

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

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

1. **Porter, Rachel**, Sarah A. Treul, and Maura McDonald. "Changing the Dialogue: Descriptive Candidacies & Position Taking in Campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives." Forthcoming at *The Journal of Politics*.
2. **Porter, Rachel** and Sarah A. Treul. "Evaluating (In)Experience in Congressional Elections." Forthcoming at *The American Journal of Political Science*.
- Featured on [Mischievous Faction-Vox](#), [FiveThirtyEight](#), and [The Science of Politics](#)
3. **Porter, Rachel** and Tyler Steelman. 2023. "No Experience Required: Early Donations and Amateur Success in Congressional Primaries." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 48(2): 455-466.
4. 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.
5. 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.

WORKING PAPERS

[Conceptualizing and Measuring Early Campaign Fundraising in Congressional Elections](#), with Colin R. Case (Invited to Revise and Resubmit at *Political Science Research & Methods*)

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

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

[Policy Facts or Partisan Friction?: Elite Communication on America's Opioid Epidemic](#)

BOOK PROJECTS	The Amateur Advantage: Understanding the Rise of Inexperience in Congress & Congressional Elections, with Sarah A. Treul	
	Some Politics Are Still Local: Issue Attention in Congress & Elections	
PAPERS IN PROGRESS	Candidate Positioning & Issue Polarization in Congressional Elections, with Colin R. Case	
	Stories That Win: Unpacking the Personal Narratives of Politicians, Professionals, and Community Leaders, with Betsy Sinclair and William Acree	
	The Timing and Impact of Small Dollar Donations in Congressional Campaigns, with Maggie McDonald and Megan Brown	
	The Consequences of 2020 Election Denial in American State Legislatures, with Abigail Hemmen, Emily Anderson, Emma Schroeder, G��ssica de Freitas, and Jeffrey Harden	
BOOK CHAPTERS	Carson, Jamie L., Jason M. Roberts, and Rachel Porter . 2020. " The Nationalization of Congressional Elections " in <i>New Directions in Congressional Politics</i> , Routledge.	
	Lynch, Michael S., Anthony J. Madonna, and Rachel Surminsky . 2016. " Irregular Order: Examining the Changing Congressional Amending Process " in <i>Party and Procedure in the United States Congress</i> , Rowland & Little.	
OTHER WRITING	Treul, Sarah and Rachel Porter. 20 April, 2018. " Inexperienced candidates are becoming more common, but only in one party. " <i>Mischiefs of Faction</i> - Vox	
	Surminsky, Rachel and Michael S. Lynch. 20 November, 2014. " When Congress sues the president, it's likely to fail. " <i>The Monkey Cage</i> - 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	
	Unite America, Evaluating Partisan Primaries & Reform Solutions (\$20,745) <i>Co-PI: Colin R. Case</i>	2023
	Center for Effective Lawmaking, Accountability Research Grant (\$1,000) <i>Co-PIs: Colin R. Case and Emily Cottle Ommundsen</i>	
	American Political Science Association, Centennial Research Grant (\$10,000) <i>Co-PIs: Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam, Josh McCrain, and David Miller</i>	2022
	Social Science Research Council, Social Data Dissertation Fellowship (\$15,000)	2020
	Internal Funding	
	UNC Graduate School, Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$20,500 <i>plus tuition</i>)	2021
	UNC Political Science, Darlene Walker Summer Research Award (\$3000)	2019

UNC Political Science, Thomas M. Uhlman Fellowship (\$5000/year)	2016-2021
UNC Political Science, Summer Research Fellowship (\$3000/year)	2016-2021

TEACHING

University of Notre Dame

Instructor of Record

POLS 30005: The United States Congress	FA 2023; SP 2024
POLS 40811: Quantitative Political Analysis	SP 2023; SP 2024
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

Short Course Instructor

Collecting & Analyzing Text in R	SP 2019, FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SP 2021
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INVITED TALKS & SMALL CONFERENCES

2024: University of California-Berkeley, Winter American Politics Research Meeting (scheduled); Unite America Research Symposium, Washington D.C. (scheduled)

2023: University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop; APSA, Frontiers in Money and Politics Pre-Conference; Women in Legislative Studies (WiLS), Research Seminar; Brown University, Women in Legislative Studies Conference; Georgetown University, American Government Seminar Series

2022: Purdue University, Political Science Workshop; Carl Albert Center & The University of Oklahoma, Emerging Research in Legislative Studies

2021: Washington University in St. Louis, Political Science Speaker Series; Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS), Research Seminar; APSA, Political Communication Pre-Conference; Bowling Green State University, Speaker Series; The University of Notre Dame, Rooney Center Workshop Series

2020: The University of Georgia, Emerging Issues in Political Science Series

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference	2017-2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference	2020

VOLUNTEER & SERVICE

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; National Science Foundation; Political Behavior; Political Science Research & Methods; Politics & Gender; Research & Politics; Social Science Quarterly

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

Program Chair, MPSA Primary Elections Conference within a Conference 2024
(organized with Sarah Anderson, Dan Butler, Colin Case, and Laurel Harbridge-Yong)

Program Committee, Visions in Methodology (VIM) Conference 2024

Program Committee, MPSA JAWS Conference within a Conference 2023
(organized with David Miller, Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, and Christina Ladam)

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

PhD Advising: Abigail Hemmen (Methods Paper Committee Member, 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 AY 18/19; 19/20

American Field Representative, Department of Political Science AY 18/19