

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.

UNDER REVIEW

Conceptualizing and Measuring Early Campaign Fundraising, *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

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Investigating Inexperience: Congressional Campaigns and Legislative Behavior, *with Sarah A. Treul* (Book Manuscript, Expected Submission: Fall 2023)

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

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

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*

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

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

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

Centennial Research Grant, American Political Science Association (\$10,000) 2022

Co-PIs: David Miller, Josh McCrain, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam

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 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

Short Course Instructor

Collecting & Analyzing Text in R SP 2019, FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SP 2021

INVITED TALKS

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

University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop 2023

Purdue University, Political Science Workshop 2022

	Carl Albert Center, Legislative Politics Conference	
	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
	Frontiers in Money and Politics Pre-Conference (APSA)	2021, 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 (2020-2023)	
	Referee: Journal of Politics; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Electoral Studies; Research & Politics; Political Behavior; Politics & Gender; Journal of Women, Politics & Policy; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties	
	Discussant: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting; American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Frontiers of Money & Politics Pre-Conference	
	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	
	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

Last updated on July 1, 2023