

Aaron A. Hitefield

PhD Candidate; Political Science

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Department of Political Science
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Education

University of Georgia, August 2017—Present

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science, School of Public and International Affairs (Degree Expected Spring 2022)

Dissertation Title: *United We Vote? Analyzing the Effects of Nationalization on Congressional Elections*

Dissertation Committee: Jamie Carson (Major Professor), Michael Lynch, Geoffrey Sheagley

King University, 2013-2017

B.S. in Mathematics; Double Major: Political Science; Minor: Security and Intelligence Studies

Magna Cum Laude, Sniders Honors Fellow

Research Interests

American political institutions and methodology: elections, Congress, U.S. presidency, American political development, separation of powers, and political behavior.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Carson, Jamie L., Spencer Hardin, and Aaron A. Hitefield. 2021. "You're Fired! Donald Trump and the 2020 Congressional Elections." *The Forum*, Forthcoming.

Carson, Jamie L. & Aaron A. Hitefield. 2018. "Donald Trump, Nationalization, and the 2018 Midterm Elections." *The Forum*, 16(4), pp. 531-549.

Book Chapters

"The 2020 Presidential Nomination Process." 2021. In *The 2020 Presidential Election in the South*, eds. Branwell DuBose Kapeluck and Scott E. Buchanan. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. (M.V. Hood III. co-author).

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Graduate Courses
 - POLS 7770: Graduate Teaching Seminar (Fall 2021)
- Undergraduate Courses
 - POLS 4530: American Political Parties (Spring 2021)
 - POLS 4605: The Politics of Congressional Elections (Spring 2020)

Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Dr. Audrey Haynes (Fall 2021)
 - POLS 1101: American Government
- Dr. Keith T. Poole (Fall 2019-Spring 2020)
 - POLS 4635: Politics of Income Inequality
 - POLS 4555: Railroads and American Politics

Teaching Assistant, POLS 7012, Introduction to Political Methodology (Graduate), University of Georgia, Department of Political Science

- Dr. Robert Grafstein and Dr. Michael Lynch (Fall 2019)

Research Experience

Research Assistant, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Dr. Jamie L. Carson (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
- Dr. M.V. Trey Hood (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
- Dr. Keith L. Dougherty (Summer 2020)
- Dr. Jamie L. Carson (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
- Dr. Jason Anastasopoulos (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
- Dr. Charles S. Bullock III (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
- Dr. Keith L. Dougherty (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

Guest Lectures, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Fall 2020: The Politics of Congressional Elections (Honors)
- Fall 2019: American Political Development
- Fall 2019: American Political Development (Honors)
- Fall 2019: Introduction to American Politics

Selected Working Papers

“Strategic Presidential Candidacy Announcements in the Invisible Primary.” with Jason S. Byers. *Under Review*

“Nationalized Politics and the 2020 Elections.” with Jamie L. Carson and Spencer Hardin
Under Review

“Failure to Lead: Donald Trump, Electoral Accountability, and the Coronavirus Pandemic.” with Jamie L. Carson and Spencer Hardin

“The Effect of the Great Compromise on the Constitutional Convention of 1787.” with Keith L. Dougherty.

“*Smith v. Allwright*: Examining External Reform and the Electoral Connection.” With Adam G. Rutkowski and Ryan D. Williamson

“Context Matters: Examining Restrictive Rules and Machine Learning Classifiers.” with Michael Lynch and Anthony J. Madonna

“Strategy, Choice, and Nationalization in U.S. House Elections.” with Jason S. Byers and Jamie L. Carson

“Does Quality Still Matter? Reexamining Nationalization’s Effect on Primary and General Elections.” with Jason S. Byers, and Jamie L. Carson

“Unpacking Quality: Examining Voter Perceptions of Previous Electoral Experience.” with Jason S. Byers and Matthew E. Kopp

Conference Presentations

2021

“Money and Nationalization: Campaign Finance in Congressional Elections.” Paper accepted for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, with Jamie L. Carson and Joel Sievert.

“*Smith v. Allwright*: Examining External Reform and the Electoral Connection” Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Ryan D. Williamson and Adam G. Rutkowski.

“Holding the President Accountable: Analyzing the 2020 Presidential and Congressional Elections.” Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Spencer Hardin and Jamie L. Carson.

2020

“Evaluating the Roots of Careerism in the U.S. House of Representatives.” Paper Accepted for the American Political Science Association, with Jamie L. Carson [Panel Canceled: COVID-19]

“Money, Nationalization, and the Vote: Campaign Finance in U.S. Congressional Elections.” Paper Accepted for the Midwest Political Science Association, with Jamie L. Carson [Canceled: COVID-19]

2019

“A Referendum on Trump: Analyzing the 2018 Midterm Elections.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Jason S. Byers, Jamie L. Carson, and Jordan McKissick

“Success at the Constitutional Convention.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, with Keith L. Dougherty

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

The Dirksen Center Congressional Research Grant (2021) [\$3,500]

The University of Georgia Graduate School Dean’s Award (2021) [\$5,000]

IA Graduate Student Small Research Grant (2021) (with Neil S. Williams & Karlee Taylor) [\$1,000]

Prestage-Cook Travel Award (2020 SPSA) [\$300] (Canceled attendance: Earthquakes)

Reed Fellowship, University of Georgia (2018-2019) [\$1,000]

Excellence in Research Award, University of Georgia (2018-19)

Thomas P. Lauth Fellowship, University of Georgia (2017-2018) [\$4,000]

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, King University (2017)

Student Leadership Award, Student Affairs (2017)

Skills

LATEX, R, R Studio, STATA, WinBUGS/JAGS, Microsoft Excel

Volunteer and Service

Journal Referee—*Party Politics*, *Journal of Cyber Policy*

Discussant – Women's Rights and Representation - SPIA Undergraduate Research Colloquium (2019)

Student Government President (SGA) – King University (2016-2017)

Congressional Intern (D.C. Capitol Office) – Congressman Phil Roe (TN-01) (2017)

Campaign Manager for Tennessee State House of Representatives Election (2016)

References

Available Upon Request