

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

Porter, Rachel and Sarah A. Treul. ["Evaluating \(In\)Experience in Congressional Elections."](#) Conditionally Accepted at *The American Journal of Political Science*.

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

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*.

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.

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 (Expected Submission: April 2024)	
	Some Politics Are Still Local: Issue Attention in Congress & Elections (In progress)	
PAPERS IN PROGRESS	Candidate Positioning & Issue Polarization in Congressional Elections, with Colin R. Case	
	Estimating Common Topics from Multiple Corpora using Keyword-Assisted Topic Models, with Kosuke Imai and Santiago Olivella	
	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	
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	
	Accountability Research Grant, Center for Effective Lawmaking (\$1,000) <i>Co-PIs: Colin Case and Emily Cottle Ommundsen</i>	2023
	Centennial Research Grant, American Political Science Association (\$10,000) <i>Co-PIs: Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam, Josh McCrain, and David Miller</i>	2022
	Social Data Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (\$15,000)	2020
	Internal Funding	
	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC Graduate School (\$20,500 <i>plus tuition</i>)	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; 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

INVITED TALKS

2024: UC Berkeley, Winter American Politics Research Meeting (scheduled)

2023: University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop; Women in Legislative Studies, Research Seminar; 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; 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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference 2020, 2024

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023

Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Women in Legislative Studies Conference 2023

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; 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: 2024 Primary Elections Conference within a Conference, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (joint with Sarah Anderson, Dan Butler, Colin Case, and Laurel Harbridge-Yong); 2023 Junior Americanist Workshop Series Conference within a Conference, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (joint with David Miller, Josh McCrain, 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