

Corwin D. Smidt

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Interim Director, Institute of Public Policy and Social Research, Michigan State University, July 2025-June 2026

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, July 2016-Present.

- Interim Chair, August 2019-August 2022

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, Aug 2008-June 2016.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. The Ohio State University. Political Science. July 2008

Dissertation: “The Spinning Message” 2010 E.E. Schattschneider Award Winner
Committee: Paul Beck (Chair), Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Kathleen McGraw

M.A. The Ohio State University. Political Science. 2005

B.A. Calvin College. Political Science. 2002

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

American politics, campaigns and elections, election science, public opinion, political parties, partisanship, presidential nominations, voting behavior, money and politics, political behavior, dynamic models (time series, panel data, event history), and Bayesian methods

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2025. [On Polarization and Partisan Attachments: Greater Consistency but not Greater Strength](#) *Political Behavior* Forthcoming.

2025. “[Guardians at the Gates: Poll Worker Retention in a Challenging Election Environment.](#)” with Robert M. Stein, Barry C. Burden, Matt Lamb (lead authors) and others. *Election Law Journal* 24(1): 62-73.

2020. "Evaluating Legislative Districts Using Measures of Partisan Bias and Simulations" with Barry Burden. *SAGE Open* 10(4).
2020. "The Coup de Grâce to the Sanders Campaign: Michigan, Momentum & Viability" with Dino P. Christenson. *Society* 57: 662-668.
2020. "Waiting to vote in the 2016 Presidential election: Evidence from a multi-jurisdiction study" with Robert Stein (lead author) and others. *Political Research Quarterly* 73(2): 439-453.
2020. "A Uniter and a Divider: American Presidential Campaigns and Partisan Perceptions of the National Economy." *American Politics Research* 48(2): 329-340.
2019. "Understanding the psychological nature and mechanisms of political trust" with Joseph Hamm and Roger Mayer. *PLOS ONE*.
2018. "Pedagogical Value of Polling-Place Observation by Students" with Christopher B. Mann (lead author) and others. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51(4): 831-837.
2018. "The Consequences of Elite Party Politics for American Macropartisanship" *Journal of Politics* 80(1): 162-177.
2017. "Presidential Primaries and Caucuses" with Dino P. Christenson. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Ed. Sandy Maisel. New York: Oxford University Press.
2017. "Polarization and the Decline of the American Floating Voter." *American Journal of Political Science* 61(2): 365-81. Included in AJPS's *Highly Cited* and *Top Cited* collections.
2014. "Following the Money: Super PACs and the 2012 Presidential Nomination" with Dino P. Christenson. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 44(3): 410-30.
2014. "Dynamics in Partisanship During American Presidential Campaigns." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 78(S1): 303-29.
2014. "Analyzing the Robustness of Semi-Parametric Duration Models for the Study of Repeated Events." with Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier and Suzanna Linn. *Political Analysis* 22(2): 183-204.
2014. "Deus ex Machina: Candidate Web Presence and the Presidential Nomination Campaign." with Dino P. Christenson and Costas Panagopoulos. *Political Research Quarterly* 67(1): 108-22. Winner of SAGE PRQ Best Article Award for 2014
2013. "Prelude to Populism: Mass Electoral Support for the Grange and Greenback Parties." with Samuel DeCanio. *Party Politics* 19(5): 798-820.
2012. "Still Part of the Conversation: Iowa and New Hampshire's Say within the Invisible Primary." with Dino P. Christenson. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 42(3): 597-621.
2012. "More Bang for the Buck: Campaign Spending and Fundraising Success." with Dino P. Christenson. *American Politics Research* 40(6): 949-75.
2012. "Not All News is the Same: Protests, Presidents, and the Mass Public Agenda."

Public Opinion Quarterly 76(1): 72-94.

2011. “[The Dynamic Properties of Individual-level Party Identification in the United States.](#)” with Brandon Bartels, Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier and Renée M. Smith. *Electoral Studies* 30: 210-22.

2011. “[Riding Waves of Money: Contribution Dynamics in the 2008 Presidential Nomination Campaign](#)” with Dino P. Christenson. *Journal of Political Marketing* 10(1-2):1-23.

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH BRIEFS

2025. “[The Electoral Size and Support of Michigan’s Black and MENA Populations in 2024.](#)” 2024 Michigan Applied Public Policy Research Brief.

2025. “[Rx Kids: A New Prescription for Civic Engagement.](#)” Rx Kids Research Brief. November 2025.

2024. “[Challenges Confronting Mass Survey Research and its Pluralistic Response](#)” Chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Engaged Methodological Pluralism in Political Science* edited by Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Dino P. Christenson, and Valerie Sinclair. Oxford University Press.

2010. Book review of *Cycles of Spin: Strategic Communication in the U.S. Congress* (by Patrick Sellers). *Political Science Quarterly* 125: 729-31.

ACADEMIC GRANTS AND AWARDS

W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

Program and Research Grant for “Evidence-Based Practices for Equitable Policy making in Michigan” January 2026-June 2027. \$280,000, with Matt Grossmann.

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

E.E. Schattschneider Award: Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Field of American Politics. 2010.

Graduate Student Travel Grant. 2006.

WESTERN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

SAGE Political Research Quarterly Best Article Award. 2014.

SOCIETY FOR POLITICAL METHODOLOGY

Invited graduate student participant. 2005–2007. Political Methodology Summer Meeting.

INSTITUTE FOR HUMANE STUDIES

Hayek Fund. 2021

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Michigan Applied Public Policy Research. “Political views of Black, Middle Eastern, and North African Michigan residents” Fall 2024. with Meghan Wilson and Nura Sedique.

Michigan Applied Public Policy Research. “Redistricting. Partisan fairness in redistricting in Michigan.” Fall 2019. with Jon Eguia.

Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award. Summer 2015, Summer 2017.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

University Fellowship. 2002–2003 and 2006–2007.

Fellow. Program in Statistics and Methodology. 2004–2005.

Summer Research Fellowship. Program for Enhancement in Graduate Studies. 2005.

Research and Development Grant. Program for Enhancement in Graduate Studies.

Recent Conference Presentations

“No One Gets Me: Political Loneliness and Disconnection in American Democracy” with Jenny Wolak. 2026. APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB) Conference: St. Louis, MO.

“How Do Local Certification Officials Evaluate Their Elections? A Survey of Michigan County Canvassers” with Lin P. Cabada. 2026. Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association: New Orleans, LA.

“How Do Local Certification Officials Evaluate Their Elections? A Survey of Michigan County Canvassers” with Lin P. Cabada. 2025. Election Science, Reform, and Administration Annual Conference: Tallahassee, FL.

“The Political Consequences of Loneliness” with Jennifer Wolak. 2025. Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: Chicago, IL.

“Step Aside & Step Up: When & Why the Party Called for Biden’s Withdrawal & Harris’s Nomination” with Dino P. Christenson. 2025. Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association: San Juan, PR.

“Does Independent Redistricting Help or Hurt Minority Turnout? The Case of Michigan 2022” 2024. Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium: East Lansing, MI.

“Does Independent Redistricting Help or Hurt Minority Turnout? The Case of Michigan 2022” 2024. Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association: New Orleans, LA.

“Assessing Independent Redistricting’s Turnout Effects in Michigan 2022” 2023. Conference of Election Science Reform and Administration: Athens, GA.

“The (null) Relationship between Polarization and Partisan Persistence and the Case for Partisan Rigidity” 2023. Inaugural APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB) Conference: Tallahassee, FL.

“Independent Redistricting and Spatial Predictions of Candidate Emergence: An application and evaluation in Michigan” 2022. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: Montreal, QC

“Spatial Predictions of State Legislative Candidate Emergence.” 2021. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: Seattle, WA.

“Independent Redistricting and Spatial Predictions of Candidate Emergence.” 2021. Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration conference. Virtually hosted at [MIT Online](#)

“Untrustworthy? Polarization in Trends in Perceptions of Government’s Ability, Benevolence, and Integrity.” with Joseph A. Hamm and Roger C. Mayer. 2019. Annual Conference of American Association of Public Opinion Researchers. Toronto, ON.

“Evaluating Legislative Districts Using Measures of Partisan Bias and Simulations” with Barry Burden. 2019. Big Ten Strategic Partnership for Applied Redistricting Knowledge (SPARK) Conference: College Park, MD.

“Michigan Turnout in 2018: An analysis of the primary and predictions for the general” 2018. Annual Meeting of the Michigan Political Science Association: East Lansing, MI.

“Mass Acceptance of Women in Politics in the U.S. States and its Consequences for Women Candidacies” with Jamil S. Scott. 2018. Annual Summer Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology: Provo, UT.

“State Support for Women in Politics and its Impact on Female Candidate Emergence” with Jamil S. Scott. 2017. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: San Francisco, CA.

“When Homestyle Becomes Hacking: Providing Campaign Analytics to Local Candidates” 2017. Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: Chicago, IL

“The Language of Leaders and Public Opinion” with Alon Kraitzman and Michael Colaresi. 2016. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: Philadelphia, PA.

“De Jure or De Facto? Frontloading and National Party Influence over the Presidential Selection Process” with Dino Christenson. 2016. Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association: Las Vegas, NV.

“Predicting Turnout from State Voter Files: A Proposed Method and an Evaluation of Competing Specifications.” 2015. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: San Francisco, CA.

“De Jure or De Facto? Frontloading and National Party Influence over the Presidential Selection Process” with Dino Christenson. 2015. Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: Chicago, IL.

“A Time To Every Purpose: Elite Party Politics and the Nature of Mass Partisanship” 2014. Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: Chicago, IL.

Invited Presentations

“Translational Data Science in Political Science.” National Science Foundation Workshop on Translational Data Science. Gordon Center for Integrative Science, Chicago, IL. June 26, 2017.

“Elite Party Politics and the Nature of American (Macro)Partisanship.” Texas A&M Conference on Ideology, Partisanship, and Polarization in Political Behavior. February 20, 2015.

“Dynamics in Partisanship During American Presidential Campaigns (and a pitch for State Space Models).” Washington D.C. chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research; October 24, 2014.

“A Tale of Two Primaries: Iowa and New Hampshire’s Relationship with the Invisible Primary 2008.” Department of Political Science, Texas A&M; April 27, 2009.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate: Campaigns and Elections; American Presidential Nominations; Public Opinion and Political Behavior; What Sports Reveal about Society; Political Polarization; Techniques in Political Analysis

Graduate: Public Opinion and Political Behavior; American Politics Pro-Seminar; Workshop on Macro Public Opinion and Behavior; Approaches to Research in Political Science; Quantitative Techniques in Political Science; Advanced Methods in Political Analysis

Service and Affiliations

Departmental Service

Interim Chair (2019-2022); Director of Undergraduate Studies and Honors Advisor (2016-2019); Advisory Committee (2023-2025, 2016-2018, Chair 2017-2018, 2023-2024); Faculty Search Committees (2016, 2018, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025); Chair, Minhas Tenure Review Committee (2022); Wilson 3rd Year Review Committee (2024); also served on Methods, American, Graduate Studies committees.

University Service

Interim Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (2025-26); Beal Award Selection Committee (2024-2027); Dean Search Committee, College of Social Science (2020); College of Social Science Faculty Advisory Committee (2016-2019); Chair of Director Search, Social Science Data Analytics Initiative 2018; Board of Advisors, Social

Science Data Analytics Initiative; Faculty Club Advisor: Mens and Womens Water Polo Clubs (since 2017), Agora Club (2022-2024)

Professional Service

Member, American Political Science Association, American Association of Public Opinion Research, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association.

President and Conference Organizer, Michigan Political Science Association (2018-2019)

Communications Director, APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section (2008-2012)

Committee Member, Pi Sigma Alpha Award for Best Paper, Midwest Political Science Association (2011)

Regular Conference Panel Chair/Discussant: APSA and MPSA

Reviewer for: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Electoral Studies*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Political Science Research & Methods*, *TESS (Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences)*, *Journal of Trust Research*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Frontiers in Political Science*.

Miscellaneous Experience

Marketing Manager – Ehlers for Congress. Full-time employee on a successful congressional reelection campaign. May - November 2000.

References

Available upon request

May 2026