

ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

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Updated: December 4, 2025
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The University of Chicago

Neubauer Family Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	2025 -
Faculty Member, Committee on Data Science	2025 -
Faculty Member, Program in Computational Social Science	2025 -
Faculty Affiliate, Data Science Institute	2025 -
Faculty Affiliate, Program in Political Economy	2025 -
Postdoctoral Scholar, Data Science Institute	2023 - 2024

Texas A&M University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	2024 - 2025
Research Affiliate, Institute of Data Science	2024 - 2025

Institut d'études politiques de Paris

Visiting Scholar, AxPo Observatory of Market Society Polarization	2025
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EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science	2023
Master of Arts in Political Science	2020

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Bachelor of Arts with Honors in the Liberal Arts	2018
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BOOK

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. *Mass Polarization across Time and Space*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Elements in Comparative Political Behavior. 2025.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Marc J. Hetherington, Andrew M. Engelhardt, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. "More Than a Partisan Pandemic: Worldview and COVID-19 Response in the United States." *Advances in Political Psychology* (forthcoming).

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. "A Group-Based Approach to Measuring Polarization." *American Political Science Review* 118, no. 3 (August 2024): 1518-1526.

Isaac D. Mehlhaff, Matías C. Tarillo, Ayelén Vanegas, and Marc J. Hetherington. "Partisanship and the Pandemic: How and Why Americans Followed Party Cues on COVID-19." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* 49, no. 3 (June 2024): 351-374.

Isaac D. Mehlhaff, Timothy J. Ryan, Marc J. Hetherington, and Michael B. MacKuen. "Where Motivated Reasoning Withers and Looms Large: Fear and Partisan Reactions to the COVID-19 Pandemic." *American Journal of Political Science* 68, no. 1 (January 2024): 5-23.

Sam Schmitt, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Emily Cottle Ommundsen. "Integrating Classroom and Community with Undergraduate Civically Engaged Research." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 56, no. 4 (October 2023): 469-474.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Amirhossein Farzam, Shashank Shekhar, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Marco Morucci. “Multi-Task Learning Improves Performance in Deep Argument Mining Models.” *Proceedings of the 11th Workshop on Argument Mining*, Association for Computational Linguistics (August 2024): 46-58.

UNDER REVIEW

Robert C. Luskin, Daron R. Shaw, Marc J. Hetherington, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. “Signed Forecast Errors in Pre-Election Media Polls: A Mainly Political Story.”

WORK IN PROGRESS

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. *The Persuasive Citizen: How Political Debate Can Change Minds and Heal Divides*.

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. “Political Argumentation and Attitude Change in Online Interactions.”

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. “Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Evidence from a Half-Century of Public Opinion.”

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. “How Executive Institutions Shape Affective Polarization: Evidence from Israel, 1975-2001.”

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. “Leveraging Time-Series Information to Improve Small-Area Estimation.”

Marc S. Jacob and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. “Reconsidering the Polarization and Democracy Nexus: Concepts, Causation, and Conditioning Factors.”

Kevin J. Angell and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. “Talking Politics on the Job: How Corporate Advocacy Shapes Political Engagement.”

Amirhossein Farzam, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Marco Morucci. “Multi-Task Learning in Social Scientific Applications.”

İrem Betül Koçak, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Başak Taraktaş. “Polarization as a Social Process: Interpersonal Interaction and Opinion Change.”

SOFTWARE

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. PolarCAP: Access the Polarization in Comparative Attitudes Project (version 1.1.0). *Comprehensive R Archive Network*. <https://cran.r-project.org/package=PolarCAP>.

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. CPC: Implementation of Cluster-Polarization Coefficient (version 2.6.0). *Comprehensive R Archive Network*. <https://cran.r-project.org/package=CPC>.

OTHER WRITING

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. “Does Political Polarization Really Undermine Democracy? Maybe Not.” *The University of Chicago Data Science Blog* (July 29, 2024).

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

Society for Political Methodology Travel Award, \$1,650	2023
Midwest Political Science Association Pi Sigma Alpha Travel Award, \$500	2023
American Political Science Association Centennial Center Research Grant, \$2,400	2022
Travel Award, \$150	2022
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Graduate Fellowship, Program for Public Discourse, \$1,000	2021 - 2022
Americas Graduate Fellowship, Institute for the Study of the Americas, \$5,000	2018 - 2020
Uhlman Research Grant, Department of Political Science, \$2,000	2019
European Consortium for Political Research Travel Award, €150	2019

HONORS AND AWARDS

The University of Chicago Neubauer Family Assistant Professorship	2025
American Political Science Association Honorable Mention, Best Dissertation in Political Psychology	2024
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences	2024
James W. Prothro Award for Best Master's Thesis in Political Science	2021
Associate Level of Accomplishment, Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning	2021
University of Wisconsin-Madison William Jennings Bryan Award for Best Thesis in Political Science	2018
William F. Allen Research Award, Department of History	2017
Phi Beta Kappa, College of Letters and Science	2017

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

The University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong, New Horizons for AI Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute for International Studies	2026
Institut d'études politiques de Paris, Centre for Political Research The University of Chicago, Computational Social Science Workshop	2025
Yale University, Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop Texas A&M University, Department of Political Science	2024
The University of Chicago, Quantitative Methods Workshop The University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop University of California, Los Angeles, Politics and Computational Social Science Conference	2023
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, American Politics Research Group Rice University, Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science	2022
European University Institute, Conference on Contemporary Divides in Western Societies	2021
European Consortium for Political Research, Standing Group on Latin American Politics	2019

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association	2021 - 2025
Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association	2022 - 2026
Keeping the Republic Conference, University of Notre Dame	2024
Association for Computational Linguistics, Workshop on Argument Mining	2024

Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology	2020, 2022 - 2024
Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association	2021

TEACHING

The University of Chicago

PLSC 20150: The Art of Productive Political Debate	2026
PLSC 30500: Introduction to Quantitative Social Science	2025
PLSC 49999: Math Camp (Faculty Supervisor)	2025
Data Science Clinic, Data Science Institute (Project Mentor)	2023 - 2024

Texas A&M University

POLS 309: Polimetrics	2024
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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

POLI 276: Everyday Political Theory: Seeing Like a Citizen (Graduate Consultant)	2022
Agora Fellows, Program for Public Discourse (Facilitator)	2021
POLI 203: Race, Innocence, and the End of the Death Penalty (Teaching Assistant)	2020
POLI 100: American Democracy in Changing Times (Teaching Assistant)	2019
POLI 208: Political Parties and Elections (Instructional Assistant)	2018

SERVICE

The University of Chicago

Member, Quantitative Methods Search Committee	2025 - 2026
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American Political Science Association

Mentor, Early Career Fellows Program, Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section	2025 - 2026
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Texas A&M University

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee	2024 - 2025
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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Graduate Student President, Department of Political Science	2022 - 2023
Coordinator, Formal and Quantitative Seminar	2022 - 2023
Committee Member, Charles Robson Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction	2022, 2023
Member, Removing Inequities in Political Science Working Group	2020 - 2023
Member, Graduate Stipends Committee	2020 - 2021
Coordinator, UNC-Duke Working Group on Latin American Politics	2019 - 2020

Discussant

Virtual Workshop Series, Polarization Consortium	2025
Large Language Models Workshop, European Political Science Association	2025
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association	2024 - 2025
Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association	2025
Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology	2024 - 2025
American Politics Research Group, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2023
Workshop on Latin American Politics and Party Competition, Duke University	2021
Standing Group on Latin American Politics, European Consortium for Political Research	2019

Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science, *American Political Science Review*, APSA Centennial Center, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering*, *The Journal of Politics*, NSF GRFP Peer Review Workshop, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Communication*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *The Social Science Journal*, *Spatial Demography*, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences