Rachel Porter

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EDUCATION

The University *of* North Carolina *at* Chapel Hill

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science	Expected: 2022
M.A., Political Science	2018

Fields: American Politics and Political Methodology

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 | Congress | Women in Politics
Natural Language Processing | Computational Social Science | Small Area Estimation

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,* 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

No Experience Required: Early Donations and Amateur Success in Primary Elections, *with Tyler Steelman* (Revise and Resubmit)

Changing the Dialogue: 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*

IN PROGRESS

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

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

Candidate Rhetoric on the Opioid Crisis: A Modern Look at Local Issues in U.S. Elections

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

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC Graudate School (*$20,490 plus tuition*)	2021
	Social Data Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (*$14,250*)	2020
	Thomas M. Ulhman Fellowship, UNC Political Science (*$5000/year*)	2016
	Summer Research Fellowship, UNC Political Science, (*$3000/year*)	
	Zell Miller Scholarship, State of Georgia (*full undergraduate tuition*)	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. Ulhman 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	FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SSII 2021
POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics	Spring 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, UNC - Chapel Hill

Short Course Instructor

Collecting & Analyzing Text in R	SP 2019, FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SP 2021

INVITED TALKS

The University of Notre Dame, February 2021
Changing the Dialogue: Descriptive Candidacies & Position-Taking in U.S. House Campaigns

The University of Georgia, September 2020
Some Politics Are Still Local: Strategic Position Taking in Modern Campaigns for Congress

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 2018
The Primary Decision: Emergence and Success in Congressional Elections

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2021
	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	
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 |

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*

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

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Co-PI & Research Assistant Supervisor (2018-Present)
Chapel Hill American Primaries Project

Collected novel data set of policy platforms and biographies from congressional candidate campaign websites (N ~ 4,000); developed web-scraper capable of identifying and extracting text of interest; recruited and managed interdisciplinary team of fifteen RAs

Public Policy Fellow (2015-2016)
The Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Athens, GA

Conducted a comprehensive assessment of "Georgia Leadership Legislative Institute" training program for newly elected/appointed state officials; presented findings to key stakeholders including CVIOG Director

Congressional Intern, Office of Congressman Rob Woodall (2015)
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC

VOLUNTEER & SERVICE

Reviewer: Journal of Politics, Electoral Studies

Graduate Student President, UNC Department of Political Science (2021-Present)

Co-Founder & Co-Organizer, Junior Americanist Workshop Series (2020-Present)

Program Coordinator, American Politics Working Group (2017-2019)

Field Representative, UNC Department of Political Science (2018-2019)

Executive Advisor, SWAB — 501(c)(3) Non-Profit (2012-2017)

REFERENCES

Sarah A. Treul
Bowman & Gordon Gray Distinguished
Term Professor
Department of Political Science
University of North Carolina
streul@email.unc.edu

John Aldrich
Pfizer-Pratt University Distinguished
Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
Duke University
aldrich@duke.edu

Marc Hetherington
Raymond Dawson Distinguished
Bicentennial Professor of Political Science
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Santiago Olivella
Associate Professor
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Last updated on April 14, 2021