

# Michael P. Olson

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## Appointment

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 2020-Present

Faculty Affiliate, *Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity*

## Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Harvard University, 2020

Committee: James Snyder (Chair); Kenneth Shepsle; Jon Rogowski; Matthew Blackwell

A.M. in Political Science, Harvard University, 2020

B.A. in Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2015

*Summa Cum Laude*

Minor in Communication Studies

## Publications

### *Journal Articles*

**Olson, Michael P.** and Albert H. Rivero. 2022. "Appellate Court Influence over District Courts in the United States." *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 3(2): 183-213.

Ansolabehere, Stephen, Jaclyn Kaslovsky, and **Michael P. Olson**. 2022. "Franchise Expansion and Legislative Representation in the Early United States." *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 3(2): 243-271.

*Winner, Kenneth A. Shepsle Prize for best article in the Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy in Volume 3 (2022)*

**Olson, Michael P.** and Andrew R. Stone. 2022. "The Incumbency Advantage in Judicial Elections: Evidence from Partisan Trial Court Elections in Six U.S. States." *Political Behavior* OnlineFirst.

Hirano, Shigeo, Jaclyn Kaslovsky, **Michael P. Olson**, and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2022. "The Growth of Campaign Advertising in the United States, 1880 - 1930." *Journal of Politics* 84(3): 1482-1496.

*Winner, Pi Sigma Alpha Award for Best Overall Paper at 2018 Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association*

Blackwell, Matthew and **Michael P. Olson**. Forthcoming. "Reducing Model Misspecification and Bias in the Estimation of Interactions." *Political Analysis* FirstView.

**Olson, Michael P.** and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2021. "Dyadic Representation in the American North and South: The Case of Prohibition." *Journal of Politics* 83(3): 1030-1045.

Heersink, Boris, Jeffery A. Jenkins, **Michael P. Olson**, and Brenton D. Peterson. 2020. "Natural Disasters, 'Partisan Retrospection,' and U.S. Presidential Elections." *Political Behavior* OnlineFirst.

**Olson, Michael P.** 2020. "The Direct Primary and the Incumbency Advantage in the U.S. House of Representatives." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 15(4): 483-506.

**Olson, Michael P.** and Jon C. Rogowski. 2020. "Legislative Term Limits and Polarization." *Journal of Politics* 82(2): 572-586.

**Olson, Michael P.** 2018. "The Print Media and the American Party System: Evidence from the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 13(4): 405-426.

### *Book Review*

**Olson, Michael P.** 2019. "Gaining Voice: The Causes and Consequences of Black Representation in the American States By Christopher J. Clark. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019. 264 pp. \$74.00 (cloth)." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 5(2) 415-417.

## Other Research

### *Working Papers and Under Review*

Divided, but by What? Divided Government, Institutions, and Policy Stasis (with Jesse Crosson)

*Winner, APSA State Politics and Policy Section Award for Best Conference Paper at any Conference in 2019*

Elite Identity, Land Inequality, and Local Development: Evidence from Colonial Ireland (with Jeremy Bowles and Gabriel Koehler-Derrick)

Legislative Organization and Political Representation (with Jon Rogowski)

Conditionally Accepted, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*

Legislature Size and Party Unity: Evidence from Historical U.S. State Legislatures (with Jaclyn Kaslovsky)

Invited to Revise and Resubmit

"Restoration" and Representation: Legislative Consequences of Black Disfranchisement in the American South, 1879-1916

Conditionally Accepted, *American Journal of Political Science*

### *Works in Progress*

*Stolen Representation: Black Disfranchisement and Legislative Politics in the American South* (Book Project)

Accountability for State Trial Court Judges in the United States (with Andrew Stone)

Elections, Competence, and Accountability: Evidence from New England Municipal Clerks (with Wayde Marsh, Andrew Reeves, and Jordan Duffin Wong)

Legislative Factions and Representation: Evidence from the American Solid South

Reconstruction and Representation (with Amaan Charaniya, Jordon Newton, and William Nomikos)

## Funding and Honors

### *Funding*

Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University, Impact Grant, 2022 - 2024: \$137,200

Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University, Faculty Research Grant, Fall 2020: \$9,800 (with William Nomikos)

Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University, Faculty Research Grant, Fall 2020: \$11,000

Center for Effective Lawmaking, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University, Small Grant Competition, 2020: \$1,000

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit/Term-Time Fellowship, Spring 2019

The Tobin Project History of American Democracy Graduate Student Fellowship and Workshop, 2018

Harvard Center for American Political Studies Graduate Seed Grant, 2017 & 2018

Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science Graduate Research Grant, 2017 & 2018

Theodore H. Ashford Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2015-2020

### *Honors*

Harvard Department of Government Robert Noxon Toppon Prize “For the Best Essay or Dissertation upon a Subject of Political Science,” 2020.

Best Poster Award, Harvard Graduate Student Poster Session, 2019

## Presentations

### *Invited Talks*

University of Virginia, Democracy Initiative, February 2022

University of Southern California, Political Institutions and Political Economy Workshop, November 2021

University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop, May 2021

University of California, San Diego, American Politics Speaker Series, May 2019

### *Seminar Presentations and Poster Sessions*

American Politics Research Workshop, Harvard University (Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Workshop, University of California, Berkeley (2017)

Harvard Government Department Graduate Poster Session (2016, 2018, 2019)

Political Economy Research Workshop, Harvard University (Spring 2019, Fall 2019)

American Politics Reading Group, Washington University in St. Louis (Fall 2020)

### *Conference Attendance*

American Political Science Association Meeting (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 (chair only), 2022)

Congress and History Conference (2019)

Center for the Study of American Politics Conference, Yale University (2019)

“Crashing Out of Politics: Inequality and Representation 90 Years On,” Workshop at Oxford University (2019)

Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023)

Society for Political Methodology Meeting (2019, 2022 (attendee only))

Southern Political Science Association Meeting (2018, 2019, 2020, 2023)

State Politics and Policy Conference (2019)  
Toronto Political Behaviour Workshop (2018)  
Toronto Political Development Workshop (2023)  
University of Virginia Graduate Conference: “An Age of Extremism” (2019)

## Teaching

### *Washington University in St. Louis (All as Instructor)*

Political Science 3070: Politics and Policymaking in the American States, Spring 2022/23 (Undergraduate)  
Political Science 345: The Legislative Process, Fall 2020 (Undergraduate)  
Political Science 4080: Voting Rights, Fall 2021/22 (Undergraduate)  
Political Science 5225: Topics in American Politics: American Political Parties, Fall 2020/22 (Graduate)  
Political Science 5911: Democratization in the United States, Fall 2021 (Graduate)

### *Harvard University (All as Teaching Fellow)*

Senior Thesis Quantitative Methods Teaching Fellow, 2018 to 2020  
*Supervisor: George Soroka*  
Government 50 and E-1005: Introduction to Political Science Research Methods, Fall 2018 (Undergraduate)  
*Instructor: Matthew Blackwell*  
Government 1539: Politics of the American Presidency, Spring 2018 (Undergraduate)  
*Instructor: Jon Rogowski*  
Government 50: Introduction to Political Science Research Methods, Fall 2017 (Undergraduate)  
*Instructor: Matthew Blackwell*

## Service

### *Service to the Discipline*

Peer Reviewer  
*American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Party Politics, PLOS One, Political Analysis, Political Science Research and Methods, Quarterly Journal of Political Science*  
Discussant, Junior American Politics Workshop, Fall 2020

### *Advising*

Dissertation Committee Member: Bryant Moy (2022)  
Third-Year Paper Committee Member: Jordon Newton (2022-23), Jordan Duffin Wong (2022-23)  
Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Joey Colon (2022), Sophie Conroy (2023)

### *University Service*

Moderator, “Campus Crossfire” Debate between College Democrats and College Republicans (WUSTL, February 2023)

Presenter, “Voting Rights in American History and the 2022 Midterms,” Weidenbaum Center Policy Lunch (WUSTL, December 2022)

Panelist, “Forum on Midterm Elections,” Weidenbaum Center Event (WUSTL, November 2022)

Co-Organizer and Panelist, “Roundtable: President Biden’s First 100 Days in Office” (WUSTL, May 2021)

### *Departmental Service*

Co-Organizer, Departmental Speaker Series (WUSTL, 2021-22 Academic Year)

Co-Organizer, American Politics Workshop (WUSTL, January 2021 - Present)

Graduate Student Panelist for “Preparing for General Exams” (Harvard, December 2017)

Graduate Student Panelist for “Tips for Thriving in Year One” (Harvard, August 2018, August 2019)

Last updated: July 14, 2023