

# ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

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Updated: August 30, 2022  
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## EDUCATION

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### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

*Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science*

Expected 2023

Dissertation: *The Natural Origins of Mass Opinion: An Argumentative Theory of Political Reasoning*

Committee: Marc J. Hetherington (chair), Mary A. Kroeger, Rahsaan Maxwell,  
Timothy J. Ryan, Jaime Settle (William and Mary)

*Master of Arts in Political Science*

2020

Committee: Marc J. Hetherington (chair), Ted Enamorado, Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo

### University of Wisconsin-Madison

Madison, WI

*Bachelor of Arts with Honors in the Liberal Arts*

2018

Thesis Advisor: Erica S. Simmons

## BOOK

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**Isaac D. Mehlhaff.** *Mass Polarization Across Time and Space*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Elements in Comparative Political Behavior. Under contract, due to publisher June 2023.

## UNDER REVIEW

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**Isaac D. Mehlhaff.** "A Group-Based Approach to Measuring Polarization." *Revise and Resubmit, American Political Science Review*.

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff,** Marc J. Hetherington, Michael B. MacKuen, and Timothy J. Ryan. "Where Motivated Reasoning Withers and Looms Large: Fear and Partisan Reactions to the Covid-19 Pandemic." *Revise and Resubmit, American Journal of Political Science*.

Marc J. Hetherington, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff,** and Caroline Marie Lancaster. "Worldview Politics in the United States and Great Britain."

Robert C. Luskin, Daron R. Shaw, Marc J. Hetherington, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff.** "Signed Forecast Errors in Pre-Election Media Polls, 1990-2020."

Samuel Schmitt, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff,** and Emily Cottle Ommundsen. "Civic Teams and Political Theory Pedagogy: Teaching for Community Engagement."

## WORKING PAPERS

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**Isaac D. Mehlhaff.** "Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Global Evidence from a Half-Century of Public Opinion."

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff.** "Political Discussion at Scale: Argument Mining with Deep Learning."

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff.** "Political Argumentation and Attitude Change in Online Interactions."

## SOFTWARE

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**Isaac D. Mehlhaff.** CPC: Implementation of Cluster-Polarization Coefficient (version 2.2.1). *Comprehensive R Archive Network*. <https://cran.r-project.org/package=CPC>.

## EDITOR-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Marc J. Hetherington and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. “American attitudes toward covid-19 are divided by party. The pandemic itself might undo that.” *The Washington Post* (August 18, 2020).

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. “Subverting Solidarity: The Role of American Organized Labor in Pursuing United States Foreign Policy Objectives in Chile, 1961-1973.” *The Burkhardt Review* 1, no. 2 (2018): 24-40.

## FUNDING

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### **National Science Foundation**

Graduate Research Fellowship, \$138,000 2020-2023

### **American Political Science Association**

Centennial Center Research Grant, \$2,400 2022

Travel Award, \$150 2022

### **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

*Program for Public Discourse*

Graduate Fellowship, \$1,000 2021-2022

*Institute for the Study of the Americas*

Americas Graduate Fellowship, \$5,000 2018-2020

*Department of Political Science*

Uhlman Research Grant, \$2,000 2019

### **European Consortium for Political Research**

Travel Award, €150 2019

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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### **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

*Department of Political Science*

James W. Prothro Award for Best Master’s Thesis in Political Science 2021

*Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning,*

Associate Level of Accomplishment 2021

### **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

*Department of Political Science*

William Jennings Bryan Award for Best Thesis in Political Science 2018

*Department of History*

William F. Allen Research Award 2017

*College of Letters and Science*

Phi Beta Kappa 2017

### **Ball State University**

*Student History Conference*

Best Paper in Global History 2018

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

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### **Political Argumentation and Attitude Change in Online Interactions**

American Politics Research Group, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2022

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, QC 2022

### **Political Discussion at Scale: Argument Mining with Deep Learning**

Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology, Washington University in St. Louis 2022

### **Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Global Evidence from a Half-Century of Public Opinion**

Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Rice University 2022

Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL 2022

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA 2021

### **Worldview Politics in the United States and Great Britain**

Conference on Theories of the Contemporary Divide in Western Societies, European University Institute 2021

### **A Group-Based Approach to Measuring Polarization**

Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA 2021

Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology, Toronto, ON 2020

Standing Group on Latin American Politics, European Consortium for Political Research, Segovia, Spain 2019

## **SERVICE**

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### **Graduate Student President**

Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2022 - present

### **Graduate Coordinator**

Formal and Quantitative Seminar 2022 - present

UNC-Duke University Working Group on Latin American Politics 2019 - 2020

### **Member**

Removing Inequities in Political Science Working Group 2020 - present

Graduate Stipends Committee 2020 - 2021

### **Discussant**

Workshop on Latin American Politics and Party Competition, Duke University 2021

### **Reviewer**

NSF GRFP Peer Review Workshop 2020, 2021

## **TEACHING**

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POLI 276: Everyday Political Theory: Seeing Like a Citizen (Graduate Consultant) Spring 2022

Agora Fellows, Program for Public Discourse (Co-Facilitator) Fall 2021

POLI 203: Race, Innocence, and the End of the Death Penalty (Teaching Assistant) Spring 2020

POLI 100: American Democracy in Changing Times (Teaching Assistant) Fall 2019

POLI 208: Political Parties and Elections (Instructional Assistant) Fall 2018

## **SKILLS**

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**Languages:** English, Spanish, Portuguese

**Technical:** R, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stan, SQL, Git, Tensorflow/Keras, Qualtrics

## **REFERENCES**

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### **Marc J. Hetherington**

Raymond Dawson Distinguished Bicentennial Professor of Political Science

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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### **Timothy J. Ryan**

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### **Santiago Olivella**

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