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Academic Appointments

University of Michigan, School of Public Health, Department of Health Management & Policy

Assistant Professor, 2024-present

University of Michigan, Department of Political Science

Assistant Professor (by courtesy), 2024-present

University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research

Faculty Associate, 2025-present

University of Texas at Austin, Department of Government

Assistant Professor, 2022-2024

University of Texas at Austin, Health & Society Program

Affiliated Faculty, 2022-2024

Vanderbilt University, Department of Medicine, Health, and Society

Postdoctoral Fellow, 2021-2022

Vanderbilt University, Data Science Institute

Teaching Faculty, 2021

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2021

Dissertation: Unhealthy Democracy: How Partisan Politics is Killing Rural America

Committee: Larry M. Bartels (co-chair), Joshua D. Clinton (co-chair), Allison P. Anoll,
and Katherine J. Cramer (University of Wisconsin)

M.A. Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2019

M.A.P. Applied Politics, The University of Akron, 2015

B.S. Political Science, Murray State University, 2013

Summa Cum Laude

Commonwealth of Kentucky Secondary Education Teaching Credential

Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. 2025. "The Politics of Rural Hospital Closures." *Political Behavior*.
2. 2024. "Access to Healthcare and Voting: The Case of Hospital Closures in Rural America" (with Derek Epp and Christian Cox). *American Political Science Review*.
3. 2024. "Physicians in Congress: Professional Backgrounds and Legislative Effectiveness." (with Daniel Skinner and Alexandra Fountaine◊). *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.
4. 2024. "Racializing COVID-19: Race-related and Racist Language on Facebook, Pandemic Othering, and Concern about COVID-19" (with Jonathan Metzl, Tara McKay, and Priya Bhatt*). *Political Communication*.
5. 2022. "The Politics of Pain: Medicaid Expansion, the ACA, and the Opioid Epidemic." *Journal of Public Policy*. 42: 409-435.
6. 2021. "The Politics of Locating Polling Places: Race and Partisanship in North Carolina Election Administration, 2008-2016" (with Joshua D. Clinton, Nicholas Eubank, and Adriane Fresh). *Election Law Journal*. 20(2): 155-177.
7. 2021. "Polling Place Changes and Political Participation: The Effect of Election Administration in North Carolina Presidential Elections, 2008-2016" (with Joshua D. Clinton, Nick Eubank, and Adriane Fresh). *Political Science Research & Methods*. 9(4): 800-817.
8. 2020. "The Effects of Big-City News on Rural Residents' COVID-19 Responses" (with Eunji Kim and Joshua D. Clinton). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 117(36):22009-22014.
9. 2020. "Exit Strategy: Career Concerns and Revolving Doors in Congress " (with Hye Young You). *American Political Science Review*. 114(1): 270-284.

*Undergraduate Student; ◊ Graduate/Professional Student

Book Project

1. *Unhealthy Democracy: How Partisan Politics is Killing Rural America*. (Under review).

My dissertation book project explores the political causes and consequences of rural health disparities and, in doing so, addresses two related and fundamental political science questions. First, to what extent does partisan control of government shape (health) policy and the health of Americans? And second, why do rural Americans, who tend to live shorter, less healthy lives and have more restricted access to health care, increasingly support a Republican Party that's policies are antithetical to the health needs of rural people and reject policies related these matters? On the former, I show that especially since the 1980s and 1990s, the Republican and Democratic parties have pursued radically different health and social welfare policies, with Republican policymaking leading to worsened rural health outcomes. However, I demonstrate that by appealing to the shared racial and rural identities of sicker and working-class rural whites, the Republican Party increasingly garners support from even the most struggling rural voters—despite the harmful effects of Republican rule.

Winner of the 2022 Best Dissertation Award, Class & Inequality Section, APSA.

Book Reviews, Edited Volume Chapters, and Other Published Work

1. 2024. Review Article; "Who is the Rural Voter? A Review of *The Rural Voter: The Politics of Place and the Disuniting of America*"; by Nicholas F. Jacobs and Daniel M. Shea. Columbia University Press, 2023." *Political Science Quarterly*.
2. 2024. Opinion column. "Can Policy Make Rural Politics?" (with Jennifer Silva). *Jacobin* Summer 2024 Ed.
3. 2023. Book Review; *Ethically Challenged: Private Equity Storms US Health Care*; by Laura Katz Olson. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 2022. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*. 52(4): 364-367.
4. 2020. Appendix Chapter. "The Public and the Electorate Before, During, and After the Civil Rights Movement." Appendix chapter in *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham. Random House: New York, 2020.
5. 2019. Opinion column. "Republicans face political risks on impeachment. But history shows not all is lost." (with Jon Meacham). *The Washington Post*. Dec. 18, 2019.
Media Coverage: MSNBC.

Working Papers

1. (*Revise & Resubmit*). "Texas in the Rearview Mirror? How the Democratic Party Ignores Rural America and Underperforms in Elections." (with Clinton Willbanks). *Political Behavior*.
2. (*Revise & Resubmit*). "Measuring Disparities to Emergency Medicine with 200 Million Voter Records: The Case of Rural Hospital Closures." (with Derek Epp and Christian Cox). *Journal of Rural Health*.
3. (*Under review*). "Beyond Relief: The Lasting Legacy of New Deal Spending on the Geography of Government." (with Brian Hamel).
4. (*Under review*). "How Potential Policy Change Mobilizes Gun Owners." (with Chris Cassella).
5. (*Under review*). "Hiding in plain sight: How physician-led "Get out the vote" efforts can diversify the electorate and influence policy ." (with Hilary J. Izatt, Kelly Hunter, Daniel Nielson, Katherine McCabe, Zoe C. Walker, Wylie Chang, and Alister Martin).
6. "Place and Prejudice: Experimental Evidence on Rural Policy Attitudes.
7. "Angry Ballots and Long Lines: The Role of Emotions in Decisions to Mobilize in the Face of Voter Suppression." (with Hilary J. Izatt and Dan Magelby).

Work in Progress

1. "The Long-term Influence of Rural Identity on Health and Political Attitudes." (with Kristin Lunz Trujillo and Alee Lockman).
2. "Dobbs and Democracy" (with Jenna Salzman).
3. "Rural Reproductive Health After *Dobbs*" (with Jennifer Silva).
4. "Women's Gun Ownership and Firearms Attitudes" (with Jennifer Silva).

5. "The Spillover Effects of Rural Hospital Closures." (with Jeffrey McCullough).
6. "Abortion Politics: Physician Mobilization in the Wake of *Dobbs*." (with Kelly Hunter and Hilary J. Izatt).

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

University of Michigan "Road" Scholars Fellowship, 2025.

Best Dissertation Award, Class and Inequality Section, American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2022.

Timothy E. Cook Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Political Communication Section, American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2020.

Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2020.

Grants

1. 2021-2024: Postdoctoral Researcher & Research Consultant, Commonwealth Fund, #20213323, "Addressing Beliefs About Race, Health, Community, and Ideology Regarding Coverage Expansion in the U.S. South." Principal Investigator: Jonathan Metzl. (\$398,812 total).

Conferences and Invited Talks

American Political Science Association: 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Midwest Political Science Association: 2017, 2018, 2024, 2025.

Southern Political Science Association: 2020.

The Political Economy of Geographic Polarization in Rich Democracies (Stanford University), 2025.

Consortium on the American Political Economy (Yale University), 2024 & 2025.

The Joe Biden Presidency: Legacy and Record (University of Mount Union), 2025.

Rethinking Rural Conference (Colby College), 2024.

Keeping the Republic Conference (Notre Dame), 2023.

Colleges and Universities: *Syracuse University*; *University of Akron*; *University of California, Berkeley* (scheduled); *University of Michigan*; *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*; *University of Oklahoma*; *University of Texas, Austin*; *Vanderbilt University*.

Groups and Organizations: *Rural Urban Bridge Initiative*; *Network for Responsible Public Policy*; *Michigan League for Public Policy*.

Media Appearances and Interviews

1. How 'Rural Studies' Is Thinking About the Heartland. By Emma Goldberg. The New York Times. June 29, 2024.
2. Bipartisan Congressional Caucus Addresses Payments to Rural Hospitals By Liz Carey, The Daily Yonder. December 11, 2023.
3. Trump promises to rescind Obama's signature health care law spurs Democratic criticism. By Reena Diamante, Spectrum News. December 5, 2023.
4. Rural Hospital Legislation's Long Wait in Congress. By Liz Carey, The Daily Yonder. November 14, 2023.
5. Rural Health Care Figures Prominently in 2023's Limited Political Races. By Liz Carey, The Daily Yonder. November 6, 2023.
6. Voting Rights Battles Move to States After Supreme Court Ruling. By Ryan Teague Beckwith, Bloomberg News. July 2, 2021.

Profession, University, and Department Service

Profession:

Panel Discussant &/or Chair: APSA, MPSA, SPSA.

APSA Health Politics & Policy Best Paper Award Committee (2025).

APSA Class & Inequality Section Best Dissertation Award Committee (2023).

Discussant, Keeping the Republic Conference, Notre Dame University (2023).

Referee for the *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, *American Politics Research*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *De Gruyter Books*, *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, *Health Economics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journalism*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Geography*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.

University and Department:

UT Expert-Health Policy and Politics Expert Witness and Media Commenter, the University of Texas at Austin (2022-2024).

Archer Fellows Program, Faculty Selection Committee, University of Texas at Austin (2023-2024).

Faculty Connections Program, Faculty Mentor, University of Texas at Austin (2022-2024).

Policy Agendas Project, Faculty Affiliate, University of Texas at Austin (2022-2024).

Politics of Race and Ethnicity Lab, Faculty Affiliate, University of Texas at Austin (2022-2024).

Teaching Experience

Public Health Advocacy (UG) - Spring 2025
Rural Health Politics and Policy Reading Course (G) - Spring 2025
Gun Politics Reading Course (G) - Spring 2024
Mass Media & Democracy (G) - Spring 2024
Health & Society Capstone (UG) - Fall 2022, 2023
Rural Politics Reading Course (G) - Summer 2023
Mass Media & Democracy (UG) - Spring 2023
Current Approaches to Health & Society (UG) - Spring 2023, 2024
Politics of Health in the US (UG) - Spring 2022
Exploratory Data Analyses (G) - Fall 2021
Math Camp (G) - August 2016

Other Professional Experience

Founding Member, Rural-Urban Bridge Initiative, 2021-present.
Research Consultant, Jon Meacham, Nashville, TN, 2019-2021.
AP Visiting Fellow, AP Government Exam, Summer 2020.
Voter Protection Fellow, Tennessee Democratic Party, Nashville, TN, Fall 2018.
Campaign Researcher, Jim Cooper for Congress, Nashville, TN, Summer 2015.
Fundraising Executive, Kimberly Wood and Associates, Akron, OH, 2014-2015.

References

Available upon request