

# Ryan D. Williamson

Assistant Professor  
Auburn University  
Haley Center 8030A

[rdw0035@auburn.edu](mailto:rdw0035@auburn.edu)  
(334) 844-5062  
[ryandwilliamson.com](http://ryandwilliamson.com)

## Academic Positions

Auburn University  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2018–present

American Political Science Association  
Congressional Fellow, 2017-2018

## Education

2017: University of Georgia, Ph.D. Political Science  
Dissertation: *Examining the Effects of Institutional Design on Electoral Outcomes*  
Committee: Jamie Carson (chair), Michael Crespín, Anthony Madonna, James Monogan,  
and Ryan Bakker  
Examination Fields: American Politics and Methodology

2013: University of Michigan, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

2011: University of Alabama at Birmingham, B.A. Political Science Honors, *cum laude*

## Teaching and Research Interests

Congress and Legislative Procedure, Congressional Elections, Institutional Development,  
U.S. Presidency, Research Design, Causal Inference

## Journal Articles

“Rules, Polarization, and the Future of the Senate.” 2019. *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 52(2): 401-403.

“Examining the Effects of Partisan Redistricting on Candidate Entry Decisions.”  
Forthcoming. *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, & Policy*.

“Evaluating Candidate Positioning and Success in the 2018 Midterm Elections.” 2018. *The Forum*. 16(4): 675-686.

“Questions of Order in the United States Senate: Procedural Uncertainty and the Role of the Parliamentarian.” Forthcoming. *Social Science Quarterly*. with Anthony Madonna and Michael Lynch.

“Candidate Ideology and Electoral Success in Congressional Elections.” 2018. *Public Choice*. 176: 175-192. with Jamie Carson.

“The Vice President in the U.S. Senate: Examining the Consequences of Institutional Design.” 2018. *Congress & the Presidency*. 45(2): 145-165. with Michael Lynch, Anthony Madonna, and Mark Owens.

“Public Attitudes Toward Presidential Veto Powers.” 2018. *Research & Politics*. 5(1): 1-6. with Joel Sievert.

“Institutional Control of Redistricting and the Geography of Representation.” 2017. *Journal of Politics*. 79(2): 722-726. with Michael Crespin, Barry Edwards, and Maxwell Palmer.

“Re-evaluating the Effects of Redistricting on Electoral Competition, 1972-2012.” 2014. *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*. 14(2): 162-174. with Jamie Carson and Michael Crespin.

## Book Chapters and Encyclopedia Entries

“Recent Developments in Congressional Redistricting.” In *New Directions in Congressional Politics 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* Jamie Carson and Michael Lynch, editors. Routledge. Under contract.

“Redistricting and Electoral Competition.” *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Political Science*. Under contract.

“Candidate Emergence in the Era of Direct Primaries.” 2018. In *Handbook of Primary Elections*. Robert Boatright, editor. Routledge. with Jamie Carson.

“Introduction to Congressional Elections.” 2016. In *Guide to U.S. Elections 7<sup>th</sup> ed.* Deborah Kalb, editor. Congressional Quarterly Press. with Jamie Carson.

## Other Publications

A review of “Changing Cultures in Congress: From Fair Play to Power Plays” by Donald R. Wolfensberger (Columbia University Press, 2018) *Political Science Quarterly*, Forthcoming.

“Electoral Politics in Georgia and Their Impact on Future Gubernatorial Races.” 2018. *Presidents and Executive Politics Report* 40(2): 18-22.

## Select Working Papers

“Policymaking by the Executive: Examining the Fate of Presidential Agenda Items.” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson.  
*Invited to Revise & Resubmit at Congress & the Presidency*.

“Constituent Evaluations of U.S. Senators Over the Electoral Cycle.” with Joel Sievert.

“Examining the Effect of Redistricting Methods on Citizen Trust in Government and Election Outcomes.” with Florian Justwan.

“The Rhetoric of Healthcare: A Topic Model of Congressional Speeches, 1944-2012.” with James E. Monogan III and James Strickland.

“Who Gets Blamed When Congress and the President Collide?” with Joel Sievert.

“Challengers, Choices, and Competition in Congressional Primaries.” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson.

“Are Congressional Primaries as Nationalized as General Elections?” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson.

“Interbranch Warfare: Senate Amending Process and Restrictive House Rules.” with Anthony Madonna and Jordan McKissick.

“Reconsidering the Role of Disaster Declarations in Electoral Politics.”

## **Grants and Awards**

Congressional Research Grant sponsored by the Dirksen Congressional Center  
Southern Political Science Association Artinian Travel Award  
Southern Political Science Association Prestage-Cook Travel Award  
Richard A. Baker Graduate Student Research Travel Grant  
University of Georgia Graduate School Outstanding Teaching Award  
University of Georgia Department of Political Science Excellence in Teaching Award

## **Conference Participation**

### **Presentations**

#### **2019**

“Constituent Evaluations of US Senators Over the Electoral Cycle.” with Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Interbranch Warfare: Senate Amending Process and Restrictive House Rules.” with Anthony J. Madonna, Jordan McKissick, Laine P. Shay, and Simon Williamson. Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Examining Exit Decisions and Their Effect on the 2018 House Elections.” with Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in Austin, Texas.

## **2018**

“Are Congressional Primaries Becoming as Nationalized as General Elections?” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson. Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Boston, Massachusetts.

“Are Congressional Primaries Becoming as Nationalized as General Elections?” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson. Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

## **2017**

“Challengers, Choices, and Competition in Congressional Primaries.” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, California.

“Did Party Loyalty Trump Ideology? Assessing Candidate Effects on the 2016 Elections.” with Jason Byers, Jamie Carson, and Stephen Pettigrew. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“The Effects of House Restrictive Rules on Senate Amending.” with Anthony Madonna, Jordan McKissick, Rory Hibbler, and Robert Oldham. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Constituent Evaluations of US Senators Over the Electoral Cycle.” with Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Evaluating the Role of Coattail Effects in the 2016 Elections.” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## **2016**

“The Rhetoric of Healthcare: A Topic Model of Congressional Speeches, 1945-2010.” with James Monogan and James Strickland. Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association in Savannah, Georgia.

“Legislators, Commissioners, and Traditional Redistricting Principles.” with Barry Edwards, Michael Crespin, and Maxwell Palmer. Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Legislators, Commissioners, and Traditional Redistricting Principles.” with Barry Edwards, Michael Crespin, and Maxwell Palmer. Presented at the 2016 Annual State Politics and Policy Conference at the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, Texas.

“Candidates, Money, and Polarization in U.S. House Elections, 1872-2014.” with Jamie Carson, Mark Owens, and Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2016 Annual Congress and History Conference at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

“Examining the Relationship Between Executive Orders and the President’s Legislative Agenda.” with Jason Byers and Jamie Carson. Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Do Vetoes Hurt the President?” with Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## **2015**

“Assessing the Rise and Development of the Incumbency Advantage in Congress.” with Jamie Carson and Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, California.

“The Rhetoric of Healthcare: A Topic Model of Congressional Speeches, 1945-2010.” with James Monogan and James Strickland. Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

“Assessing the Rise and Development of the Incumbency Advantage in Congress.” with Jamie Carson and Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2015 Annual Congress and History Conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

“Dramatic Defeats, Primary Participation, and Republican Rifts: Evaluating the 2014 Midterm Elections.” with Jamie Carson and Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Reassessing the Scare-Off Effect: Evidence from House Primary Races.” Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Examining Incumbent Behavior Following Failure to Deter a Quality Challenger.” Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Looking Beyond the Incumbency Advantage: Measuring the Effect of Challenger Ideology on Congressional Election Outcomes.” with Jamie Carson. Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## **2014**

“Analyzing the Effects of Redistricting on Ideology in the Post-*Wesberry* Era.” Presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.

“A Reconsideration of Disaster Declarations as an Exercise in Unilateral Power.” Presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“A Reconsideration of Disaster Declarations as an Exercise in Unilateral Power.” Presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

### **2013**

“Examining the Roles of Race and Income in Partisan Self-Placement, 1966-2008.” with Joel Sievert. Presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

### **Discussant**

“Voting and Position Taking in Legislatures.” 2019 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Meet the Author: Women Officeholders and the Role Models Who Pioneered the Way.” 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in Austin, Texas.

“Analyzing Roll Calls in Congress.” 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Of Geography and Gerrymandering: The Causes and Consequences of Congressional Redistricting.” 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“New Directions in APD Research.” 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Diffusion and Policy Variation in the American States.” 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Executive Influence and Success.” 2016 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

“Floor and Pre-Floor Actions: Holds, Cosponsorships, and Amendments.” 2015 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Legislative Politics: Elections I.” 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

### **Chair**

“Of Geography and Gerrymandering: The Causes and Consequences of Congressional Redistricting.” 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois.

## **Media Contributions**

“[Polarization in the Senate isn’t going away.](#)” LegBranch.org blog. March 25, 2019.

“Taking the redistricting process out of the hands of state legislatures can mean more competitive US House elections.” LSE’s American Politics and Policy blog. March 6, 2019.

“Price tag for Alabama elections: \$111 million.”  
*Interview with Montgomery Advertiser.* November 20, 2018.

“The story of the midterms is the triumph of the moderates – on both sides.”  
LSE’s American Politics and Policy blog. with Jamie Carson. November 9, 2018.

“Alabama GOP Still Dominant Despite Challenges from Democrats.”  
*Interview with WBHM NPR.* November 7, 2018.

“Alabama among 7 states allowing straight-ticket voting; That won’t soon change.”  
*Interview with AL.com.* September 20, 2018.

“How the Dems Could Win the House in November.”  
*Newsweek.* with Jamie Carson. February 2, 2018.

“Why taking moderate positions may help the Democrats to retake the House this fall.”  
LSE’s American Politics and Policy blog. with Jamie Carson. February 1, 2018.

“This is how to get rid of gerrymandered districts.” Monkey Cage, *The Washington Post.*  
with Michael Crespin, Maxwell Palmer, and Barry C. Edwards. March 17, 2017.

“Michelle Nunn’s midterm result shows that Georgia’s demographics may be shifting to favor the Democrats.” LSE’s American Politics and Policy blog. with Jamie Carson and Joel Sievert. November 10, 2014.

“2014 Midterms: Key Issues in the Georgia Senate Race.” The Brookings Institute.  
with Jamie Carson. October 28, 2014.

“In order to increase competition in U.S. House races, states should look to extra-legislative bodies to redraw congressional boundaries.” LSE’s American Politics and Policy blog. with Jamie Carson and Michael Crespin. May 26, 2014.

## Courses Taught

### Auburn University

- POLI 1093: Online American Government in a Multicultural World
- POLI 1097: Honors American Government in a Multicultural World
- POLI 2100: State and Local Government
- POLI 3310: The Legislative Process
- POLI 3400: Political Parties and Interest Groups
- POLI 5210/6210: Voting Behavior and Representation

## University of Georgia

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government  
POLS 4520: Electoral Behavior  
POLS 4600: Legislative Process  
POLS 4610: U.S. Presidency  
POLS 4650: State Politics  
GRSC 7770: Graduate Teaching Assistant Seminar

## Graduate Advising

Dissertation Committee Member for Lindsey Forson

## Manuscript Reviewer

<i>American Political Science Review</i>	<i>American Journal of Political Science</i>
<i>Journal of Politics</i>	<i>American Politics Research</i>
<i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i>	<i>Party Politics</i>
<i>Applied Geography</i>	<i>Law &amp; Policy</i>
<i>Open Journal of Political Science</i>	<i>Social Sciences</i>
<i>SAGE Publishing</i>	

## Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association  
— Legislative Studies Section  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Southern Political Science Association

## References

Available upon request

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