

# ZACHARY A. MCGEE

## PERSONAL

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INSTITUTION: The University of Texas at Austin  
ADDRESS: 158 W. 21st St., STOP A1800, Austin, TX, 78712

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS: American political institutions, particularly the U.S. Congress; public policy, focusing on decision-making and network analysis; political parties and intraparty factions

## EDUCATION

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EXPECTED 2021 Ph.D. Candidate, Government, *The University of Texas at Austin*  
Committee: Sean M. Theriault (chair), Alison W. Craig, Bryan D. Jones, and David W. Rohde  
Fields: American Politics & Public Policy

2017 M.A., Government, *The University of Texas at Austin*  
Thesis: Keeping Your Friends Close: How the House Freedom Caucus Organized for Survival

2015 B.S., Political Science, *Towson University*

## DISSERTATION

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“AGENDA SETTING BY INTRAPARTY FACTIONS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS” My dissertation focuses on the role of intraparty factions, like the House Freedom Caucus or the New Democrat Coalition, in Congress. I ask, to what extent do intraparty factions have systematic effects on Congress’ policy agenda? To address this question I collect and code the policy agendas of every intraparty faction from 2001-2018, producing an original data set of over 15,000 agenda items. These data reveal the asymmetric nature of the legislative parties with Republican intraparty factions battling over a small set of ideologically charged issues and Democratic intraparty factions engaging in diverse agendas consistent with their “big tent” coalition. I argue—and find evidence—that intraparty factions provide a vital avenue for rank-and-file members to extract policy concessions from party leaders in a highly centralized power structure.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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2020 Fagan, E.J. and **Zachary A. McGee**. “Problem Solving and the Demand for Expert Information in Congress.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. Forthcoming. DOI: [10.1111/lsq.12323](https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12323)

- 2019 Fagan, E.J., **Zachary A. McGee**, and Herschel F. Thomas III. "The Power of the Party: Conflict Expansion and the Agenda Diversity of Interest Groups." *Political Research Quarterly*. 74(1):90-102. DOI: [10.1177/1065912919867142](https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912919867142)
- 2019 **McGee, Zachary A.** and Bryan D. Jones. "Reconceptualizing the Policy Subsystem: Integration with Complexity Theory and Social Network Analysis." *Policy Studies Journal*. 47(S1): S138-58. DOI: [10.1111/psj.12319](https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12319)

## CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

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- 2021 **McGee, Zachary A.**, Brooke N. Shannon, and Bryan D. Jones. "Bounded Rationality in Political Science." In *Routledge Handbook on Bounded Rationality*, eds. Riccardo Viale and Konstantinos Katzikopoulos. New York: Routledge. DOI: [10.4324/9781315658353](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315658353)
- 2019 Shannon, Brooke N., **Zachary A. McGee**, and Bryan D. Jones. "Bounded Rationality and Cognitive Limits in Political Decision Making." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: [10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.961](https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.961)
- 2018 Jones, Bryan D. and **Zachary A. McGee**. 2018. "Agenda Setting and Bounded Rationality." In *The Oxford Handbook of Behavioral Political Science*, eds. Alex Mintz and Lesley Terris. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: [10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190634131.013.19](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190634131.013.19)

## WORKING PAPERS

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| REVISE &<br>RESUBMIT | "Gift Travel in the U.S. House of Representatives" (with Philip R. Moniz)  |
| UNDER REVIEW         | "Partisanship in Congressional Travels Abroad" (with Sean M. Theriault)  |
| IN PROGRESS          | "The Impact of Federalist Society Affiliation on Judicial Nominations" (with Christine C. Bird)                                    |
| IN PROGRESS          | "Predicting Intraparty Faction Membership Decisions in the U.S. House of Representatives"  |
| IN PROGRESS          | "Congressional Distribution of Power and the Reach of the Federal Government, 1865-1946" (with Derek A. Epp and Sean M. Theriault) |
| IN PROGRESS          | "Differential Electoral Coordination of House Republican Intraparty Organizations"   |

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- MPSA 2021 "The Systematic Influence of Intraparty Factions on Member-to-Member Giving in the U.S. House of Representatives" (*Presented virtually due to COVID-19*)

SPSA 2021	“Congress and the Federalist Society” ( <i>Presented virtually due to COVID-19</i> )
Workshop on Domestic Polarization and U.S. Foreign Policy	“Partisanship in Congressional Travels Abroad” ( <i>Presented virtually due to COVID-19</i> )
CAP 2020, APSA 2020, SPSA 2021	“Agenda Setting by Intraparty Factions in the U.S. Congress” ( <i>Presented virtually due to COVID-19</i> )
MPSA 2020	“Agenda Setting by Intraparty Factions in the U.S. Congress” ( <i>Cancelled due to COVID-19</i> )
CAP 2019	“The Demand for Information in Congress: Agenda Setting and the Congressional Research Service” (with E.J. Fagan)
SPSA 2019, MPSA 2018/2019, CAP 2018/2019	“Adjusting the Agenda: Effects of Intraparty Organizations on the U.S. House Policy Agenda”
MPSA 2017, SWPSA 2017, CAP 2017	“Keeping Your Friends Close: A Study of Punishment and Intraparty Insurgency”
SWPSA 2017	“The Power of the Party: Conflict Expansion and the Agenda Diversity of Interest Groups” (with E.J. Fagan and Herschel F. Thomas III)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2016-PRESENT Graduate Research Fellow, *Policy Agendas Project*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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FALL 2019 Assistant Instructor (*Instructor of Record*), Introduction to American Government

- Course evaluation for overall performance: 4.4/5.0

SPRING 2019 Teaching Assistant, The Politics of Health, *with Eric McDaniel*

FALL 2018	Contributor (Ancillary Materials), Theriault, Sean M. and Mickey Edwards. 2019. <i>Congress: The First Branch</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared instructor's manual for each of ten chapters.</li> <li>• Materials include (per chapter): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 80 questions (multiple choice, short answer, and essay)</li> <li>– Lecture slides</li> <li>– Class activities and lecture suggestions</li> <li>– Supporting online materials</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
FALL 2018	Teaching Assistant, Congressional Elections, <i>with Sean Theriault</i>
SPRING 2018, FALL 2017	Head Teaching Assistant, Online: Introduction to American Government, <i>with Bethany Albertson &amp; Sean Theriault</i>
FALL 2017	Personal Tutor, Introduction to American Government
SPRING 2017, FALL 2016	Head Teaching Assistant, Online: Introduction to American Government, <i>with Eric McDaniel &amp; Daron Shaw</i>
SUMMER 2016	Teaching Assistant, Online: Introduction to American Government, <i>with Eric McDaniel &amp; Daron Shaw</i>
SPRING 2016	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to American Government, <i>with Daron Shaw</i>
FALL 2015	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to American Government, <i>with David Leal</i>

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2021	UT Austin Dept. of Government Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000)
2020	UT Graduate School Fellowship (\$20,000)
2020	UT Austin Dept. of Government Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000)
2019	Center for Effective Lawmaking Research Grant (\$1,500)
2019	Texas Politics Project Research Grant (\$1,500)
2019	UT Graduate School Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$6,000)
2019	Dirksen Congressional Center Congressional Research Grant (\$2,660)
2019	Dwight D. Eisenhower/Clifford Roberts Graduate Fellowship ( <i>Finalist</i> )
2018	Patricia Witherspoon Research Award (\$2,000)
2018	UT Austin Dept. of Government Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,000)
2018	Political Networks Conference Travel Grant - via NSF #1558713 (\$900)
2017-2019	J.J. Pickle Chair, International Travel Grant (\$6,000 total)

2017-2019	UT Graduate School Professional Development Award (\$1,275 total)
2017	MPSA Best Paper Delivered by a Graduate Student - Awarded for "Keeping Your Friends Close: A Study of Punishment and Intraparty Insurgency" (\$250)
2017	UT Austin Dept. of Government Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (\$2,000)
2017	UT Summer Statistics Institute Award (\$100)
2015-2019	UT Austin Dept. of Government Recruitment Fellowship (\$20,000 total)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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SINCE 2020	Reviewer, <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i>
SINCE 2019	Reviewer, <i>Policy Studies Journal</i>
SINCE 2018	Reviewer, <i>Political Research Quarterly</i>

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

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SPRING 2020	Founding Member, Queer in Political Science Group
2018-2019	Co-President, Graduate Student Organization
SPRING 2017	Co-Organizer, <a href="#">Network Analysis Reading Group</a> , <i>The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Government</i>

## SKILLS

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DATA ANALYSIS:	R, Stata, Python
OTHER:	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
ADDITIONAL TRAINING:	Political Networks Conference - Advanced Workshop ( <i>Summer 2018</i> )
	UT Summer Statistics Institute: Introduction to Data Science in Python ( <i>Summer 2017</i> )

## MEMBERSHIPS

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SINCE 2018	Southern Political Science Association
SINCE 2016	Midwest Political Science Association
SINCE 2015	American Political Science Association

## REFERENCES

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Referee 1 Sean M. Theriault  
The University of Texas at Austin  
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Referee 3 Alison W. Craig  
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Referee 5 Christopher Wlezien  
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Referee 2 Bryan D. Jones  
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158 W. 21st St, STOP A1800  
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Referee 4 David W. Rohde  
Duke University  
408B Old Chemistry  
Durham, NC 27708  
[rohde@duke.edu](mailto:rohde@duke.edu)

Referee 6 Eric L. McDaniel  
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