

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*, 48(2): 455-466.

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 29, 2023