

# ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

Department of Political Science  
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Updated: December 10, 2021  
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## EDUCATION

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### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science*

Fields: Comparative Politics, American Politics, Political Methodology

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

Chapel Hill, NC

In Progress

*Master of Arts in Political Science*

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

2020

### University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Bachelor of Arts with Honors in the Liberal Arts*

Majors: History, Political Science, Economics

Advisor: Erica S. Simmons

Madison, WI

2018

## PUBLICATIONS

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Hetherington, Marc J. 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).

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** "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.

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** "The Short-Term Success of New Deal Work Relief Programs: An Evaluation of Private Sector Employment, 1929-1940." *Equilibrium: Journal of Economics* 8 (Spring 2018): 29-33.

## WORKING PAPERS

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**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** "A Group-Based Approach to Measuring Polarization." *Under Review*.

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.**, Marc Hetherington, Michael MacKuen, and Timothy J. Ryan. "Where Motivated Reasoning Withers and Looms Large: Fear and Partisan Reactions to the Covid-19 Pandemic." *Under Review*.  
Hetherington, Marc, Caroline Lancaster, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff** "Worldview Politics in the United States and Great Britain."

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** "Estimating Mass Polarization and its Structural Determinants Over Time and Space."

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** "Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Evidence of a Negligible Relationship."

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** "Polarization in Comparative Perspective: Concept, Definition, and Measurement."

## SOFTWARE

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**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** *CPC: Implementation of Cluster-Polarization Coefficient* (version 2.0.2). R. 2021.

## FUNDING

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Graduate Research Fellowship <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2020 - 2023 \$138,000
Graduate Fellowship <i>Program for Public Discourse, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2021 - 2022 \$1,000
Uhlman Endowment <i>Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2020 \$500
Americas Graduate Fellowship <i>Institute for the Study of the Americas, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2018 - 2020 \$5,000
Travel Award <i>Standing Group on Latin American Politics, European Consortium for Political Research</i>	2019 €150
Uhlman Fellowship <i>Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2019 \$2,000
Harold G. Lundberg Fellowship <i>Chi Psi Educational Trust</i>	2018 \$2,500
Lorraine A. and W. Dwight Stone Fellowship <i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2018 \$10,000
William K. Fitch Fellowship <i>Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 \$5,000
Lorraine A. and W. Dwight Stone Fellowship <i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 \$4,000
Barry Popkin Senior Honors Thesis Award <i>College of Letters and Science Honors Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 \$3,000
Stanoch Family Fellowship <i>Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 \$1,500
C. Ray Flynn Fellowship <i>Chi Psi Educational Trust</i>	2016 \$5,000
Welton Honors Research Grant <i>College of Letters and Science Honors Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2016 \$2,500

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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Associate Level of Accomplishment <i>Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2021
James W. Prothro Award for Best Master's Thesis in Political Science <i>Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2021
Best Presentation, 2nd Place <i>Uhlman Seminar, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2020
William Jennings Bryan Award for Best Thesis in Political Science <i>Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2018
Best Paper in Global History <i>Student History Conference, Ball State University</i>	2018
William F. Allen Research Award <i>Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

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

- Conference on Theories of the Contemporary Divide in Western Societies 2021  
*European University Institute* Florence, Italy

### Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Evidence of a Negligible Relationship

- Annual Meeting 2021  
*American Political Science Association* Seattle, WA
- Annual Conference 2022  
*Midwest Political Science Association* Chicago, IL

### Measuring Political Polarization: The Cluster-Polarization Coefficient

- Annual Meeting 2021  
*Southern Political Science Association* New Orleans, LA
- Annual Conference 2020  
*Society for Political Methodology* Toronto, ON
- Standing Group on Latin American Politics 2019  
*European Consortium for Political Research* Segovia, Spain

### Peasant Politics and Plurinationalism: Constructing the Zapatistas through Discourse Analysis

- North Carolina Conference on Latin American Studies 2019  
*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill* Chapel Hill, NC
- Undergraduate Symposium 2018  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison* Madison, WI
- Senior Honors Thesis Symposium 2018  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison* Madison, WI

### Subverting Solidarity: The Role of American Organized Labor in Pursuing United States Foreign Policy Objectives in Chile, 1961-1973

- Student History Conference 2018  
*Ball State University* Muncie, IN

### The Short-Term Success of New Deal Work Relief Programs: An Evaluation of Private Sector Employment, 1929-1940

- Welton Honors Retreat 2016  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison* Spring Green, WI

## SERVICE

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### 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

**Co-Convenor***UNC-Duke University Working Group on Latin American Politics*

2019 - 2020

**Editor***ARCHIVE Undergraduate Journal of History*

2017

TEACHING

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**Agora Fellows**

- Fall 2021 (Co-Facilitator)

**POLI 203: Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty**

- Spring 2020 (Teaching Assistant)

**POLI 100: American Democracy in Changing Times**

- Fall 2019 (Teaching Assistant)

**POLI 208: Political Parties and Elections**

- Fall 2018 (Instructional Assistant)

SKILLS

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## LANGUAGES

- English, Spanish, Portuguese

## TECHNICAL

- R, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stan, SQL, Git, Qualtrics