

# ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

Department of Political Science  
The University of Chicago  
Pick Hall  
Chicago, IL 60637

Updated: May 22, 2025  
Email: [imehlhaff@uchicago.edu](mailto:imehlhaff@uchicago.edu)  
Website: [imehlhaff.net](http://imehlhaff.net)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

### The University of Chicago

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	2025 -
Faculty Affiliate, Data Science Institute	2025 -
Faculty Affiliate, Committee on Data Science	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

### Sciences Po

Visiting Scholar, AxPo Observatory of Market Society Polarization	2025
---	------

## 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
--	------

## 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 Natural Origins of Mass Opinion: Argumentation and Political Reasoning*.

**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**. “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**. “Corporate Political Speech, Chilled Political Conversation?.”

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

İrem Betül Koçak, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Başak Taraktaş. “Social Context, Interpersonal Interaction, and Opinion Change.”

## SOFTWARE

---

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. PolarCAP: Access the Polarization in Comparative Attitudes Project (version 1.0.1). *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
<b>American Political Science Association</b>	
Centennial Center Research Grant, \$2,400	2022
Travel Award, \$150	2022
<b>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b>	
<i>Program for Public Discourse</i>	
Graduate Fellowship, \$1,000	2021 - 2022
<i>Institute for the Study of the Americas</i>	
Americas Graduate Fellowship, \$5,000	2018 - 2020
<i>Department of Political Science</i>	
Uhlman Research Grant, \$2,000	2019
<b>European Consortium for Political Research</b>	
Travel Award, €150	2019

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

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

## INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

---

Sciences Po, AxPo Observatory of Market Society Polarization and Centre for Political Research	2025
Yale University, Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop	2024
Texas A&M University, Department of Political Science	
The University of Chicago, Quantitative Methods Workshop	2023
The University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop	
University of California, Los Angeles, Politics and Computational Social Science Conference	
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, American Politics Research Group	2022
Rice University, Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science	
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, 2022, 2024, 2025
--	------------------------

Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association	2022 - 2025
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 30500: Introduction to Quantitative Social Science	2025
Data Science Clinic, Data Science Institute (Project Mentor)	2023 - 2024

### Texas A&M University

POLS 309: Polimetrics	2024
-----------------------	------

### 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

---

### Texas A&M University

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee	2024 - 2025
---------------------------------------	-------------

### 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

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
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, *Political Communication*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *The Social Science Journal*, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences