

# Brian Guay, Ph.D.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Chapel Hill, NC 27599

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

July 2025 - Present

Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science

### Stony Brook University

September 2023 - June 2025

Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

July 2021 - August 2023

Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Sloan School of Management & Department of Political Science

## EDUCATION

### Duke University, Durham, NC

August 2015 - May 2021

Ph.D., Political Science, 2021  
M.A., Political Science, 2017

### University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

August 2010 - May 2014

B.A., Psychology, Political Science, *cum laude*

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Guay, B.**, Berinsky, A., Pennycook, G. & Rand, D. “Examining Partisan Asymmetries in Fake News Sharing and the Efficacy of Accuracy Prompt Interventions. Accepted the *Journal of Politics*.

- Coverage in the *Washington Post*

**Guay, B.**, Marghetis, T., Wong, C. & Landy, D. 2025. “Quirks of Cognition Explain Why We Dramatically Overestimate the Size of Minority Groups.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 122(14).

**Guay, B.**, Berinsky, A., Pennycook, G., & Rand, D. 2023. “How To Think About Whether Misinformation Interventions Work.” *Nature Human Behavior*. 7(8), 1231–1233.

Combs, A., Tierney, G., **Guay, B.**, Merhout, F., Bail, C., Hillygus, D.S., & Volfovsky, A. 2023. “Reducing Partisan Animosity Through Anonymous Online Deliberation: A National Field Experiment.” *Nature Human Behavior*. 6(9), 1194-1205.

**Guay, B.** & Johnston, C. 2022. “Ideological Asymmetries and the Determinants of Politically Motivated Reasoning.” *American Journal of Political Science*, 66(2), 285-301.

**Guay, B.** & Lopez, J. 2021. “Partisan Bias in Bipartisan Places? A Field Experiment Measuring Attitudes Toward the Presidential Alert.” *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 85(1), 161-171.

- Coverage in the *Washington Post*

Valentino, N., Zirkhov, K., Hillygus, D.S., & **Guay, B.** 2021. “The Political Consequences of

	<p>Personality Biases in Online Panel Surveys.” <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i>, 84(2), 446-468.</p> <p>Bail, C., <b>Guay, B.</b>, Maloney, E., Combs, A., Hillygus, D.S., Merhout, F., Freelon, D., &amp; Volfovsky, A. 2020. “Assessing the Russian Internet Research Agency’s Impact on the Political Attitudes and Behaviors of American Twitter Users in Late 2017” <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>, 117(1), 243-250.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coverage in <i>Forbes</i>, <i>Inverse</i>, and <i>Yahoo News</i></li> </ul> <p>Spell, G., <b>Guay, B.</b>, Hillygus, D.S., &amp; Carin, L. 2020. “An Embedding Model for Estimating Legislative Preferences from the Frequency and Sentiment of Tweets.” <i>Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing</i>(627-641).</p> <p>Landy, D., <b>Guay, B.</b> &amp; Marghetis, T. 2018. “Bias and Ignorance in Demographic Perception.” <i>Psychonomic Bulletin &amp; Review</i>, 25(5), 1606-1618.</p> <p>Marghetis, T., <b>Guay, B.</b>, Karlapudy, A., &amp; Landy, D. 2018. “The Psychophysics of Society: Uncertain Estimates of Invisible Entities.” <i>Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i>, 166-177.</p> <p><b>Guay, B.</b>, Chandler, C., Erkulwater, J., &amp; Landy, D. 2016. “Testing the Effectiveness of a Number-based Classroom Exercise.” <i>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics</i>, 49(2), 327-332.</p>
UNDER REVIEW	<p><b>Guay, B.</b>, Berinsky, A., Pennycook, D., &amp; Rand, D. “Reconsidering The Effect of Polarization on Sharing Online Misinformation” (Available upon request).</p> <p><b>Guay, B.</b>, Blum, A., Hanfling, E., Berinsky, A., &amp; Rand, D. “Just Asking Questions?: The Effects of Framing Misinformation as a Question” (Available upon request).</p>
WORKING PAPERS	<p><b>Guay, B.</b> “<a href="#">Misinformed or Uninformed? The Prevalence and Consequences of Certainty in Political Misperceptions.</a>”</p> <p><b>Guay, B.</b>, Berinsky, A., &amp; Rand, D. “I’m Sure I’m Right But So What?: The Consequences of Excessive Confidence in Political Knowledge” (Available upon request).</p> <p>Jangili, S.*, <b>Guay, B.</b>, &amp; Stagnaro, N. “Understanding the Link Between Openness and Motivated Reasoning.”</p> <p>*Stony Brook graduate student</p>
OTHER PUBLICATIONS	<p>Hillygus, D.S. &amp; <b>Guay, B.</b> “<a href="#">Online Public Opinion Polling.</a>” 2018. <i>Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science</i>.</p> <p>Hillygus, D.S. &amp; <b>Guay, B.</b> 2016. “<a href="#">The Virtues and Limitations of Election Polling in the United States.</a>” <i>Seminar</i>, 684, 51-55.</p>
GRANTS AND AWARDS	<p><b>External</b></p> <p>Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship. <i>National Science Foundation</i>, 2017</p> <p>Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences. <i>National Science Foundation</i>, 2014</p> <p><b>Duke University</b></p> <p>Kevin Morrison Predoctoral Fellowship. <i>Dept. of Political Science</i>, 2020-2021</p> <p>Research Opportunities for Surveys &amp; Experiments. <i>Social Science Research Inst.</i>, 2016, 2018, 2020</p> <p>Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500). <i>Duke Graduate School</i>, 2019 &amp; 2020</p>

	<p>Dissertation Support Award (\$5,500). <i>Dept. Political Science</i>, 2018</p> <p>Research Grant (\$5,000). <i>Dept. of Political Science</i>, 2018</p> <p>Research Grant (\$3,000). <i>Kenan Institute for Ethnics, Worldview Lab</i>, 2018-2020</p> <p>Research Grant (\$5,000). <i>Dept. of Political Science</i>, 2017</p>
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>American Political Science Association (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)</p> <p>International Society of Political Psychology (2023, 2024)</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association (2019, 2024)</p> <p>Joint Statistical Meetings (2021)</p> <p>International Methods Colloquium (2020)</p> <p>Society for Political Methodology (2019)</p> <p>American Public Opinion Association (2013, 2018)</p> <p>Southern Political Science Association (2017, 2018)</p> <p>Southern Association for Public Opinion Research (2016, 2018)</p>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>Pedagogy Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (May 2023)</li> <li>• Teaching Politics Certificate, Department of Political Science, Duke University (May 2020)</li> </ul> <p>Stony Brook University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Political Psychology &amp; Behavior (PhD seminar; Fall 2023, 2024)</li> <li>• Political Cognition (PhD seminar; Spring 2024)</li> <li>• Dynamics of Public Opinion (Master's seminar; Spring 2025)</li> <li>• Social Surveys in Contemporary Society (Undergraduate; Spring 2024, 2025)</li> </ul> <p>Duke University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Instructor, Teaching Assistant. Survey Methodology Graduate Seminar (Spring 2019)</li> <li>• Section Instructor, Teaching Assistant. Political Psychology (Fall 2018)</li> <li>• Teaching Assistant. Reason and Passion in Politics (Spring 2018)</li> <li>• Teaching Assistant. Political Communication in a Changing Media Environment (Fall 2017)</li> </ul>
ADVISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph Sandor (Stony Brook, Dissertation Committee Member)</li> <li>• Maggie Martin (Stony Brook, Dissertation Committee Member)</li> </ul>
SERVICE	<p>Stony Brook University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of senior faculty search committee (Fall 2023)</li> <li>• Member of department chair search committee (Spring 2024)</li> <li>• Member of senior faculty search committee (Fall 2024)</li> <li>• Member of Department of Political Science executive committee (2023-2024)</li> </ul>
ADDITIONAL TRAINING	<p>Machine Learning Summer School, <i>Duke University</i>, June 2019</p> <p>Workshop on Research Design for Causal Inference, <i>Northwestern University</i>, June 2017</p>
REVIEWER	<p>American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Political Behavior; Political Psychology; Journal of Experimental Political Science; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties; Nature Human Behaviour; PNAS Nexus; Oxford University Press</p>

## REFERENCES

Sunshine Hillygus. Professor of Political Science, Duke University  
Christopher Johnston. Professor of Political Science, Duke University  
Christopher Bail. Professor of Sociology, Duke University  
John Aldrich. Professor of Political Science, Duke University  
Adam Berinsky. Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
David Rand. Professor of Management Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology