

Rachel Porter

✉ rachel.porter@nd.edu 🌐 rachelporter.org 📱 porter-rachel

APPOINTMENTS

University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame du Lac Assistant Professor of Political Science 2024 –
Assistant Professor, Political Science 2022 –
Computational Social Science Fellow, Lucy Institute for Data & Society 2022 –

EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Political Science 2022
Dissertation: *Some Politics Are Still Local: Strategic Position Taking in Congress & Elections*
• Winner of the 2023 APSA E.E. Schattschneider Award

The University of Georgia

B.A., Political Science & International Affairs 2016
• Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Porter, Rachel** and Sarah A. Treul. "Evaluating (in)experience in congressional elections." Online Ahead of Print at *The American Journal of Political Science*.
• Featured on Mischief of Faction-Vox, FiveThirtyEight, The Science of Politics podcast, and Politics in Question podcast
2. **Porter, Rachel**, Sarah A. Treul, and Maura McDonald. 2024. "Changing the Dialogue: Descriptive Candidacies and Position Taking in Campaigns for the US House of Representatives." *The Journal of Politics*, 86(2): 458-474.
3. **Porter, Rachel** and Tyler Steelman. 2023. "No Experience Required: Early Donations and Amateur Success in Congressional Primaries." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 48(2): 455-466.
• One of the top 10 most-cited papers published in LSQ for 2023-2024
4. Ladam, Christina, Austin Bussing, Alexander C. Furnas, Josh McCrain, David R. Miller, and **Rachel Porter**. 2022. "The Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS)." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(3), 552-553.
5. McDonald, Maura, **Rachel Porter** and Sarah A. Treul. 2020. "Running as a Woman? Gender and the 2018 Congressional Election." *Political Research Quarterly*, 73(4): 967-987.

WORKING PAPERS

Conceptualizing and Measuring Early Campaign Fundraising in Congressional Elections, with Colin R. Case (R&R at *Political Science Research & Methods*)

Do Small Donors Make a Big Difference in U.S. Elections?: Evidence from 50 Million Campaign Contributions, with Maggie Macdonald and Megan Brown

Fact or Friction?: Elite Framing of America's Opioid Epidemic

Intra-Party Variation on Climate Change Positions in U.S. House Elections, with Ben Francis and Bill Kakenmaster (Under Review)

Scaling Elite Policy Positions in U.S. Elections, with Colin R. Case

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Money Talks: Candidate Wealth & Communications, with Jaclyn Kaslovsky

Rallying Support: Exploring the Influence of Political Rallies on Small Dollar Contributions to Candidates, with Maggie Macdonald. Megan Brown, and James Bisbee

Small Dollars & Globalization: How Layoffs Translate to Costly Political Action, with Maggie Macdonald, Megan Brown, James Bisbee, and Patrick Y. Wu

The Amateur Advantage: Understanding the Rise of Political Inexperience in the US Congress & Elections, with Sarah A. Treul (Book manuscript in progress)

The Consequences of Elite Rhetoric and Action Against Elections, with Emily Anderson, Jeffrey Harden, Abigail Hemmen, Géssica de Freitas , and Emma Schroeder

- Collaborative project for the Representation in Politics and Legislatures Lab

BOOK CHAPTERS

Carson, Jamie L., Jason M. Roberts, and **Rachel Porter**. 2020. "The Nationalization of Congressional Elections" in *New Directions in Congressional Politics*, Routledge.

Lynch, Michael S., Anthony J. Madonna, and **Rachel Surminsky**. 2016. "Irregular Order: Examining the Changing Congressional Amending Process" in *Party and Procedure in the United States Congress*, Rowland & Little.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Awards & Honors

- E.E. Schattschneider Award for best dissertation in American politics, APSA 2023
- Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, UNC Political Science 2019
- Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, University of Georgia 2016

External Funding

- Unite America Primary Elections Reform Grant. "Measuring Issue Polarization."
Total Award: **\$21,745**. (2023-2024; Co-PI with Colin R. Case)
- APSA Centennial Research Grant. "Junior Americanist Workshop Series CwC at MPSA."
Total Award: **\$10,000**. (2022, Co-PI with Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam, Josh McCrain, and David Miller)
- Social Science Research Council Social Data Dissertation Fellowship. "Some Politics Are Still Local." Total Award: **\$15,000**. (2020)

Internal Funding

- Notre Dame ISLA International Travel Grant. **\$1,000.** (2024)
- UNC Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship. **\$20,500 plus tuition.** (2021)
- UNC Political Science, Thomas M. Uhlman Fellowship. **\$5000/year.** (2016-2021)
- UNC Political Science, Summer Research Fellowship. **\$3000/year.** (2016-2021)

TEACHING

University of Notre Dame

Instructor of Record

- POLS 30005: The United States Congress FA 2023; SP 2024
- POLS 40811: Quantitative Political Analysis SP 2023; SP 2024
- POLS 60040: American Political Institutions (Graduate Seminar) FA 2022, FA 2024

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor of Record

- POLI 281: Data in Politics I FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SSII 2021
- POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics SP 2019

Teaching Assistant

- POLI 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics FA 2018
- POLI 100: Introduction to American Politics FA 2017, SP 2018

Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

Short Course Instructor

- Collecting & Analyzing Text in R SP 2019, FA 2019, SP 2020, FA 2020, SP 2021

INVITED TALKS & SMALL CONFERENCES

2025: University of Kentucky (Public Policy Workshop Series; scheduled); University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (American Politics Research Group; scheduled)

2024: University of California-San Diego (American Politics Workshop); UC Berkeley Winter American Politics Research Meeting; Stories that Win Symposium at Washington University in St. Louis; Unite America Research Symposium on Primary Elections; Keeping the Republic Conference at the University of Notre Dame; Visions in Methodology Conference at Washington University in St. Louis; Center for Effective Lawmaking Conference at the University of Virginia; Money in Politics Conference at Copenhagen Business School

2023: University of Chicago (American Politics Workshop); Frontiers in Money and Politics Pre-Conference at APSA; Women in Legislative Studies (WiLS) Seminar Series; Georgetown University (American Government Seminar Series); Women in Legislative Studies Conference at Brown University

2022: Carl Albert Center Legislative Studies Conference at the University of Oklahoma; Purdue University (Political Science Workshop)

2021: The University of Notre Dame (Rooney Center Workshop Series); Junior Americanist Workshop Series; Bowling Green State University (Speaker Series); Washington University in St. Louis (Political Science Speaker Series)

2020: University of Georgia (Emerging Issues in Political Science Speaker Series)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference	2017-2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2019-2024
Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting	2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference	2020
State Politics & Policy Annual Conference	2024

VOLUNTEER & SERVICE

Co-Founder & Co-Organizer , Junior Americanist Workshop Series	2020-2024
Program Committee , Visions in Methodology (VIM) Conference	2024
Program Chair , MPSA Primary Elections Conference within a Conference (<i>organized with Sarah Anderson, Dan Butler, Colin Case, and Laurel Harbridge-Yong</i>)	2024
Program Committee , MPSA JAWS Conference within a Conference (<i>organized with David Miller, Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, and Christina Ladam</i>)	2023

Referee: American Journal of Political Science (x2); American Political Science Review (x3); British Journal of Political Science; Electoral Studies; Journal of Elections, Political Research Quarterly; Public Opinion & Parties; Journal of Politics (x3); Journal of Women, Politics & Policy; Legislative Studies Quarterly (x4); National Science Foundation; Policy Studies Journal; Political Behavior; Political Science Research & Methods; Politics & Gender; Research & Politics; Social Science Quarterly

Discussant & Panelist: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Frontiers of Money & Politics Pre-Conference at APSA; Copenhagen Business School Money in Politics Conference; Junior Americanist Workshop Series; Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting; Women in Legislative Studies Professional Development Seminar

Departmental Service at the University of Notre Dame

Co-Director, Representation and Politics in Legislatures Lab	AY 23/24, 24/25
Field Chair, Methods	AY 24/25
Member, Committee on Inclusive Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship	AY 23/24
Co-Chair, Undergraduate Thesis Awards Committee	SP 2024
Admission Committee Member, Lucy Institute Graduate Fellows Program	SP 2023

Student Advising at the University of Notre Dame

Dissertation Committee Member

- Abigail Hemmen (2024-)
- Emma Schroeder (2024-)

Methods Paper Committee Member

- Abigail Hemmen (2023-)

Senior Thesis Advisor

- Thomas Musgrave (2024-)
- Erik Johansen (2024-)
- Julia Thomalla (Co-Chair, 2023-2024 — Winner of Best Thesis Award)

Departmental Service at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Graduate Student President, Department of Political Science AY 21/22

Program Coordinator, American Politics Working Group AY 18/19; 19/20

American Field Representative, Department of Political Science AY 18/19

REFERENCES

John Aldrich, Duke University
aldrich@duke.edu

Laurel Harbridge-Yong, Northwestern University
l-harbridge@northwestern.edu

Jeff Harden, University of Notre Dame
jeff.harden@nd.edu

Betsy Sinclair, Washington University in St. Louis
bsinclair@wustl.edu