

ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Updated: August 31, 2022
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EDUCATION

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

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

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. “Integrating Classroom and Community with Undergraduate Civically Engaged Research.”

WORKING PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese

Technical: R, Python, L^AT_EX, Stan, SQL, Git, Tensorflow/Keras, Qualtrics

REFERENCES

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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