

# 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

2016-2022

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

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

Porter, Rachel and Tyler Steelman. 2023. [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 A. 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)

## BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Investigating Inexperience: Congressional Campaigns and Legislative Behavior, 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

Strategies for Measuring Early Fundraising in U.S. Elections, with Colin R. Case

Congressional Campaign Strategy and Bipartisan Tendencies, with Colin R. Case and Emily Cottle Ommundsen

Candidate Positioning & Electoral Choice in Congressional Elections, *with Colin R. Case*

Evaluating Electoral Context & Elite Position Taking 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 *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.

## 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

## GRANTS & AWARDS

E.E. Schattschneider Award, American Political Science Association 2023

Centennial Research Grant, American Political Science Association (\$10,000) 2022

*Co-PIs: David Miller, Josh McCrain, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam*

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. Uhlman Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000) 2018

## FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC Graduate School (\$20,500 *plus tuition*) 2021

Social Data Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (\$15,000) 2020

Thomas M. Uhlman Fellowship, UNC Political Science (\$5000/year) 2016

Summer Research Fellowship, UNC Political Science, (\$3000/year)

## TEACHING

### University of Notre Dame

*Instructor of Record*

POLS 30005: The United States Congress FA 2023

POLS 40811: Quantitative Political Analysis in R SP 2023

POLS 60040: American Political Institutions (Graduate Seminar) FA 2022

### 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](#)

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, UNC - Chapel Hill**

*Short Course Instructor*

[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

### **CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS**

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023  
Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023  
Rooney Center Keeping the Republic Conference 2023  
Frontiers in Money and Politics Pre-Conference (APSA) 2022, 2023  
Political Communication Pre-Conference (APSA) 2022  
Carl Albert Center Legislative Politics Conference 2022  
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference 2020

### **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

**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

Discussant: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, American 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)

Last updated on May 22, 2023