

# Michael Burnham

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Princeton University  
Department of Politics  
Princeton, NJ

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MLBurnham.com  
github.com/MLBurnham

## Academic Appointments

**Princeton University**  
Postdoctoral Researcher, 2024

## Education

**Pennsylvania State University**  
Ph.D. (Dual Title), Political Science & Social Data Analytics, 2024.  
M.A., American Politics, 2022

**Georgetown University**  
M.A., International Relations, 2015.

**Utah State University**  
B.A., Economics & International Relations, 2013.

## Articles

Burnham, Michael. “Stance Detection: A Practical Guide to Classifying Political Beliefs in Text” *Political Science Research and Methods* (2024).

Burnham, Michael. “What is Sentiment Meant to Mean to Language Models?” *Accepted at Research and Politics* (2024)

Block Jr, Ray, Michael Burnham, Kayla Kahn, Rachel Peng, Jeremy Seeman, and Christopher Seto. “Perceived risk, political polarization, and the willingness to follow COVID-19 mitigation guidelines.” *Social Science & Medicine* 305 (2022): 115091.

Ackerman, Gary A., and Michael Burnham. “Towards a definition of terrorist ideology.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 33, no. 6 (2021): 1160-1190.

## Book Chapters

Burnham, Michael, and Michael J. Nelson. “Judicial Elections and Judicial Behavior.” In *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Political Behavior*. Oxford University Press, 2023

## Working Papers

Burnham, Michael, Kayla Kahn, Rachel Peng, Ryan Wang. “Political DEBATE: Efficient Zero-shot and Few-shot Classifiers for Political Text.” *Revise & Resubmit*

Burnham, Michael. “Semantic Scaling: Bayesian Ideal Point Estimates with Large Language Models.” *arXiv Pre-print: 2405.02472*

Burnham, Michael “Does Affect Affect Legislative Effectiveness?”

## Software

Entss: Entailment Classification and Semantic Scaling.  
Stance detection with transformers and ideal point estimates with Bayesian IRT.

Conferences	<b>APSA Annual Meeting</b> Panelist: 2024
	<b>State Politics and Policy</b> Poster presenter: 2024
	<b>PolMeth</b> Poster presenter: 2023, 2022
	<b>New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data</b> Poster Presenter: 2021
	<b>International Studies Association</b> Panelist: 2016, 2014
Research Positions	<b>Political Science, Pennsylvania State University</b> Research Assistant, Michael J. Nelson Graduate Research Fellow, The Center for Social Data Analytics Research Assistant, Kevin Munger Research Assistant, Eric Plutzer
	<b>START</b> Researcher, Terrorist Ideology Project
Teaching	<b>Political Science, Pennsylvania State University</b> Instructor, Social Data Analytics Capstone Course, Spring 2023 Instructor, Math for Political Science Workshop, Summer 2023 Instructor, R for Political Science Workshop, Summer 2022 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2019 Teaching Assistant, Quantitative Political Analysis, Fall 2022 Teaching Assistant, Political Methodology Graduate Seminar, Fall 2022
	<b>ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods</b> Guest Lecturer, Ideological Scaling with Large Language Models, 2023
	<b>Georgetown Security Studies Review</b> Editor in Chief, 2014-2015
Professional Experience	<b>Deloitte</b> <i>Data Scientist, Pentagon, Arlington, Va, 2017-2019</i>
	<b>ANSER</b> <i>Analyst, Arlington, Va, 2016-2017</i>

## Awards

### **Outstanding Political Science Graduate Student**

Penn State, 2023

### **Superior Teaching and Research Award**

Penn State, 2023

### **Georgetown Security Studies Program Merit Scholarship**

Georgetown University, 2013-2015

### **Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the Year**

USU Huntsman School of Business, 2013

## Languages and Skills

English (native), Ukrainian (conversational), Russian (will lapse into Ukrainian)

Python, R, Stata,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Git, HTML5, CSS

## References

Michael Nelson: [mjn15@psu.edu](mailto:mjn15@psu.edu)

Bruce Desmarais: [bdesmarais@psu.edu](mailto:bdesmarais@psu.edu)

Suzie Linn: [sld8@psu.edu](mailto:sld8@psu.edu)