

Michael Auslen

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Appointments

University of Texas at Austin

Assistant Professor, Department of Government, beginning fall 2025

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Government, 2024–2025

Education

Columbia University

Ph.D., Political Science, 2024

Dissertation: “Essays on Media and Public Opinion in State and Local Politics”

— Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize, APSA State Politics and Policy Section

Committee: Justin Phillips (chair), Shigeo Hirano, Robert Shapiro, Eunji Kim, and Patricia Kirkland

Fields: American Politics, Quantitative Methods

M.Phil., Political Science, 2022 M.A., Political Science, 2020

Harvard University

M.P.P., John F. Kennedy School of Government, 2019

Indiana University

B.A. with Highest Distinction, Journalism (with honors) and Political Science, 2014

Peer-Reviewed Publications

3. Gamm, Gerald, Justin H. Phillips, Matthew Carr, and Michael Auslen. 2024. “[The Culture War and Partisan Polarization: State Political Parties, 1960–2018](#).” *Studies in American Political Development* 38(2):117-37.

— Featured in [The New York Times](#).

2. Auslen, Michael. 2024. “[Improving Subnational Opinion Estimation from Cluster-Sampled Polls](#).” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 24(4): 447-67.

— 2022 Best Graduate Student Poster, State Politics and Policy Conference.

1. Auslen, Michael, and Justin H. Phillips. 2024. “[Divided by Income? Policy Preferences of the Rich and Poor Within the Democratic and Republican Parties](#).” *Political Behavior* 46:2473-95.

Working Papers

Auslen, Michael. “[Statehouse Democracy without the Electoral Connection: Local News and Representation in State Legislatures](#).” *Under review*.

Auslen, Michael. “[Public Goods and the Press: Policy Implications of Disparities in Local Political News](#).”

Goplerud, Max, and Michael Auslen. “[Multivariate MRP](#).”

Auslen, Michael, Shigeo Hirano, and James M. Snyder, Jr. "Newspapers, News Deserts and Political Behavior in Local Elections."

Auslen, Michael. "Issue Opinions in the States."

Auslen, Michael, Gerald Gamm, and Justin H. Phillips. "Does Electoral Competition Reduce Polarization?"

Other Writing

Policy Report

1. Auslen, Michael. 2019. "Mail Voting and Minority Turnout: Evidence from Ohio." National Vote at Home Institute.

Research Grants

- 2023 Dissertation Development Grant, Columbia University Department of Political Science (\$3,000)
- 2022 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, American Political Science Association (\$13,970)
- 2018 Policy Analysis Exercise Grant, Harvard Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy (\$400)

Fellowships & Awards

- 2025 Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize, APSA State Politics and Policy Section
- 2024 Tom Carsey Scholar, State Politics and Policy Conference
- 2023 NSF Conference Travel Funding, Society for Political Methodology
- 2023 Tom Carsey Scholar, State Politics and Policy Conference
- 2022 Best Graduate Student Poster, State Politics and Policy Conference
- 2022 Tom Carsey Scholar, State Politics and Policy Conference
- 2019 Distinction Policy Analysis Exercise [master's thesis], Harvard Kennedy School
- 2017–2019 William A. Starr Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School (full scholarship)
- 2014 Elvis J. Stahr Distinguished Senior Award, Indiana University
- 2014 David L. Adams Award, Indiana University Student Media
- 2013 Robert D.G. Lewis First Amendment Award, Society of Professional Journalists
- 2013 Wendell L. Willkie Scholarship, Indiana University Department of Political Science
- 2010–2014 Ernie Pyle Scholar, Indiana University School of Journalism
- 2010–2014 Herman B Wells Scholar, Indiana University (full scholarship)

Teaching

University of Texas at Austin

- Media and American Democracy [U] (Fall 2025, Spring 2025)
- Honors Thesis Writing II [U] (Fall 2025)

Columbia University

The American Congress [U; TA for Gregory Wawro] (Spring 2024, Fall 2020)
Research Design: Data Analysis [U; TA for Shigeo Hirano] (Fall 2022)
State Politics [U; TA for Justin Phillips] (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)
Introduction to American Politics [U; TA for Oliver McClellan] (Fall 2021)

Harvard Kennedy School

Political Institutions and Public Policy [U; CA for Matthew Baum] (Spring 2019)
Markets and Market Failure [U; CA for Pinar Dogan] (Fall 2018)
MPP Math Review [U; CA for Ellen Whitesides] (Summer 2018)

Presentations

Invited Talks

2025 University of Texas at Austin, American Politics Speaker Series
2023 University of Pittsburgh, Center for American Politics and Society

Conferences and Workshops

2025 APSA, EPSA, State Politics and Policy, Texas Junior Methods Workshop, MPSA
2024 APSA, State Politics and Policy, MPSA
2023 APSA, Local Political Economy Pre-Conference, PolMeth, State Politics and Policy, MPSA
2022 State Politics and Policy
2021 APSA, MPSA

Service

University of Texas at Austin

2025 Archer Fellowship Program Selection Committee

Columbia University

2022–2023 Co-Graduate Student Coordinator, Columbia American Politics Speaker Series
2020–2022 Co-Organizer, Columbia American Politics Graduate Student Workshop

Reviewer

Journals: *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*.
Book Publishers: Palgrave Macmillan.

Journalism Employment

Tampa Bay Times/Miami Herald

Staff Writer—State Capitol Bureau Reporter, 2015–2017

The Indianapolis Star

Pulliam Journalism Fellowship—Politics & Education Reporter, 2014

Skills

Technical: R, Python, Stan, Stata, SQL. Language: Spanish (intermediate).

Last updated July 2025