

Michael Auslen

Email: mauslen@austin.utexas.edu Website: michaelauslen.com

Appointments

University of Texas at Austin

Assistant Professor, Department of Government, 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. “[Local News and Policy Responsiveness in the States.](#)”

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. "Mass Origins of Party Position-Taking."

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 Policy (\$400)

Fellowships & Awards

- 2025 Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize, APSA State Politics and Policy Section
- 2024, 2023, 2022 Tom Carsey Scholar, State Politics and Policy Conference
- 2023 NSF Conference Travel Funding, Society for Political Methodology
- 2022 Best Graduate Student Poster, 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 Seminar I & II [U] (Spring 2026, 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 2022, Spring 2021)
- 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 Texas American Political Behavior Conference, 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

Discipline

- 2026 Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize committee, APSA State Politics and Policy Section

University of Texas at Austin

- 2025–present Department of Government Honors Program Director
- 2025 Grant Reviewer, Office of the Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors
- 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.

Non-Academic 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).