

# Michael E. Shepherd, Ph.D.

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## Academic Appointments

**University of Texas at Austin, Department of Government, 2022-present**

Assistant Professor

**University of Texas at Austin, Health & Society Program, 2022-present**

Affiliated Faculty

**Vanderbilt University, Department of Medicine, Health, and Society, 2021-2022**

Postdoctoral Fellow

**Vanderbilt University, Data Science Institute, 2021**

Teaching Faculty

## 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

## Publications

1. 2020. "Exit Strategy: Career Concerns and Revolving Doors in Congress " (with Hye Young You). *American Political Science Review*. 114(1): 270-284.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. *Forthcoming*. "The Politics of Pain: Medicaid Expansion, the ACA, and the Opioid Epidemic." *Journal of Public Policy*.

## Working Papers

1. "Look Up at That Mansion on the Hill: Does Mass Media Activate the Politics of Rural Resentment?" (with Marc Trussler).  
Winner of the 2020 Timothy Cook Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Political Communication Section, APSA.
2. "Dying for the Donald? The Politics of America's Rural Hospital Crisis."
3. *Unhealthy Democracy: The Politics of Life and Death in Rural America* (dissertation book project).  
Winner of the 2022 Best Dissertation Award, Class & Inequality Section, APSA.

## Work in Progress

1. "Stoking Socialism: How a Familiar Frame Shapes Americans' Policy Attitudes." (with Andrew Engelhardt).
2. "Race, Politics, and the COVID-19 Experience" (with Jonathan Metzl, Tara McKay, and Monisola Vaughn).
3. "Racializing COVID-19: Racist Language in US Public Facebook Posts about Health 2019-2021" (with Jonathan Metzl, Tara McKay, and Priya Bhatt (undergraduate)).
4. "Preacher or Physician? The Role of Religious Cues on Facebook During COVID-19" (with Jonathan Metzl, Tara McKay, and Priya Bhatt (undergraduate)).
5. "The Ironic Political Legacy of the TVA."
6. "The Original-Reagan Revolution: How Elite Rhetoric Durably Shaped Attitudes Toward Government."
7. "Bottom-up Racialization: Whites Racial Attitudes, Desegregation, and the Battle for Medical Equality (1960-1980)."

## Other Published Work

1. "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.

2. "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.

## Teaching Experience

### *Instructor*

Health & Society Capstone (UG) - Fall 2022  
Mass Media & Democracy (UG) - Spring 2023 (*scheduled*)  
Current Approaches to Health & Society (UG) - Spring 2023 (*scheduled*)  
Politics of Health in the US (UG) - Spring 2022  
Exploratory Data Analyses (G) - Fall 2022  
Math Camp (G) - August 2016

### *Teaching Assistant*

American Presidency (UG) - Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2019  
Introduction to American Government (UG) - Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014  
Political Parties (UG) - Spring 2017  
Statistics for Political Science (G) - Fall 2017  
Data Science for Politics (UG) - Spring 2018  
Political Strategy and Game Theory (G/UG) - Fall 2018  
Statistics III: Causal Inference (G) - Fall 2020

## Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

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.

Southern Political Science Association Travel Grant, 2020.

Vanderbilt University Graduate School Travel Grant, 2019.

## Conferences and Invited Talks

American Political Science Association: 2018, 2019, 2022.

Midwest Political Science Association: 2017, 2018.

Southern Political Science Association: 2020.

Colleges and Universities: *Syracuse University; University of North Carolina; University of Oklahoma; University of Texas at Austin; Vanderbilt University.*

Groups and Organizations: *Rural Urban Bridge Initiative.*

## Professional and Departmental Service

Member, APSA, MPSA, SPSA.

Discussant, SPSA.

Referee for the *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journalism*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.

## Research and Teaching Interests

Class and Inequality, Social Determinants of Health, Race and Racism, Public Policy, State and Local Government, Campaigns and Elections, American Political Institutions, Political Communication.

## 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