

Megan Manning Wall

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EDUCATION

University of Georgia

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science and International Affairs

Major Field: American Politics

Minor Field: Political Methodology

Dissertation Title: “Automatic Voter Registration and Electoral Participation in the United States: Policy Impact, Mechanisms, and Partisan Consequences (2012-2024)”

Athens, Georgia

Expected May 2026

Transylvania University

Bachelor of Art (BA) in History and Education

magna cum laude

Lexington, Kentucky

May 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

Publications

- Carson, Jamie, Aaron Hitefield, and Megan Wall. “The Trump Effect: Nationalized Narratives and Congressional Outcomes in the 2024 Elections.” *The Forum* 22, no. 2-3 (February 2025): 409-432 <https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2025-2008>
- Wall, Megan. “Front-end or Back-end? Automatic Voter Registration Method and the Implications for Voter Turnout in the 2022 Midterms.” *Questions in Politics*, Volume XII (2025): 30-41.

Manuscripts Under Review

- “Opting Out of Voter Registration: An Analysis of Statewide Automatic Voter Registration Policies in the United States (2012-2022)” at *American Politics Research* (revise and resubmit)

Working Papers

- “Does Method Matter? Analyzing the Impact of AVR Method on Registration and Participation (2012-2022)”
- “Automatic Advantage? Assessing the Partisan Impact of AVR Policies (2012-2024)”
- “Beyond the Gender Divide: Educational Polarization in the 2024 U.S. Elections” (with Stewart Ulrich)
- “Month Matters: The Effect of Primary Competitiveness on General Election Turnout (2008-2020)”

Research Interests: Voter Behavior, Voter Information, Voter Registration, Elections (Presidential, Congressional, and primaries), and Election Law

Presentations

- 2026** Presenter, *Midwest Political Science Association’s Annual Conference*, Chicago, IL
 - “Automatic Advantage? Assessing the Partisan Impact of AVR Policies (2012-2024)”
- 2025** Presenter, *Midwest Political Science Association’s Annual Conference*, Chicago, IL
 - “Opting Out of Voter Registration: An Analysis of Statewide Automatic Voter Registration Policies in the United States (2012-2022)”
- 2024** Presenter, *Georgia Political Science Association’s Annual Conference*, St. Simons Island, GA
 - “Front-end or Back-end? Automatic Voter Registration Method and the Implications for Voter Turnout in the 2022 Midterms”
- 2024** Presenter, *SPIA Methods Colloquium*, Athens, Georgia
 - “Opt-in or Opt-out? Automatic Voter Registration Method and the Implications for Voter Participation”
- 2023** Participant, *Election Science, Reform, and Administration Summer Conference*, Athens, GA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Instructor, **University of Georgia**, Athens, GA (August 2024-December 2024)*

- Served as the instructor of record for POLS 7770 (Graduate Teaching Seminar), a required course for all department TAs focused on equipping new graduate students with basic teaching strategies, classroom management skills, and knowledge of university resources
- Responsible for creating and implementing all aspects of course delivery and assessment
- Redesigned course structure, materials, and pedagogical approach in response to prior student feedback and departmental guidance to enhance engagement and support learning objectives
- Utilized active learning strategies (i.e. case studies, interactive polling, peer instruction, and concept mapping) to promote student learning and engagement
- Integrated student feedback and interests into course design, fostering a responsive and student-centered learning environment
- Varied content delivery across multiple formats including lectures, group assignments, and discussion

*Graduate Coordinator, **School of Public and International Affairs Undergraduate Research Colloquium**, Athens, GA (January 2023-May 2025)*

- Coordinated the undergraduate research colloquium for the School of Public and International Affairs, overseeing application review, scheduling, and event logistics for nearly 90 student presenters and 300 attendees
- Mentored undergraduate students through one of their first experiences presenting academic research, offering professionalism advice, feedback on their research projects, and encouragement throughout the presentation process
- Fostered a supportive research environment that cultivated student scholarship, creativity, and autonomy, while also contributing to the larger academic community
- Matched students to panel and poster sessions according to research topic and availability

*Teaching Assistant, **University of Georgia**, Athens, GA (Summer Session 2023 and 2025)*

- Served as a teaching assistant for POLS 4645 (Applied Civic Engagement) and POLS 1101 (Intro to American Government) in online formats
- Developed teaching experience across formats at the university-level (online, asynchronous, and synchronous), complementing prior in-person classroom teaching
- Provided detailed, constructive feedback on assignments to guide student learning and improvement
- Responded to student inquiries and graded coursework promptly to maintain clear communication and accountability
- Encouraged critical thinking and creativity by posing reflective and analytical questions in assignment feedback

*High School Social Studies Teacher, **East Jessamine High School**, Nicholasville, KY (July 2018-May 2022)*

- Cultivated an inclusive and supportive classroom environment that encouraged student participation and intellectual risk-taking
- Developed and delivered engaging lessons and assessments for the following courses: Global Issues, Foundations of American Government, Psychology, and AP Psychology
- Designed innovative units and instructional materials such as a unit on memory and creativity in AP Psychology
- Integrated educational technology (i.e. Padlet, Loom, Kahoot) to enhance student learning and engagement
- Awards: **Teacher of the Year Nominee** (2020, 2021)- school-wide, student-nominated accolade

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs, Athens, GA (Fall 2022-present)

- Collaborate with multiple faculty on wide-ranging projects in American politics, including assignments related to elections, congressional rule-making, appellate court decision-making, and political philosophy
- Maintain consistent communication with assigned professor to meet expectations and deadlines
- Seamlessly adapt to new projects for different professors with varied working styles

University of Georgia, Department of Political Science

Michael Lynch and Tony Madonna (Fall 2024–present)

- Contribute to edited volume focused on the impact of Rules Committee decision-making on the larger lawmaking process
- Update and maintain congressional rules dataset for continued scholarly use
- Utilize congressional rules data to conduct analyses on legislative rulemaking as well as member amendment behavior

Jamie Carson (Summer 2024)

- Coded 2024 congressional elections data to support analysis of incumbency effects, open-seat races, and challenger quality in *The Politics of Congressional Elections*
- Contributed to Carnegie Foundation grant proposal on the electoral causes and consequences of polarization

Harrison Frye and Alexander Kaufman (Fall 2023-Spring 2024)

- Evaluated student assessments and provided feedback in a special topics course on moral progress
- Digitized and organized lecture notes to support long-term use in political philosophy courses

Susan Haire and Audrey Haynes (Fall 2022-Spring 2023)

- Compiled annotated bibliography on applications of text-based analysis in political science
- Prepared absentee ballot data for signature mismatch study evaluating the reliability of signature verification
- Coded appellate court opinions on case type, outcomes, and origins as well as opinion length, authorities cited, and author

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Progress Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia (May 2023-July 2024)

- Employed data collection and analysis skills in a non-profit research setting, extending academic training to an applied context
- Conducted in-depth candidate research for the 2024 non-partisan Georgia Voter Guide, ensuring accuracy and impartiality
- Synthesized large amounts of political information into concise, accessible candidate profiles for a public audience

CERTIFICATIONS

GradTeach Certificate, *University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)*

February 2025

- Completed yearlong professional development program focused on the science of learning, promoting an effective learning environment, and utilizing best practices in the classroom
- Collaborated with peers and CTL faculty to complete modules ranging from establishing course policies, to implementing active learning, to metacognition and motivation
- Engaged in cross-disciplinary discussions regarding strategies for student success
- Designed a transparent (TILT-informed) assignment, created a detailed lesson plan using the BOPPS framework, and developed an action plan for future instruction via reflection on prior teaching experiences

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association, Member

- Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior section
- Civic Engagement section
- APSA Women's Caucus

Southern Political Science Association, Member

Midwest Political Science Association, Member

HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate Doctoral Assistantship

August 2022- May 2026

Summer Teaching Assistantship

Summer 2023, 2025

Summer Research Assistantship

Summer 2024

UGA Graduate School Travel Grant

April 2025

Peter Mekis Memorial Scholarship

Fall 2022, Spring 2023

REFERENCES

Michael Lynch

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia

Dissertation Adviser

mlynch@uga.edu

Jamie Carson

Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia

Dissertation Committee Member

carson@uga.edu

David Cottrell

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Georgia

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Maryann Gallagher

Senior Lecturer, University of Georgia

Coordinator, SPIA's Undergraduate Research Colloquium

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