

Rachel Porter

✉ rachel.porter@nd.edu 🌐 rachelporter.org 📱 [porterrachel](https://porterrachel.com)

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

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

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Porter, Rachel, Sarah Treul, and Maura McDonald. 2023. [Changing the Dialogue: Descriptive Candidacies & Position-Taking in Campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives](#). *Journal of Politics*. *Forthcoming*.

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.

UNDER REVIEW

[Evaluating \(In\)Experience in Congressional Elections](#) with Sarah A. Treul
(Featured on *Mischief of Faction* - Vox, *FiveThirtyEight*, and *The Science of Politics* podcast)

Follow the Money: Strategies for Measuring Early Fundraising in U.S. Elections,
with Colin R. Case

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Inexperience Required?: Understanding the Rise of Political Amateurism in Congressional Politics, with Sarah A. Treul (Expected Submission: Fall 2023)

IN PROGRESS

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

All Politics Is National?: Evidence for Local Issue Attention in U.S. Congressional Elections

Assessing Candidate Positioning & Electoral Choice in Congressional Elections
with Colin Case

Evaluating Electoral Context & Partisan Messaging on Climate Policy, with Ben Francis

Estimating Common Topics from Multiple Corpora using Keyword-Assisted Topic Models, with Kosuke Imai and Santiago Olivella

BOOK CHAPTERS	Carson, Jamie L., Jason M. Roberts, and Rachel Porter . 2020. " The Nationalization of Congressional Elections " in <i>New Directions in Congressional Politics</i> , Routledge.	
	Lynch, Michael S., Anthony J. Madonna, and Rachel Surminsky . 2016. " Irregular Order: Examining the Changing Congressional Amending Process " in <i>Party and Procedure in the United States Congress</i> , Rowland & Little.	
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. Ulhman 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. Ulhman Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000)	2018
TEACHING	University of Notre Dame	
	<i>Instructor of Record</i>	
	POLS 30005: The United States Congress	FA 2023
	POLS 40811: Quantitative Political Analysis	SP 2023
	POLS 60040: American Political Institutions (Graduate Seminar)	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	SP 2019
	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	
	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	University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop	2023
	Purdue University, Political Science Workshop	2022
	Washington University in St. Louis, Political Science Speaker Series	2021
	Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS)	
	Bowling Green State University, Speaker Series	
	The University of Notre Dame, Rooney Center Workshop Series	
	The University of Georgia, Emerging Issues in Political Science Series	2020

RECENT CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference	2023
Rooney Center Keeping the Republic Conference	
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 Conference	
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 Conference	
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

Discipline

Referee: Journal of Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Electoral Studies, Research & Politics, American Journal of Political Science, Political Behavior, Politics & Gender, Journal of Women, Politics & Policy

Discussant: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Co-Founder & Co-Organizer, [Junior Americanist Workshop Series](#) (2020-2023)

Departmental Service at the University of Notre Dame

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

Graduate Policy Council, Department of Political Science (AY 22/23)

Graduate Scholar Admission Committee, Lucy Institute for Data & Society (2023)

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](#) (2017-2019)

American Field Representative, Department of Political Science (AY 18/19)