

# Rachel Porter

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

## EDUCATION

### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science Expected: 2021  
– Dissertation: *Some Politics Are Still Local: Strategic Position Taking in Modern Campaigns for Congress*  
– Committee: Sarah A. Treul (chair), Marc Hetherington, John Aldrich (Duke University), Jason M. Roberts, and Santiago Olivella  
– Concentrations: *American Politics* and *Political Methodology*  
M.A., Political Science 2018

### University of Georgia

B.A., Political Science, Departmental Honors 2016  
– Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Politics: Congress, Elections, Political Parties, Polarization, Elite Behavior  
Quantitative Methodology: Text-as-Data & Topic Modeling, Group-level Estimation

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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

## WORKING PAPERS

The Increasing Value of Inexperience in Congressional Primary Elections, *with Sarah A. Treul* (**Under Review**)

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

Changing the Dialogue: Candidate Position-Taking in Primary Elections, *with Sarah A. Treul and Maura McDonald* (**Under Review**)

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

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

Setting the Narrative: Campaign Styles in Congressional Elections, book manuscript under development *with Sarah A. Treul*

Partisan Rhetoric and Party Consistency: A Modern Look at Local Issues, manuscript under development

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Treul, Sarah and Rachel Porter. 20 April, 2018. "Inexperienced candidates are becoming more common, but only in one party." *Mischief 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

Thomas M. Uhlman 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

### *Internal*

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

Travel Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School 2017

### *External*

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association 2020

Travel Grant, Society for Political Methodology 2019

Travel Grant, Society for Political Methodology 2018

## 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

#### *Guest Lecturer*

POLI 787 (Graduate Methods Sequence): Lab on Text Scraping & APIs

POLI 130 (Large Lecture Hall): Polarization in America & Around the World

### 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

<b>CONFERENCE &amp; WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS</b>	American Political Science Association Annual Conference	2019, 2020
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2017, 2018, 2019
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting - Poster	2018, 2019, 2020
	Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2020
	University of North Carolina Methods and Design Workshop	2018, 2019, 2020
	University of North Carolina American Politics Research Group	2018, 2020
<b>DATA COLLECTIONS</b>	Chapel Hill American Primaries Project — Website Text Collection (2018-2020)	
	— Oversee collection text from the websites of congressional primary election candidates; train and manage a team of over twenty student coders (N = ~3,900)	
	Congressional Candidate Professional & Political Data Collection (1980-2020)	
	— Employ campaign websites and archive records to determined the past political or occupational experience for all primary election candidate between (N = 26,273)	
<b>DEPARTMENT SERVICE</b>	Program Coordinator, American Politics Research Group, 2018 - 2020	
	Field Representative, UNC Political Science - American Politics, 2018 - 2019	
<b>METHODS TRAINING</b>	Classic Regression Models · Generalized Linear Models · Multilevel Modeling · Measurement Models · Text Mining & Analysis · Machine Learning · Game Theory I · Behavioral Economics & Experiments	
<b>TECHNICAL SKILLS</b>	Programming: R, Stata, Python, CSS (basic)	
	Applications: Qualtrics, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X	
<b>OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE</b>	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. <i>Congressional Intern, May 2015 - August 2015</i>	
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	Society for Political Methodology, American Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>Sarah A. Treul</b>	<b>Marc Hetherington</b>
	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
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>John Aldrich</b>	<b>Santiago Olivella</b>
	Pfizer-Pratt University Distinguished	Assistant Professor
	Professor of Political Science	Department of Political Science
	Department of Political Science	University of North Carolina
	Duke University	olivella@unc.edu
	aldrich@duke.edu	