Rachel Porter

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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

Fields: American Politics & Political Methodology

Dissertation: *Some Politics Are Still Local: Strategic Position Taking in Congress & Elections*
- Winner of the 2023 APSA E.E. Schattschneider Award

M.A., Political Science

The University *of* **Georgia**

B.A., Political Science & International Affairs	2016

- Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude

BOOKS

Colin R. Case and Rachel Porter. *Scaling the Meaning of Text: A Word Embedding Approach.* **Cambridge University Press,** Elements in Quantitative and Computational Methods in Social Sciences (Under Contract)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

* = GRADUATE STUDENT COAUTHOR

[1] Rachel Porter, Jeffrey Harden, and Mackenzie Dobson*. 2025. Electing amateur politicians reduces cross-party collaboration. Forthcoming at **The Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.**
- Collaborative project with the Representation and Politics in Legislatures Lab

[2] Colin Case and Rachel Porter. 2025. Conceptualizing and measuring early campaign fundraising in U.S. elections. Forthcoming at **Political Science Research & Methods.**

[3] Rachel Porter, Jeffrey Harden, Emily Anderson*, Mackenzie Dobson*, Abigail Hemmen*, Géssica de Freitas*, and Emma Schroeder*. 2025. The Consequences of Elite Action Against Elections. Forthcoming at **The British Journal of Political Science.**
- Collaborative project with the Representation and Politics in Legislatures Lab

[4] Rachel Porter, Colin Case, and Sarah Treul. 2025. CampaignView, a database of policy platforms and biographical narratives. **Nature: Scientific Data.**

[5] Rachel Porter and Sarah Treul. 2025. Evaluating (in)experience in congressional elections. **The American Journal of Political Science**.
- Coverage from Brookings, Vox, FiveThirtyEight, ABC News, The Science of Politics, Politics in Question

[6] Rachel Porter, Sarah 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.**

[7] Rachel Porter and Tyler Steelman. 2023. No Experience Required: Early Donations and Amateur Success in Congressional Primaries. **Legislative Studies Quarterly**.
- Among the top 10 most-cited papers published in LSQ for 2023-2024

[8] Christina Ladam, Austin Bussing, Alexander Furnas, Josh McCrain, David Miller, and Rachel Porter. 2022. Junior Americanist Workshop Series. **PS: Political Science & Politics**.

[9] Maura McDonald, Rachel Porter, and Sarah Treul. 2020. Running as a Woman? Gender and the 2018 Congressional Election. **Political Research Quarterly**.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Under Review

Colin R. Case and Rachel Porter. Strategic Heterogeneity in Issue Positioning: Evidence from Congressional Campaigns.

Rachel Porter, William Kakenmaster*, and Ben Francis*. When Climate Hits Home: How Local Economies Shapes Pro-Environment Promises and Legislative Action.

Working Drafts

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

Colin R. Case, Emily C. Ommundsen, and Rachel Porter. Bipartisan campaign messages are credible policymaking signals.

Rachel Porter. Elite Framing of America's Opioid Epidemic in Congress & Elections.

Rachel Porter. *The Local Roots of Bipartisanship: Evidence from Thousands of Campaign Platforms*. (Book manuscript)

Rachel Porter, Maggie Macdonald, and Megan Brown*. Small Donor Matching Programs Do Not Amplify Average Americans' Voices.

Rachel Porter and Sarah A. Treul. *The Amateur Advantage: Unpacking the Rise of Political Inexperience in Congress & Elections* (Book manuscript)

OPEN DATA

CampaignView: U.S. House Campaign Website Archive (2018-2022)
https://campaignview.org

Early Fundraising in U.S. Congressional Elections (2008-2020)
https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/FVLHCX

U.S. House Candidate Biographical Data & Primary Election Outcomes (1980-2024)
https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/CYFIDH

BOOK CHAPTERS

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

[2] Michael S. Lynch, 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.

PUBLIC WRITING

Rachel Porter and Sarah Treul. 22 April, 2024. "Evaluating (in)experience in congressional elections." *American Journal of Political Science - Author Summaries*.

Sarah Treul and Rachel Porter. 20 April, 2018. "Inexperienced candidates are becoming more common, but only in one party." *Mischiefs of Faction - Vox*

Rachel Surminsky and Michael S. Lynch. 20 November, 2014. "When Congress sues the president, it's likely to fail." *The Monkey Cage - Washington Post*

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 Elections Reform Grant. Measuring Issue Polarization.   2024
Co-PI with Colin R. Case
Total Award: **$21,745**

Center for Effective Lawmaking Small Grant. Bipartisan Messaging in Elections.   2024
Co-PI with Colin R. Case and Emily Cottle Ommundsen
Total Award: **$1,000**

APSA Centennial Research Grant. JAWS CwC at MPSA.   2022
Co-PI with Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, Christina Ladam, Josh McCrain, and David Miller
Total Award: **$10,000**

Social Science Research Council Social Data Dissertation Fellowship.   2020
Total Award: **$15,000**

Internal Funding

Notre Dame ISLA International Travel Grant. **$1,000**	2024
UNC Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship. **$20,500**	2021
UNC Political Science Hughes Summer Research Award. **$2000**	2020
UNC Political Science Darlene Walker Summer Research Award. **$3000**	2019
UNC Political Science, Thomas M. Ulhman 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; SP 2025
POLS 40811: Quantitative Political Analysis	SP 2023; SP 2024; SP 2025
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

PRESENTATIONS	**Invited Presentations**	
	Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy, Seminar Series	Fall 2025
	Indiana University, Center for American Politics Conference	Fall 2025
	UChicago Harris, Center for Effective Governance Conference	Summer 2025
	Ole Miss, Barbour Study of American Politics Conference	Summer 2025
	UNC Chapel Hill, American Politics Research Group	Spring 2025
	University of Michigan, American Institutions Group Workshop	Spring 2025
	UK Martin School of Public Policy, Workshop Series	Spring 2025
	Wesleyan University, Wesleyan Media Project Election Conference	Winter 2024
	University of Virginia, Center for Effective Lawmaking Conference	Summer 2024
	UCSD, American Politics Workshop	Spring 2024
	UC Berkeley, Winter American Politics Research Meeting	Spring 2024
	WashU, Stories that Win Symposium	Spring 2024
	Georgetown University, American Government Seminar Series	Fall 2023
	Women in Legislative Studies (WiLS) Seminar Series	Fall 2023
	University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop	Spring 2023
	Purdue University, Political Science Workshop	Fall 2022
	University of Oklahoma, Carl Albert Center Conference	Summer 2022
	University of Notre Dame, Rooney Workshop Series	Spring 2021
	Bowling Green State University, Speaker Series	Fall 2020
	WashU, Political Science Speaker Series	Fall 2020
	UGA, Emerging Issues in Political Science Speaker Series	Spring 2020

	Annual Conference Presentations	
	PolMeth	(poster) 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023; (presentation) 2025
	MPSA	2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025
	Women in Legislative Studies Conference	2023, 2025
	APSA	2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
	State Politics & Policy Annual Conference	2024
	CBS-Princeton Money in Politics Conference	2024
	Visions in Methodology Conference	2024
	Frontiers in Money and Politics APSA Pre-Conference	2021, 2023
	Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference	2020

VOLUNTEER & **SERVICE**	**Discipline Service**	
	Co-Organizer, MPSA Primary Elections Mini-Conference	2024, 2025, 2026
	(*with Sarah Anderson, Dan Butler, Colin Case, and Laurel Harbridge-Yong*)	
	Program Committee, PolMeth Annual Conference	2025
	(*organized by Emory University*)	
	Program Committee, Visions in Methodology (VIM) Conference	2024
	(*organized by Washington University in St. Louis*)	
	Co-Founder & Organizer, Junior Americanist Workshop Series	2020-2024
	Co-Organizer, MPSA JAWS Mini-Conference	2023
	(*with Austin Bussing, Leah Christiani, Zander Furnas, David Miller, Josh McCrain*)	

Referee: *American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; British Journal of Political Science; Electoral Studies; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties; Political Research Quarterly; Journal of Politics; JAMA Health Forum; Journal of Women, Politics & Policy; Legislative Studies Quarterly;* National Science Foundation; *Policy Studies Journal; Perspectives on Politics, 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	2023-Present
Field Chair, Methods	2024-2025
Member, Committee on Inclusive Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship	2023-2024
Co-Chair, Undergraduate Thesis Awards Committee	2024
Admission Committee Member, Lucy Institute Graduate Fellows Program	2023
Member, Graduate Policy Council	2022-2023

Departmental Service at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Graduate Student President, Department of Political Science	2021-2022
Program Coordinator, American Politics Working Group	2018-2020
American Field Representative, Department of Political Science	2018-2019

Undergraduate and Doctoral Student Advising

Dissertation Committee Member

Abigail Hemmen (Notre Dame; In progress)
Emma Schroeder (Notre Dame; In progress)
Haley Cohen (Columbia University; Defended May 2025)

Methods Paper Committee Member

Géssica de Freitas (In progress)
Adriana Pilar Ferreira Albanus (In progress)

Undergraduate Mentoring

Senior Thesis Advisor, Elizabeth Borowiak (In progress)
Senior Thesis Advisor, Thomas Musgrave (Defended 2025)
Senior Thesis Advisor, Erik Johansen (Defended 2025)
Senior Thesis Co-Advisor, Julia Thomalla (Defended 2024, Best Thesis Award Winner)