

Julianna J. Thomson

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Education

George Mason University

Expected May 2026

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science

Comprehensive Exams: American Government, International Relations

Committee: Mark J. Rozell (Chair), Robert J. McGrath, Kendrick Kuo, James P. Pfiffner

Dissertation: Sacred Speech in a Secularizing Society: Congress, the President, and the Politics of Religious Rhetoric

Villanova University

2022

M.B.A.

Specialization: Strategic Management

Dartmouth College

2020

B.A., Religion

Exchange Program: New College School of Theology, University of Edinburgh

Additional Training

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University

2025

Publications

Book Chapters

1. Carty, Thomas J., and **Julianna J. Thomson**. 2025. "Catholic Senators and Abortion Politics: The Cases of Joe Biden and Ted Kennedy." In *Religion and Congress: The Intersection of Faith and Politics*, edited by David A. Dulio and Colton C. Campbell, 97–114. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.

Forthcoming Work

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1. "Sacred Speech: Analyzing the Influence of Congressional Leadership on Religious Rhetoric" with Alena Smith (Stanford University) – *In press at Politics and Religion*.
2. "Challenges to Protecting Religious Freedoms: The Roles of Government and Societal Norms" with Mark J. Rozell (George Mason University) – *Accepted at Ethos*.

Works in Progress

The Christian Right: What Everyone Needs to Know with Mark J. Rozell (George Mason University) and Clyde Wilcox (Georgetown University) – *Under contract*.

"The State of NCAA Student Athletes' Voting, Civic Engagement, and Community Leadership" with Cammie Jo Bolin (University at Albany) – *In progress*.

"Exploring the Mechanism of Crisis Escalation in Territorial Disputes: Lessons from the Greek-Turkish Crises" with Georgios Zacharias (George Mason University) – *In progress*.

"God and War on Capitol Hill" with Andrew Kenealy (Duke University) – *In progress*.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record	
Religion and the American Presidency, Encore Learning	Fall 2024

Research and Work Appointments

Graduate Research Assistant, Schar School of Policy and Government	2022-2026
Research Assistant to Dr. Mark J. Rozell, Dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government	
Business Research Fellow, Villanova School of Business	2020-2022
Research Assistant to Dr. Jonathan Doh, Senior Associate Dean for Research	
Research Assistant to Dr. Denise Downey, KPMG Endowed Professor in Accounting	
Senior Admissions Fellow, Dartmouth College	2019-2020
Research Intern, Council for Advancement and Support of Education	2018

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

<i>George Mason University</i>	
Presidential Scholarship (full tuition and stipend)	2022-2026
Daniel Druckman Fellowship (\$8000)	2025
Schar School IQMR Grant (\$3025)	2025
May La Due Bishop Book Fund (\$1200)	2024
Schar School Conference Travel Grant (total \$3300)	2023, 2024, 2025
<i>Villanova University</i>	
Graduate Research Fellowship (full tuition and stipend)	2020-2022
<i>Dartmouth College</i>	
Religion Department Faculty Prize (\$750)	2020
Citation for Meritorious Performance	2019
<i>External</i>	
Graduate Student Workshop Grant, ASREC (\$800)	2023
All-Academic First Team, Big East Conference	2021, 2022

Conference Presentations

7. "Presidential Religious Rhetoric and War." 2025 West Point Social Sciences Seminar, West Point, NY. February 2025. *Paper presentation.*
6. "Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military." The Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society Canada Conference, Ottawa, Canada. October 2024. *Paper presentation (Virtual).*
5. "Sacred Speech: Analyzing the Influence of Congressional Leadership on Religious Rhetoric." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. October 2024. *Paper presentation.*
4. "From Silence to Speech: Women's Participation in Christian Nationalism." American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. September 2024. *Paper presentation.*
3. "Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military." American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. September 2024. *Paper presentation.*
2. "Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military." US Army War College Civil-Military Relations Center Annual Conference, Carlisle, PA. May 2024. *Paper presentation.*
1. "Faithful Leadership: Analyzing the Influence of Speaker Mike Johnson's Religious Identity in the House." Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Public Life, Grand Rapids, MI. April 2024. *Paper presentation.*

Service and Leadership

International Officer, Religion and Politics Specialist Group, Political Studies Association	2025-Present
Leadership Team, Schar PhD Student Association, George Mason University	2025-Present
Consultant, Writing Support Lab, George Mason University	2024-Present
Treasurer, Schar PhD Student Association, George Mason University	2024-2025

Panel Chair

West Point Social Sciences Seminar	2025
Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life	2024

Conference Discussant

Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life	2024
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Reviewer

Stearns Center Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference	2024
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Professional Memberships

Political Studies Association	2025-Present
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion	2024-Present
American Political Science Association	2023-Present

Skills

Computing: R, R Markdown, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Suite
Language: English (native), French (basic)

References

Dr. Ryan Pallas
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps Strategist Fellow, George Mason University
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