

Julianne J. Thomson

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Education

George Mason University	Expected 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
A.B., 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

2. **Thomson, Julianne J.**, and Mark J. Rozell. 2025. "Challenges to Protecting Religious Freedoms: The Roles of Government and Societal Norms." *Ethos. Quarterly of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin*. 38(3):155-73. <https://doi.org/10.12887/38-2025-3-151-10>.
1. **Thomson, Julianne J.**, and Alena Smith. 2025. "Sacred Speech: Analyzing the Influence of Congressional Leadership on Religious Rhetoric." *Politics and Religion*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755048325100102>.
 - Awarded the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion 2025 Student Paper Award for the best student paper published in 2025.

Book Chapters

1. Carty, Thomas J., and **Julianne 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

2. Smith, Alena, and **Julianne J. Thomson**. 2025. "The 2026 Midterms: Speaker Mike Johnson's Religious Rhetoric Will Continue to Shape How Republicans Speak to Their Constituents." London School of Economics United States Centre (blog). <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2025/07/30/the-2026-midterms-speaker-mike-johnsons-religious-rhetoric-will-continue-to-shape-how-republicans-speak-to-their-constituents/>.
1. Smith, Alena, and **Julianne J. Thomson**. 2025. "The Johnson Effect: How the New Speaker Sparked a Religious Rhetoric Surge." Religion in Public (blog). <https://religioninpublic.blog/2025/07/14/the-johnson-effect-how-the-new-speaker-sparked-a-religious-rhetoric-surge/>.

Working Papers

“‘Making my Voice Matter’: Civic Engagement and Gendered Leadership among NCAA Student-Athletes” with Cammie Jo Bolin (University at Albany) - *Under review*.

“Christian Nationalism in Congressional Communication in the Twenty-First Century” with Cammie Jo Bolin (University at Albany) and Alena Smith (Stanford University) - *Under review and accepted for the Political Studies Review special issue, “250th Anniversary of the United States of America’s Founding: America at a Turning Point?”*.

“How Proximity to National Parks Shapes Partisanship: Evidence from U.S. Counties, 2000-2024” with Stephen Gailliot (George Mason University)

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*.

“IRS Policy Change and Political Endorsements from the Pulpit: Evidence from U.S. Sermons” with Alena Smith (Stanford University)

“Religious Language and U.S. Presidential Wartime Leadership”

“Exploring the Mechanism of Crisis Escalation in Territorial Disputes: Lessons from the Greek-Turkish Crises” with Georgios Zacharias (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

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 \$5000)	2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Villanova University

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

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

External

APSA Graduate Student Support Grant (\$150)	2025
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Student Paper Award (\$500)	2025
ASREC Graduate Student Workshop Grant (\$800)	2023
All-Academic First Team, Big East Conference	2021, 2022

Conference Presentations

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8. "Christian Nationalism in Congressional Communication in the Twenty-First Century." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. April 2026. *Paper presentation (Scheduled)*.
 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
Alumni Admissions Interviewer, Dartmouth College	2020-Present
Treasurer, Schar PhD Student Association, George Mason University	2024-2025
Division 1 Track and Field Coach, George Mason University and Villanova University	2023-2025

Organizer

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting Religion and Politics Working Group	2026
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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

<i>Politics and Religion</i>	2025
Stearns Center Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference	2024

Professional Memberships

Canadian Political Science Association	2025-Present
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, Qualtrics, Microsoft Suite