

# ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

Department of Political Science  
Texas A&M University  
3075 Allen Building  
College Station, TX 77843

Updated: September 10, 2024  
Email: [imehlhaff@tamu.edu](mailto:imehlhaff@tamu.edu)  
Website: [imehlhaff.net](http://imehlhaff.net)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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### Texas A&M University

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

### Sciences Po

Visiting Scholar, AxPo Observatory of Market Society Polarization 2025

### The University of Chicago

Postdoctoral Scholar, Data Science Institute 2023 - 2024

## EDUCATION

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### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science* 2023

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

*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* 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. Forthcoming.

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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**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

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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).

## UNDER REVIEW

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Marc J. Hetherington, Andrew M. Engelhardt, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. “More Than a Partisan Pandemic: Worldview and COVID-19 Response in the United States.” Revise and resubmit, *Advances in Political Psychology*

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

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**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.”

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

## SOFTWARE

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**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

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**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

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### 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

*Program for Public Discourse*

Graduate Fellowship, \$1,000 2021 - 2022

*Institute for the Study of the Americas*

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

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### **American Political Science Association**

<i>Political Psychology Section</i>	
Honorable Mention, Best Dissertation in Political Psychology	2024

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

<i>The Graduate School</i>	
Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences	2024

### *Department of Political Science*

James W. Prothro Award for Best Master's Thesis in Political Science	2021
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<i>Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning,</i>	
Associate Level of Accomplishment	2021

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

<i>Department of Political Science</i>	
William Jennings Bryan Award for Best Thesis in Political Science	2018

### *Department of History*

William F. Allen Research Award	2017
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### *College of Letters and Science*

Phi Beta Kappa	2017
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## INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

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Yale University, Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop	2024
Texas A&M University, Department of Political Science	
Association for Computational Linguistics, Workshop on Argument Mining	

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	

Duke University, Department of Political Science	2022
Texas A&M University, Department of Political Science	
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, American Politics Research Group	
Rice University, Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science	

European University Institute, Conference on Contemporary Divides in Western Societies	2021
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European Consortium for Political Research, Standing Group on Latin American Politics	2019
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## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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

## SERVICE

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### **Graduate Student President**

Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2022 - 2023
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**Graduate Coordinator**

Formal and Quantitative Seminar	2022 - 2023
UNC-Duke University Working Group on Latin American Politics	2019 - 2020

**Member**

Removing Inequities in Political Science Working Group	2020 - 2023
Award Committee, Charles Robson Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction	2022, 2023
Graduate Stipends Committee	2020 - 2021

**Discussant**

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association	2024
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**

*Political Psychology*, APSA Centennial Center, *The Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Political Communication*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, NSF GRFP Peer Review Workshop

**TEACHING**

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**Texas A&M University**

POLS 309: Polimetrics	2024
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**The University of Chicago**

Data Science Clinic, Data Science Institute (Project Mentor)	2023 - 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

**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, Pytorch, Qualtrics