

2025 MSU Political Science PhD Alumni Conference Program

November 7, 2025

EVENT

TIME

LOCATION

Breakfast & Opening Remarks	8:30-9:45am	104 South Kedzie Hall (SKH)
-----------------------------	-------------	-----------------------------

Subfield Paper Panels	10:00-Noon	
-----------------------	------------	--

American Politics & Public Policy (104 SKH)

- Lupton “Dimensionality and Constraint in American Federal Spending Attitudes.”
- Koss “Putting the “Bully” in the Bully Pulpit: President Trump’s Congressional Purge Through Twitter.”
- Downey “City Charter Impacts on Black Empowerment: A Study of City Charter Change in Memphis, Tennessee.”
- Ralston & Kalmbach “Policy Advocacy, Scientific Conflict, and Research Engagement: Scientists Entering the Fray”

Comparative Politics and International Relations (Bessey Hall 314)

- Singh “Winning Isn’t Everything: Parsing the Effects of Voting, Victory, and Loss on Satisfaction with Democracy”
- Lopez Villegas & Torres-Beltran “Gender Reforms and Backlash: Institutional and Individual Dynamics of Violence Against Women in Latin America.”
- Favero & Sunderland “Served Daily: Everyday Political Control in Authoritarian Regimes.”

Judicial Politics (323 SKH)

- Lane & Armaly “The Court in their Own Words: Open-ended Attitudes on the Supreme Court
- King, Schoenherr, Ostrander “Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Judicial Nominations.”
- Cota “The Court Under Threat: Hostility to Judicial Legitimacy and its Effect on the U.S. Supreme Court

Lunch (Olive Garden)	Noon-1:30pm	SKH 104 & Kedzie Courtyard
----------------------	-------------	----------------------------

Professionalization/Career Panel	1:30-3:30pm	SKH 109
----------------------------------	-------------	---------

- Chris Bonneau “Navigating University Bureaucracy & Administration”
- Mircea Lazar “The Non-Academic Job Market: Research Jobs”
- Matthew Kirwin “The Non-Academic Market: Government Jobs”
- Rachel Spooner “Academia at a Small Liberal Arts College”

Snack & Break	3:30-3:50pm	104 SKH
---------------	-------------	---------

Posters & Speed Pitches	4:00-5:00pm	107 SKH
-------------------------	-------------	---------

Final Remarks & Wrap-up	5:00-5:30pm	107 SKH
-------------------------	-------------	---------

Dinner	6:00-8:00pm	Beggar’s Banquet
--------	-------------	------------------

Alumni Participants

Chris W. Bonneau: Professor of Political Science, Interim Chair, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of Pittsburgh.

Davia C. Downey: Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs and Public Policy, The University of Memphis.

Jonathan M. King: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Georgia.

Matthew F. Kirwin: US Department of State and also Professorial Lecturer of International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University.

Josh Koss: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Eastern Michigan University.

Elizabeth Lane: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, North Carolina State University.

Mircea Lazar: Program Evaluator at Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Alejandra Lopez Villegas: Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, Lake Forest College.

Robert Lupton: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut.

Jonah Ralston: Professor of Political Science, Department of Politics, Government, and Law, University of Wisconsin Whitewater.

Jessica Schoenherr: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Georgia.

Shane P. Singh: Joshua W. Jones Professor of Public and International Affairs, Department of International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia.

Rachel Spooner: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Hope College.