

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

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

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

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

Forthcoming Work

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 *Congress and Religion: The Intersection of Faith and Politics*, edited by David Dulio and Colton Campbell. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. - *Forthcoming June 2025*.

Working Papers

"Sacred Speech: Analyzing the Influence of Congressional Leadership on Religious Rhetoric" with Alena Smith (Stanford University) – *Revised and resubmitted*.

"Challenges to Protecting Religious Freedoms: The Roles of Government and Societal Norms" with Mark J. Rozell (George Mason University) - *Submitted for review*.

Works in Progress

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

"God and War on Capitol Hill" with Andrew Kenealy (Duke University).

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

"Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military" with Ryan Pallas (George Mason University).

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
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

Treasurer, Schar PhD Student Association, George Mason University	2024-Present
Consultant, Writing Support Lab, George Mason University	2024-Present
<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

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

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