

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

Graduate Teaching Academy, Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning, George Mason University

2025

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Thomson, Julianna J.**, and Alena Smith. 2025. "Sacred Speech: Analyzing the Influence of Congressional Leadership on Religious Rhetoric." *Politics and Religion*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755048325100102>.

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.

Public Scholarship

1. Smith, Alena, and **Julianna J. Thomson**. 2025. "The Johnson Effect: How the New Speaker Sparked a Religious Rhetoric Surge." *Religion in Public* (blog). July 14, 2025. <https://religioninpublic.blog/2025/07/14/the-johnson-effect-how-the-new-speaker-sparked-a-religious-rhetoric-surge/>.

Forthcoming Work

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1. "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 with Oxford University Press.*

“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

George Mason University

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

Villanova University

Graduate Research Fellowship (full tuition and stipend) 2020–2022

Dartmouth College

Religion Department Faculty Prize (\$750) 2020
Citation for Meritorious Performance 2019

External

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

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| 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 |
| <i>Panel Chair</i> | |
| West Point Social Sciences Seminar | 2025 |
| Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life | 2024 |
| <i>Conference Discussant</i> | |
| Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life | 2024 |
| <i>Reviewer</i> | |
| Stearns Center Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference | 2024 |

Professional Memberships

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| 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
 ryan.w.pallas@gmail.com