Methodology Conference (scheduled); Copenhagen Business School, Money in Politics Conference (scheduled)
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**2023:** University of Notre Dame, Keeping the Republic Conference; American Political Science Association, Frontiers in Money and Politics Pre-Conference; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, American Politics Research Group 25th Anniversary Conference; Brown University, Women in Legislative Studies Conference

**2022:** The University of Oklahoma, Carl Albert Center Legislative Studies Conference

**2021:** American Political Science Association, Political Communication Pre-Conference; American Political Science Association, Frontiers in Money and Politics Pre-Conference

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference	2017-2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference	2020

## VOLUNTEER & SERVICE

**Co-Founder & Co-Organizer, [Junior Americanist Workshop Series](#)** 2020-2024

**Program Committee, [Visions in Methodology \(VIM\) Conference](#)** 2024

**Program Chair, MPSA Primary Elections Conference within a Conference** 2024  
(organized with Sarah Anderson, Dan Butler, Colin Case, and Laurel Harbridge-Yong)

**Program Committee, MPSA JAWS Conference within a Conference** 2023  
(organized with David Miller, Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, and Christina Ladam)

**Referee:** American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Electoral Studies; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties; Journal of Politics; Journal of Women, Politics & Policy; Legislative Studies Quarterly; National Science Foundation; Political Behavior; Political Science Research & Methods; Politics & Gender; Research & Politics; Social Science Quarterly

**Discussant & Panelist:** American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Frontiers of Money & Politics Pre-Conference; Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting; Women in Legislative Studies Professional Development Seminar

## Departmental Service at the University of Notre Dame

Advisor, Representation and Politics in Legislatures Lab AY 23/24

Member, Committee on Inclusive Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship AY 23/24

Member, Graduate Policy Council AY 22/23

Admission Committee Member, Lucy Institute Graduate Fellows Program SP 2023

PhD Advising:

- Abigail Hemmen (Methods Paper Committee Member, 2024)

Undergraduate Advising

- Julia Thomalla (Thesis Co-Chair, 2024)

## **Departmental Service at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**

Graduate Student President, Department of Political Science	AY 21/22
Program Coordinator, American Politics Working Group	AY 18/19; 19/20
American Field Representative, Department of Political Science	AY 18/19

## **REFERENCES**

Jeff Harden, University of Notre Dame  
[jeff.harden@nd.edu](mailto:jeff.harden@nd.edu)

Betsy Sinclair, Washington University in St. Louis  
[bsinclair@wustl.edu](mailto:bsinclair@wustl.edu)

Santiago Olivella, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
[olivella@unc.edu](mailto:olivella@unc.edu)

John Aldrich, Duke University  
[aldrich@duke.edu](mailto:aldrich@duke.edu)