Rachel Porter

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 303 Hamilton Hall Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514	✉ rachsur@live.unc.edu 🌐 rachelporter.org ⬡ 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

Reevaluating Experience in Congressional Primary Elections,
with Sarah A. Treul **(Under Review)**

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

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

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 Partisan-Consistency in Congressional Elections (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. 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	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

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	*Some Politics Are Still Local: Strategic Position Taking in Modern Campaigns for Congress* The University of Georgia, September 2020
	The Primary Decision: Emergence and Success in Congressional Elections The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 2018

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS	American Political Science Association Annual Conference Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Extended Poster Session) Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference	2020
	American Political Science Association Annual Conference Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Poster) Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting UNC-Chapel Hill Methods and Design Workshop	2019
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (Poster) Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting UNC-Chapel Hill Methods and Design Workshop	2018
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2017

METHODS TRAINING	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, LaTeX

SERVICE	Reviewer, Journal of Politics	
	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 *Public Policy Fellow, August 2015 - December 2015*
	Office of Congressman Rob Woodall (GA-7), Washington, D.C. *Congressional Intern, May 2015 - August 2015*

REFERENCES

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

Marc Hetherington
Raymond Dawson Distinguished
Bicentennial Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
University of North Carolina
marcj@email.unc.edu

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

Santiago Olivella
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
University of North Carolina
olivella@unc.edu