

# 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. "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 Primaries." *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.

## 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.

## WORKING PAPERS

Conceptualizing and Measuring Early Campaign Fundraising in Congressional Elections, with Colin R. Case

Evaluating (In)Experience in Congressional Elections, with Sarah A. Treul

- Invited to Revise and Resubmit at the *American Journal of Political Science*

- Featured on *Mischief of Faction* - Vox, *FiveThirtyEight*, and *The Science of Politics* podcast

Estimating the Ideology of Congressional Primary Electorates

Policy Facts or Partisan Friction?: Elite Communication on America's Opioid Epidemic

**PROJECTS IN  
PROGRESS**

Candidate Positioning & Issue Polarization in Congressional Elections, with Colin R. Case

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

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

Evaluating Electoral Context & Elite Position Taking on Climate Policy, with Ben Francis

Investigating Inexperience: Congressional Campaigns and Legislative Behavior, with Sarah A. Treul (Book Manuscript)

Some Politics Are Still Local: Understanding the Causes and Consequences of Local Issue Attention in Congress & Elections (Book Manuscript)

Stories That Win: Unpacking the Personal Narratives of Politicians, Professionals, and Community Leaders, with Betsy Sinclair and Billy Acree

**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

**AWARDS**

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

Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, UNC Political Science 2019

**GRANTS &  
FELLOWSHIPS**

*External Funding*

Centennial Research Grant, American Political Science Association (\$10,000) 2022  
*Co-PIs: David Miller, Josh McCrain, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam*

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

*Internal Funding*

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

Darlene Walker Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000) 2019

Thomas M. Uhlman Fellowship, UNC Political Science (\$5000/year) 2016-2021

Summer Research Fellowship, UNC Political Science, (\$3000/year) 2016-2021

**TEACHING****University of Notre Dame***Instructor of Record*

POLS 30005: The United States Congress FA 2023

POLS 40811: Quantitative Political Analysis 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 100: Introduction to American Politics FA 2017, SP 2018

## Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

*Short Course Instructor*

Collecting & Analyzing Text in R

SP 2019, FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SP 2021

### INVITED TALKS

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| UC Berkeley, Winter American Politics Research Meeting (scheduled)     | Feb. 2024  |
| Georgetown University, American Government Seminar Series (scheduled)  | Nov. 2023  |
| Women in Legislative Studies, Research Seminar (scheduled)             | Oct. 2023  |
| University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop                      | Jan. 2023  |
| Purdue University, Political Science Workshop                          | Oct. 2022  |
| Carl Albert Center, Emerging Research in Legislative Studies           | June 2022  |
| Washington University in St. Louis, Political Science Speaker Series   | Oct. 2021  |
| Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS), Research Seminar            | Oct. 2021  |
| Bowling Green State University, Speaker Series                         | Sept. 2021 |
| The University of Notre Dame, Rooney Center Workshop Series            | Feb. 2021  |
| The University of Georgia, Emerging Issues in Political Science Series | Sept. 2020 |

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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|--|------------------------------------|
| 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       |
| Frontiers in Money and Politics Pre-Conference (APSA)    | 2021, 2023                         |
| Women in Legislative Studies Annual Conference           | 2023                               |
| Political Communication Pre-Conference (APSA)            | 2021                               |
| 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

**High Performance Computing:** AWS, Linux-based computing systems

**Statistical Modeling:** classic regression models, generalized linear models, multilevel modeling, measurement models for sampling bias correction

### VOLUNTEER & SERVICE

#### Discipline

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

Referee: American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Electoral Studies; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties; Journal of Politics; Journal of Women, Politics & Policy; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Political Behavior; Politics & Gender; Research & Politics

Discussant: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Frontiers of Money & Politics Pre-Conference; Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting

#### Departmental Service at the University of Notre Dame

Advisor, Representation and Politics in Legislatures Lab

AY 23/24

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Member, Committee on Inclusive Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship  | AY 23/24 |
| Member, Graduate Policy Council                                     | AY 22/23 |
| Admission Committee Member, Lucy Institute Graduate Fellows Program | SP 2023  |

**Departmental Service at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**

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| Graduate Student President, Department of Political Science    | AY 21/22        |
| Program Coordinator, American Politics Working Group           | AY 18/19; 19/20 |
| American Field Representative, Department of Political Science | AY 18/19        |

**REFERENCES**

Sarah Treul, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
streul@email.unc.edu

John Aldrich, Duke University  
aldrich@duke.edu

Betsy Sinclair, Washington University in St. Louis  
bsinclair@wustl.edu

Santiago Olivella, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
olivella@unc.edu