

Stephen P. Nicholson

Department of Political Science
School of Public & International Affairs
University of Georgia
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Athens, GA 30602
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Education:

Ph.D. University of California, Davis, 1998 (Political Science)
B.A. University of California, Los Angeles, 1989 (Political Science)

Professional Experience:

Philip H. Alston, Jr. Distinguished Professor, University of Georgia, 2021-present
Professor, University of California, Merced, 2015-2020
Associate Professor, University of California, Merced, 2008-2015
Assistant Professor, University of California, Merced, 2006-2008
Associate Professor, Georgia State University, 2006
Assistant Professor, Georgia State University, 2000-2006.

Publications:

Book

Nicholson, Stephen P. 2005. *Voting the Agenda: Candidates, Elections, and Ballot Propositions*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Articles

Arceneaux, Kevin and Stephen P. Nicholson. Nd. "Anchoring Political Preferences: The Psychological Foundations of Status Quo Bias and the Boundaries of Elite Manipulation." *Political Behavior*, forthcoming.

Nicholson, Stephen P. and Haifeng Huang. Nd. "Making the List: Reevaluating Political Trust and Social Desirability in China." *American Political Science Review*, forthcoming.

Huang, Haifeng, Chanita Intawan, and Stephen P. Nicholson. Nd. "Implicit Political Trust and Regime Support in China." *Perspectives on Politics*, forthcoming.

Dobbs, Reagan and Stephen P. Nicholson. Nd. "Inverting the Lens: White Privilege Denial in Evaluations of Politicians and Policy." *Perspectives on Politics*, forthcoming.

Intawan, Chanita and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2018. "My Trust in Government is Implicit: Automatic Trust in Government and System Support." *Journal of Politics* 80(2):601-614.

- Hansford, Thomas G., Chanita Intawan, and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2018. "Snap Judgment: Implicit Perceptions of a (Political) Court." *Political Behavior* 40(1):127-147.
- Nicholson, Stephen P., Christopher J. Carman, Chelsea M. Coe, Aidan Feeney, Balázs Fehér, Brett K. Hayes, Christopher Kam, Jeffrey A. Karp, Gergo Vaczi, and Evan Heit. 2018. "The Nature of Party Categories in Two-Party and Multi-Party Systems." *Advances in Political Psychology* 39:279-304.
- Canelo, Kayla S., Thomas G. Hansford, and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2018. "The Paradoxical Effect of Speech-Suppressing Appeals to the First Amendment." *Journal of Politics* 80(1):309-313.
- Duran, Nicholas, Stephen P. Nicholson, and Rick Dale. 2017. "The Hidden Appeal and Aversion to Political Conspiracies as Revealed in the Response Dynamics of Partisans." *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* 73(November):268-278.
- Coe, Chelsea M., Kayla S. Canelo, Kau Vue, Matthew V. Hibbing, and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2017. "The Physiology of Framing Effects: Threat Sensitivity and the Persuasiveness of Political Arguments." *Journal of Politics* 79(4):1465-68.
- Koch, Michael T. and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2016. "Death & Turnout: The Human Costs of War and Voter Participation in Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(4):932-946.
- Nicholson, Stephen P., Chelsea M. Coe, Jason Emory, and Anna V. Song. 2016. "The Politics of Beauty: The Effect of Partisan Bias on Physical Attractiveness." *Political Behavior* 38(4):883-898.
- Heit, Evan and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2016. "Missing the Party: Political Categorization and Reasoning in the Absence of Party Label Cues." *Topics in Cognitive Science* 8(3):697-714.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. and Thomas G. Hansford. 2014. "Partisans In Robes: Party Cues and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(3):620-636.
- Damore, David F. and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2014. "Mobilizing Interests: Group Participation and Competition in Direct Democracy Elections." *Political Behavior* 36(3):535-552.
- Claassen, Ryan and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2013. "Extreme Voices: Interest Groups and the Misrepresentation of Issue Publics." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 77(4):861-887.

- Damore, David F., Shaun Bowler, and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2012. "Agenda Setting by Direct Democracy: Comparing the Initiative and Referendum." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 12(4):367-393.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. 2012. "Polarizing Cues." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(1):52-66.
- Arceneaux, Kevin and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2012. "Who Wants to Have a Tea Party? The Who, What, and Why of the Tea Party Movement." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 45(4):700-710.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. and Gary M. Segura. 2012. "Who's the Party of the People? Economic Populism and the U.S. Public's Beliefs about Political Parties." *Political Behavior* 34(2):369-389.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. 2011. "Dominating Cues and the Limits of Elite Influence." *Journal of Politics* 73(4):1165-1177.
- Heit, Evan and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2010. "The Opposite of Republican: Polarization and Political Categorization." *Cognitive Science* 34(8):1503-1516.
- Bowler, Shaun, Stephen P. Nicholson, and Gary M. Segura. 2006. "Earthquakes and Aftershocks: Race, Direct Democracy, and Partisan Change." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(1):146-159.
- Nicholson, Stephen P., Adrian Pantoja, and Gary M. Segura. 2006. "Political Knowledge and Issue Voting among the Latino Electorate." *Political Research Quarterly* 59(2):259-272.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. 2005. "The Jeffords Switch and Public Support for Divided Government." *British Journal of Political Science* 35:343-356.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. 2003. "The Political Environment and Ballot Proposition Awareness." *American Journal of Political Science* 47:403-410.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. and Robert M. Howard. 2003. "Framing Support for the Supreme Court in the Aftermath of *Bush v. Gore*." *Journal of Politics* 65:676-695.
- Nicholson, Stephen P., Gary M. Segura, and Nathan D. Woods. 2002. "Presidential Approval and the Mixed Blessing of Divided Government." *Journal of Politics* 64:701-720.
- Nicholson, Stephen P. and Gary M. Segura. 1999. "Midterm Elections and Divided Government: An Information-Driven Theory of Electoral Volatility." *Political Research Quarterly* 52:609-629.

Nicholson, Stephen P. and Ross A. Miller. 1997. "Prior Beliefs and Voter Turnout in the 1986 and 1988 Congressional Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* 50:199-213.

Segura, Gary M. and Stephen P. Nicholson. 1995. "Sequential Choices and Partisan Transitions in U.S. Senate Delegations." *Journal of Politics* 57:86-100.

Conference Proceedings

Duran, Nicholas. D., Stephen P. Nicholson, and Rick Dale. 2015. "Tracking the response dynamics of implicit partisan biases." Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 608-613.

Heit, Evan., & Stephen P. Nicholson. 2012. "Knowledge and political categorization." *Proceedings of the Thirty-Fourth Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, 1656-1661.

Other publications

Bowler, Shaun, Reagan Dobbs, and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2020. "Direct Democracy and Political Decision Making." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.

Bowler, Shaun and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2019. "Persuasion and Ballot Propositions." *Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion*, eds., Liz Suhay, Bernard Grofman, and Alexander Trechsel. New York, Oxford University Press.

Bowler, Shaun and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2018. "Information Cues and Rational Ignorance." *Oxford Handbook of Public Choice*, Vol. 1, eds., Roger Congleton, Bernard N. Grofman, and Stefan Voigt. New York, Oxford University Press.

Nicholson, Stephen P. and Kayla Canelo. 2016. "Direct Democracy in the United States." *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Political Science*. New York, Oxford University Press.

Nicholson, Stephen P. 2008. "Direct Democracy and the Public Agenda: Ballot Initiatives and Public Beliefs about Important Problems." In *Direct Democracy's Impact on American Political Institutions*, eds., Shaun Bowler and Amihai Glazer. Palgrave.

Hansford, Thomas G. and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2008. "When $t = 1$ and $N = 2$: Creating a Political Science Program at a New Research University." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 41 (April): 371-374.

Nicholson, Stephen P. and Gary M. Segura. 2005. "Agenda Change and the Politics of Latino Partisan Identification." In *Diversity in Democracy*, eds. Gary M. Segura and Shaun Bowler. University of Virginia Press.

Nicholson, Stephen P. 2004. "Voting the Agenda." *Campaigns and Elections*. December.

Awards:

Allan Saxe Best Paper on State and Local Politics. Awarded to the best paper on state and local politics presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association. (with David F. Damore).

Emerging Scholar Award, Presented by the Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section of the American Political Science Association for the top scholar in the field within 10 years of doctorate, 2006.

E.E. Schattschneider Award for the best dissertation in American Government and Politics, American Political Science Association, 1999.

Grants:

UC Committee on Research Faculty Research Award 2016, "Party Identity, Brands and Candidates in the Midst of Electoral Tumult." \$10,000 (with Alex Theodoridis).

UC Merced Graduate Research Council Faculty Research Grant 2014, "New Insights in Social Science Through a Shared Wireless Eye Tracking Resource." \$19,029.35 (with Rick Dale, Holly Moyes, and Michael Spivey).

UC Merced Graduate Research Council Faculty Research Grant 2013, "The Darkside of Direct Democracy: Ballot Measures and Hate Crimes." \$8,175.00 (with Nella Van Dyke and Kyle Dodson).

National Science Foundation, 2011-2013, "The Causes and Consequences of Opinion Formation in Direct Democracy Elections," \$398,516 (with Shaun Bowler).

UC Merced Graduate Research Council Faculty Research Grant 2012, "Personality and the Study of Mass Political Behavior." \$19,029.35 (with Matt Hibbing).

UC Merced Graduate Research Council Faculty Research Grant 2011, "Equipment and Software Proposal for Studying Mass Political Behavior" \$4,868.

Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Faculty Research Grant 2008, "Understanding Public Attitudes Toward War," \$19,249.60 (Funded \$8,936.00).

UC Merced Graduate Research Council Faculty Research Grant 2008, "Are Political Parties Brand Names? The Nature of Partisanship and Political Categories," \$10,000 (with Evan Heit).

UC Merced Graduate Research Council Faculty Research Grant 2007, "Congressional Approval and Divided Government," \$5,000.

Conference Participation (last 10 years):

Violence is Wrong, Except When it Isn't: Moral Reasoning and the Microfoundations of Partisan Violence." Paper presented at the New York Area Political Psychology Meeting, Columbia University. October 22, 2022. With Karlee Taylor, Donald Snyder, and Alex Theodoridis.

"The Emotional Substrates of Conspiracy Beliefs." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR. March 10-12, 2022. With Brad Bilsback.

"Partisanship in Moral Reasoning and the Microfoundations of Partisan Violence." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Virtual Meeting, September 9-13, 2020. With James Lucien Martherus and Alex G. Theodoridis.

"Implicit Trust in Government in China." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. August 29-September 1, 2019. With Haifeng Huang and Chanita Intawan.

"Who Believes Fake News?" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Lisbon, Portugal. July 12-15, 2019. With Chelsea Coe.
"Implicit Trust in Government in China." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA. March 18-20, 2019. With Haifeng Huang and Chanita Intawan.

"Inverting the Lens: The Role of White Privilege in Party and Candidate Evaluations." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA. March 18-20, 2019. With Reagan Dobbs.

"White Privilege, Candidate Affect, and Policy Attitudes." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, August 30-September 2, 2018. With Reagan Dobbs.

"The Daughter Effect in the 2016 Presidential Election." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA. March 29-31, 2018. With Kevin Arceneaux, Sarah Fulton, and Francisco Pedraza.

"Don't Speak? The Paradoxical Effect of Speech-Suppressing Appeals to the First Amendment." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 2017. With Kayla Canelo and Thomas G. Hansford.

"My Trust in Government is Implicit: Automatic Trust in Government and System Support." Paper presented at "Exploring New Frontier, Forging New Synergies: Bolstering

the Links Between Bio-Politics and Political Psychology," University of California, Merced, June 9-10, 2016. With Chanita Intawan.

"Cues, Groups, and Ballot Propositions." Paper presented at the 16th Annual State Politics and Policy Conference, Dallas, TX, May 19-21, 2016. With Shaun Bowler.

"Setting Boundaries: How Categorical Perception Sets Political Parties Apart From Each Other in Crowded Multiparty Systems." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 7-10, 2016. With Chelsea M. Coe, Johann Martinsson, and Evan Heit.

"Cues, Groups, and Ballot Propositions." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 7-10, 2016. With Shaun Bowler.

"Cues, Groups, and Ballot Propositions." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA. March 24-26, 2016. With Shaun Bowler.

"That's How I Roll (Off): Voter Abstention in Direct Democracy Elections." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, September 3-6, 2015. With Shaun Bowler.

"Tracking the Response Dynamics of Implicit Partisan Biases." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Pasadena, CA, July 23-25. With Nicholas D. Duran and Rick Dale.

"Physiology of Framing Effects." Paper presented at the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, San Diego, CA, July 3-6. With Kayla Canelo, Chelsea Coe, Matthew Hibbing, and Kau Vue.

"Voting (or Not) on Ballot Measures in the United States." Paper presented at the 15th Annual State Politics and Policy Conference, Sacramento, CA, May 28-30, 2015. With Shaun Bowler.

"Who Gets What? The Social Group Basis of Voting on Ballot Measures." Paper presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 2-4. With Shaun Bowler.

"Threatening Frames: Biological Traits Condition Citizens' Responses to Issue Framing." Paper presented at the Hendricks Symposium on "Psychology, Biology, and Political Attitudes" University of Nebraska, Lincoln, April 3-4, 2015. With Kayla Canelo, Chelsea Coe, Matthew Hibbing, and Kau Vue.

"The Political Court?" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 15-17, 2015. With Thomas Hansford and Chanita Intawan.

"Can Party Identification Make You Virtuous?" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., August 28-31, 2014. With Chelsea Coe.

"Anchoring Politics" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., August 28-31, 2014. With Kevin Arceneaux.

"Information and Direct Democracy Voting." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, April 17-19, 2014. With Shaun Bowler.

"How Much Are Your Values Worth?" Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, July 31-August 4, 2013. With Chanita Intawan and Evan Heit.

"Party Distinctiveness and the Nature of Party Categories." Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association, Parlament de Catalunya and Institut Verdaguer Barcelona, June 20-22, 2013. With Evan Heit, Christopher J. Carman, Aidan Feeney, Brett Hayes, and Jeffrey Karp.

"(Implicit) Trust in Government." Paper presented at the 2013 Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, March 28-30. With Chanita Intawan.

"Knowledge and Political Categorization." Paper presented at the 34th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Sapporo, Japan, August 1-4, 2012. With Evan Heit.

"Direct Democracy Online: Understanding Ballot Measure Campaigns Through Web Sites." Paper presented at the "Initiatives and Referendums in the Elections of 2012 Conference" at the USC Marshall School of Business, November 16, 2012. With Shaun Bowler.

"Source Cues and Public Approval of Supreme Court Decisions." Paper presented at the International Conference on Law and Society, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 5-8, 2012. With Thomas G. Hansford.

"Source Cues and Public Approval of Supreme Court Decisions." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 12-15, 2012. With Thomas G. Hansford.

University of Georgia

Search committee, Fall 2022

Graduate Exam committee (American politics), Fall 2022

Executive Committee, 2021-2022

UC Merced Department Service:

Chair, Political Science Department, 2017-2020.

Undergraduate Director (Political Science), 2015-2016.

Member, Political Science By-law 55 Executive Committee, 2013 - 2014.

Chair, Political Science Lab Committee, 2013 - 2014.

Member, Political Science Search Committee, 2013 - 2014.

Chair, First Year Graduate Student Exam Committee, May 2014.

Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee Case for Coelho Endowed Chair, April 2014.

Member, Ad Hoc Committee for Merit Reviews, 2013.

Member, Political Science Search Committee (Assistant search), 2012 - 2013.

Guest Speaker, Graduate Student Recruitment Event, November 2013.

Presenter, Graduate Student Professionalization Seminar, October 2013.

Chair, UC Merced Political Science Program, July 2010 - June 2013.

Webmaster, Political Science Webmaster, July 2007 - June 2013.

Member, Political Science Search Committee (2 Assistants), 2011 - 2012.

Special Assignment, Ad Hoc Merit Review committee member, June 2010 - July 2011.

Chair, Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, January 2011 - June 2011.

Special Assignment, Ad Hoc Merit Review committee member, July 2010 - June 2011.

Member, Political Science Search Committee (Assistant search), July 2010 - June 2011.

Co-Chair, Political Science Search Committee (Assistant search), July 2009 - June 2010.

Co-Chair, Political Science Search Committee (Assistant search), 2008 - 2009.

Co-Chair, Political Science Search Committee (Senior search), 2008 - 2009.

Co-Chair, Political Science Search Committee (Assistant search), 2008.

Co-Chair, Political Science Search Committee (Assistant search), 2007 - 2008.

Co-Chair, Political Science Search Committee (Senior search), 2006 - 2007.

Georgia State University

Judicial Politics Search Committee, Georgia State University, 2005.

American Politics Search Committee, Georgia State University, July 2003 - June 2004.

Public Law Search Committee, Georgia State University, January 2002 - December 2003.

Executive Committee, Georgia State University, July 2002 - June 2003.

Web Design Committee, Georgia State University, July 2002 - June 2003.

UC Merced School/College Service:

Member, SSHA Curriculum committee, 2015-2016

Member, Social Sciences & Management By-Law Affiliate, 2013 - 2014.

Guest Speaker, Core 1 Lectures (3 lectures), March 2014.

Member, Continuing Lecturer committee (Management), 2012 - 2013.

Member, Social Sciences Graduate Group Admissions Committee, 2012 - 2013.

Chair, SSHA Faculty Chair, 2012 - 2013.

Member, SSHA Curriculum committee, July 2010 - June 2011.

Chair, SSHA Faculty Chair, 2007 - 2009.

UC Merced University Service:

Committee on Research, 2016-2017

Vice-Chair, Committee on Research, 2015-2016

Member, Periodic Review Oversight Committee, 2015-2016

External Liaison, Periodic Review of Anthropology major, Fall 2015-2016.

Member, UC Sacramento Applicant Review committee, July 2010 - June 2011.

Co-Coordinator, UC Sacramento Internship Program, 2006 - 2010.

Member, Undergraduate Council (UGC), July 2007 - June 2009.

UCDC Selection Committee, January 2007 - December 2007.

Member, Presidential Post Doc Search Committee, January 2006 - December 2006.

Service to Profession:

Editorial Board Member, *Political Behavior*, 2019 - present

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 2017 - present

Co-PI, *Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences* (TESS), 2017-present

Member, The Betty Moulds Lifetime Service Award, Western Political Science Association, 2020-present

PRQ Editor Search committee, Western Political Science Association, 2020-present

Member, The Betty Moulds Lifetime Service Award, Western Political Science Association, 2018-2019

Editorial Board Member, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 2014 – 2020

Program Chair, Western Political Science Association, 2017

President, Western Political Science Association, 2017-2018

Vice-President, Western Political Science Association, 2016-2017

Advisory Board, American National Election Study, 2010-2018

Discussant, 2016 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 7-10, 2016

Discussant, 2016 Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, March 24-26, 2016

Member, Emerging Scholar Award Committee, Elections, Public Opinion & Voting Behavior section of the American Political Science Association), 2015-2016

Executive Council, Elections, Public Opinion & Voting Behavior (subsection of the American Political Science Association), 2008-2010

Chair, Political Psychology Best Dissertation Award committee, 2015

Section Chair for Voting & Elections, 2015 Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association

Chair, Midwest Political Science Association Emerging Scholar Paper Award committee, 2013

Member, State Politics Career Achievement Award committee, American Political Science Association's organized section on State Politics, 2013

Member, *Political Research Quarterly* Best Paper Award committee, 2013

Panel Chair, 2013 Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association.

Chair of Funds Committee, Political Psychology Organized Section of the American Political Science Association, 2012-13.

Executive Council, Midwest Political Science Association, 2011-2014

Discussant, 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, Washington

Program Chair for Midwest Political Science Association, 2010

Executive Council, Elections, Public Opinion & Voting Behavior (subsection of the American Political Science Association), 2008-2010

Committee Member, Best Paper Award for the American Political Science Association's organized section on Elections, Public Opinion & Voting Behavior, 2008-2009

Committee Member, Best Graduate Student Paper Award for the American Political Science Association's organized section Elections, Public Opinion & Voting Behavior, 2008-2009

Section Head, Public Opinion, 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association

Section Head, Public Opinion, 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

Panel Chair and Discussant at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 3-6, 2008

Executive Council Member, Western Political Science Association, 2008-2011

Section Head, Voting Behavior, 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science

Association

Panel Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, GA, January 5-7, 2006

Panel Discussant at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 7-10, 2005

Question writer for Educational Testing Service (ETS) for the political science field exam, 2004

Panel Discussant and Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 3-6, 2003

Panel Discussant and Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 25-28, 2002