

Rachel Porter

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
303 Hamilton Hall
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

✉ rachsurr@live.unc.edu
🌐 rachelporter.org
🔗 [porter-rachel](https://github.com/porter-rachel)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American political institutions, primary elections, Congress, political communication, elite behavior, computational social science, text-as-data, small area estimation

EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science Expected: 2021

Concentrations: American Politics and Political Methodology

Committee: Sarah A. Treul (chair), Marc Hetherington, John Aldrich (Duke University), Jason M. Roberts, and Santiago Olivella

M.A., Political Science 2018

University of Georgia

B.A., Political Science 2016

Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, Departmental Honors

PUBLICATIONS

McDonald, Maura, **Rachel Porter** and Sarah Treul. 2020. "[Running as a Woman? Gender and the 2018 Congressional Election](#)." *Political Research Quarterly*. Online First.

Carson, Jamie L., Jason M. Roberts, and **Rachel Porter**. 2020. "The Nationalization of Congressional Elections" in *New Directions in Congressional Politics*, 2nd Ed.: 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*, 2nd Ed.: Rowland & Little.

WORKING PAPERS

[Descriptive Candidacies & Position-Taking in Campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives](#), with Sarah A. Treul and Maura McDonald (**Under Review**)

[Estimating the Ideology of Primary Electorates](#), (**Under Review**)

[Reevaluating Electoral Experience in Congressional Primary Elections](#), with Sarah A. Treul

[No Experience Required: Early Donations and Amateur Success in Primary Elections](#), with Tyler Steelman

IN PROGRESS

Estimating Common Topics from Multiple Corpora using Keyword-Assisted Topic Models, with Kosuke Imai and Santiago Olivella (software and manuscript under development)

Setting the Narrative: Campaign Styles in Congressional Elections, with Sarah A. Treul (book manuscript under development, expected completion Summer 2021)

Partisan Rhetoric and Party Consistency: A Modern Look at Local Issues (manuscript under development; analysis from dissertation project)

Party Support and Candidate Communication in Elections for the U.S. House of Representatives *with Hans J.G. Hassell* (data collection underway)

Measuring Legislative Follow-Through on Campaign Agendas (data analysis underway)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Social Data Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (\$14,250)	2020
Thomas M. Uhlman Fellowship, UNC Political Science (\$5000/year)	2016
Summer Research Fellowship, UNC Political Science, (\$3000/year)	
Zell Miller Scholarship, State of Georgia (<i>full undergraduate tuition</i>)	2012

GRANTS & AWARDS

Darlene Walker Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000)	2020
Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association	
Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, UNC Political Science	2019
Hughes Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$2000)	
Travel Grant, Society for Political Methodology	
Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000)	2018
Travel Grant, Society for Political Methodology	
Travel Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School	2017

TEACHING

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor of Record

POLI 281: Data in Politics I	Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020
POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics	Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant

POLI 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics	Fall 2018
POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics	Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, UNC - Chapel Hill

Short Course Instructor

Collecting & Analyzing Text in R	Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
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MAJOR DATA COLLECTIONS

Chapel Hill American Primaries Project — Website Text Collection (2018-2020)

- Comprehensive text on biographies and platforms from campaign websites
- Platform policy positions hand-coded for major-topic area (N = ~29,000)

Congressional Candidate Professional & Political Data Collection (1980-2020)

- Past political/occupational experience for primary election candidates (N = 26,273)
- Candidate experience hand-coded from newspapers, websites, and archive records

INVITED TALKS	<i>Some Politics Are Still Local: Strategic Position Taking in Modern Campaigns for Congress</i> The University of Georgia, September 2020	
	<i>The Primary Decision: Emergence and Success in Congressional Elections</i> The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 2018	
CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS	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)	
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	
METHODS TRAINING	UNC-Chapel Hill Methods and Design Workshop	
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Poster)	2018
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	
	UNC-Chapel Hill Methods and Design Workshop	
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2017
	Classic Regression Models · Generalized Linear Models · Multilevel Modeling · Measurement Models · Text Mining & Analysis · Machine Learning · Game Theory I · Behavioral Economics & Experiments	
TECHNICAL SKILLS	Programming: R, Stata, Python, HTML (basic)	
	Applications: Qualtrics, L ^A T _E X	
SERVICE	Reviewer, Journal of Politics	
	Co-Coordinator, Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS)	2020
	Coordinator, American Politics Research Group , UNC Political Science	2018 - 2020
	Field Representative, American Politics, UNC Political Science	2018 - 2019
OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	The Carl Vinson Institute of Government , Athens, GA	
	<i>Public Policy Fellow, August 2015 - December 2015</i>	
	Office of Congressman Rob Woodall (GA-7) , Washington, D.C.	
REFERENCES	<i>Congressional Intern, May 2015 - August 2015</i>	
	Sarah A. Treul	Marc Hetherington
	Bowman & Gordon Gray Distinguished	Raymond Dawson Distinguished
	Term Professor	Bicentennial Professor of Political Science
	Department of Political Science	Department of Political Science
	University of North Carolina	University of North Carolina
	streul@email.unc.edu	marcj@email.unc.edu
	John Aldrich	Santiago Olivella
	Pfizer-Pratt University Distinguished	Assistant Professor
	Professor of Political Science	Department of Political Science
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