

# Joshua Rutherford Thorp

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## Current position

2025 Assistant Professor of Political Science (Public Opinion)  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

## Areas of specialisation

American Politics • Political Psychology • Experiments • Disability • Public Policy

## Education

2025 THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR  
PhD in Political Science (American Politics)  
- Thesis: *Body Politic: Disability and Political Cohesion*

2023 MA in Political Science (Honours)

2015 THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
Bachelor of International Studies (Honours)  
- Thesis: *Sacrificial Lambs: Racial Order and the American Death Penalty*  
- Honours First Class, University Medal in Development Studies  
- Academic Exchange, Cornell University (2013-2014)

## Grants, honours & awards

2024 Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS): Junior Investigator Competition Award

2023 Samuel Eldersveld Award, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan (USD\$500)

2023 Rackham Graduate School Summer Fellowship (stipend + USD\$1000 research funding)

2023 British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant (with Jac Larner) (GBP £10,000)

2022 Converse-Miller Fellowship in American Political Behavior, Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan (USD \$6000)

2022 Gerald R. Ford Fellowship 2022-2023, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan (Tuition/Stipend + USD\$5000)

2022 Rapoport Family Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Grant (USD\$12,000)

2022 Rackham Graduate Student Travel Grant, University of Michigan (USD\$1400)

2021 Best Overall Paper, UK Political Studies Association Early Career Conference

2020	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan (USD\$3000)
2019	Graduate Student Travel Grant, AusPSA Political Organisations and Participation Workshop (\$500)
2015	University Medal in Development Studies, University of New South Wales
	First Class Honors, University of New South Wales
2013	UNSW Academic Exchange Fellowship, Cornell University

## Publications & talks

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2024	"Responsibility for Impairment Shapes the Perceived Deservingness of Disabled Welfare Claimants" with Jac Larner. <i>Political Psychology</i> . <a href="#">[Open Access]</a>
2024	"Vulnerability Appeals in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from a National Survey Experiment". <i>Journal of Experimental Political Science</i> , pp.1-16. <a href="#">[Open Access]</a>

### PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

2023	Does Disability Shape Political Identity? Center for Political Studies Blog, Institute for Social Research. <a href="https://cpsblog.isr.umich.edu/?p=3152">https://cpsblog.isr.umich.edu/?p=3152</a>
2016	The American death penalty: Progress and politics. <i>Human Rights Defender</i> 25:1, Australian Human Rights Centre Publications, UNSW Law (April 2016) pp. 37

### WORKING PAPERS

- "Disability and the Identity-to-Politics Link" (Job Market Paper) - Winner, *Samuel Eldersveld Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper*
- "Cohesion through Contention: Disability, Identity, and Support for Disruptive Protest Action"
- "Disability, Stereotypes, and Support for Redistribution in the United States" with Jac Larner
- "Examining the Impact of Disability Identity on Group Empathy" with Nicholas Valentino
- "Disability and Political Solidarity: The case of the COVID-19 pandemic"
- "The Heresy Effect: Policing the Boundaries of Religious Identity" with Jade Burt

### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024	<i>Disability and the Identity-to-Politics Link</i> , American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting, Philadelphia PA
2023	<i>Body Politic: Disability and Political Cohesion</i> , American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting, Los Angeles CA
2023	<i>Body Politic: Disability and Political Cohesion</i> , Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) annual meeting, Chicago IL
2022	<i>Body Politic: Disability and Political Cohesion</i> , Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science (ASQPS) annual meeting, Melbourne
2022	<i>Responsibility for Impairment Shapes the Perceived Deservingness of Disabled Welfare Claimants</i> (With Jac Larner), MPSA annual meeting, Chicago IL
2021	<i>Responsibility for Impairment Shapes the Perceived Deservingness of Disabled Welfare Claimants</i> (With Jac Larner), Early Career Network Conference, UK Political Studies Association
2021	<i>Evaluating the Political Implications of the Americans with Disabilities Act</i> , Midwest Political Studies Association Conference (MPSA)
2021	

	<i>The Heresy Effect: Policing the Boundaries of Religious Identity</i> (with Jade Burt), Southern Political Studies Association Conference (SPSA)
2020	<i>The Heresy Effect: Policing the Boundaries of Religious Identity</i> (with Jade Burt), American Political Studies Association Conference (APSA)
2019	<i>Partisanship, Ideology, and Support for the Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)</i> , POP Politics Workshop 2019, Australian National University
2018	<i>Failed Nation-Building in the South, 1607-1890</i> (with Robert Mickey and David Waldner), American Political Studies Association (APSA) Conference
2016	<i>Sacrificial Lambs: Racial Order and the American Death Penalty</i> , Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Conference 2016

## Teaching Experience

### 0.1 GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR

Fall 2023	PS489: German Politics Since 1945, Prof. Andrei Markovitz
Fall 2021	PS319: Politics of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Prof. Pamela Brandwein
Fall 2020	PS389: Judicial Politics, Prof. Deborah Beim
	PS489: Introduction to American Political Behavior, Prof. Vincent Hutchings.
Spring 2019	PS339: Introduction to Chinese Politics, Prof. Mary Gallagher
Fall 2018	PS319: Politics of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Prof. Pamela Brandwein

## Professional Experience

### RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

2019-2025	Prof. Donald Kinder - Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2022-2023	Study Director, Univ. Michigan Cooperative Election Study (CES) Module (PI: Prof. Donald Kinder)
2020	Prof. Deborah Beim - Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2019	Prof. Kenneth Lowande - Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2018	Prof. Robert Mickey - Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
	Dr. Amelia Thorpe and Prof. Louise Chappell - Faculty of Law, UNSW
2016	Prof. Louise Chappell - School of Political Science, UNSW
	Prof. Leanne Dowse - School of Social Research and Policy, UNSW

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023-24	Coordinator - Interdisciplinary Workshop in American Politics (IWAP)
2022	Student Mentor - Emerging Scholars Conference, UM Dept. of Political Science
2022	Grader - Undergraduate Honors Senior Theses, UM Dept. of Political Science
2018-19	Coordinator - Interdisciplinary Workshop in American Politics (IWAP)
2019-	Coordinator - Michigan Political Psychology Reading Group

### INTERNSHIPS

2016	Reprieve Australia - Death Penalty Research Intern
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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Center for Political Studies (Univ. Michigan), American Political Science Association (APSA), Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

## REVIEWING

*Political Behavior, Policy Studies Journal, Politics & Gender*

## Research skills

- R, RStudio,  $\LaTeX$ , Qualtrics
- Survey and experimental design

## Referees

- **Prof. Vincent Hutchings (Dissertation Committee Chair)**  
*Hanes Walton, Jr. Collegiate Professor of Political Science and Afroamerican and African Studies*  
Phone: (+1) 734.764.6591; Email: [vincenth@umich.edu](mailto:vincenth@umich.edu)
- **Prof. Donald Kinder (Dissertation Committee Member)**  
*Philip E. Converse Distinguished University Professor Emeritus*  
Phone: (+1) 734.615.9106; Email: [drkinder@umich.edu](mailto:drkinder@umich.edu)
- **Prof. Robert Mickey (Dissertation Committee Member)**  
*Associate Professor of Political Science*  
Phone: (+1) 734.764.6313; Email: [rmickey@umich.edu](mailto:rmickey@umich.edu)
- **Prof. Leonie Huddy (External Committee Member)**  
*SUNY Distinguished University Professor of Political Science (SUNY Stony Brook)*  
Phone: (+1) 631.632.7639; Email: [Leonie.Huddy@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Leonie.Huddy@stonybrook.edu)

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