

Rachel Porter

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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, Parties, Polarization, Elite Behavior
Quantitative Methodology: Text-as-Data, 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**)

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

Changing the Dialogue: Candidate Position-Taking in Primary Elections, manuscript under development *with Sarah A. Treul and Maura McDonald*

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

Campaigning in a Time of Crisis: How Congressional Candidates are addressing the Opioid Epidemic and COVID-19, data analysis 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*

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 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

**CONFERENCE &
WORKSHOP
PRESENTATIONS**

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

**AWARDS AND
HONORS**

Darlene Walker Fellow, UNC Political Science (\$3000) 2020

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association

Hughes Fellowship, UNC Political Science (\$2000) 2019

Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, UNC Political Science

Travel Grant, Society for Political Methodology

Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Award, UNC Political Science (\$3000) 2018

Travel Grant, Society for Political Methodology

Travel Grant, UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School 2017

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

Summer Funding Award, UNC Political Science, (\$3000/year)

Zell Miller Scholarship, State of Georgia (*full undergraduate tuition*) 2012

**RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**

Project Coordinator, Chapel Hill American Primaries Project (2018 - Present)

- Oversee collection of all text from the websites of congressional primary election candidates (2018 collection complete; 2020 in process; N = ~3,900)

- Train and manage a team of undergraduate and graduate student coders

Research Assistant, Sarah Treul (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Michael Lynch (Fall 2014, Spring 2015)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Program Coordinator, American Politics Research Group, 2018 - Present

- Organize weekly speaker series; coordinate visits for out-of-town guests

Field Representative, UNC Political Science - American Politics, 2018 - 2019

METHODS TRAINING

Classic Regression Models · Generalized Linear Models · Multilevel Modeling · Measurement Models · Text Mining & Analysis · Machine Learning · Game Theory I · Behavioral Economics & Experiments

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: R, Stata, Python, CSS (basic)

Applications: Qualtrics, L^AT_EX

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Athens, GA

Public Policy Fellow, August 2015 - December 2015

Office of Congressman Rob Woodall (GA-7), Washington, D.C.

Congressional Intern, May 2015 - August 2015

AFFILIATIONS

Society for Political Methodology, American Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Sarah A. Treul

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Term Professor
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University of North Carolina
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John Aldrich

Pfizer-Pratt University Distinguished
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