

Leah Christiani

CONTACT INFORMATION Department of Political Science
Hunter College, CUNY
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Updated: March 31, 2025

EMPLOYMENT **Hunter College, CUNY**, New York, New York
Associate Professor (pre-tenure), Department of Political Science, 2023 – present

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2020 – 2023
Faculty Affiliate, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, 2020 – 2023
Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Justice, 2022 – 2023

EDUCATION **The University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Ph.D., Political Science, 2020
M.A., Political Science, 2017

The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut USA
B.A. (*summa cum laude*) with Honors, Political Science, 2011

INTERESTS American Politics · Race, Ethnicity, and Politics · Public Opinion · Political
Communication · Intersectionality · Gender and Identity · Inequality · Policing

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (16) Christiani, Leah, and Jeremiah Muhammad.* 2025. “Pandering politics? Examining the effect of positive, explicit racial appeals on support for political candidates.” *Du Bois Review*. Online: 31 March 2025.

*DENOTES GRADUATE STUDENT (15) Morgan, Jana, Leah Christiani, and Nathan J. Kelly. 2024. “Racial inequality and support for democracy.” *Political Studies*. Online: 29 December 2024.

(14) Christiani, Leah, Nathan J. Kelly, and Jana Morgan. 2024. “Racial inequality and attitudes toward redistributive policy in the United States.” *Race and Social Problems*. Online: 9 November 2024.

(13) Laterzo-Tingley, Isabel, and Leah Christiani. 2024. “The ‘tough-on-crime’ Left: Race, gender, and elections of law and order Democrats.” *Research & Politics*, 11(3).

(12) Christiani, Leah, Nathan J. Kelly, and Jana Morgan. 2024. “American dream versus American reality: How encountering information about structural racism can prompt support for race-based policies.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 9(2): 399-422.

- (11) Williams, Ryan and Leah Christiani. 2024. "Are you talking to me? How ideological and gender characteristics moderate the effect of legitimizing rhetoric on SCOTUS legitimacy." *Law and Social Inquiry*, 49(4): 1939-1963.
- (10) Christiani, Leah and Lucy Britt. 2023. "White privilege, white grievance, and the limitations of white antiracism." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 12(3): 700-721.
- (9) Shoub, Kelsey and Leah Christiani. 2023. "Context matters: The conditional effect of Black police chiefs on policing outcomes." *Urban Affairs Review*, 59(6), 2043-2056.
- (8) Christiani, Leah. 2023. "When are explicit racial appeals accepted? Examining the role of racial status threat." *Political Behavior*, 45: 103-123.
 - Winner, best graduate student paper 2019 (UNC Political Science)
- (7) Christiani, Leah and Kelsey Shoub. 2022. "Can light contact with the police motivate political participation? Evidence from traffic stops." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 7(3): 385-405.
- (6) Christiani, Leah, Christopher J. Clark, Steven Greene, Marc J. Hetherington, and Emily Wager. 2022. "Masks and racial stereotypes in a pandemic: The case for surgical masks." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 7(2): 185-202.
 - Covered by [WRAL](#), [FiveThirtyEight](#), [ABC11](#), and [The Monkey Cage](#)
- (5) Roach, Kevin, Frank R. Baumgartner, Leah Christiani, Derek A. Epp, and Kelsey Shoub. 2022. "At the intersection: Race, gender, and discretion in police traffic stop outcomes." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 7(2): 239-261.
- (4) Christiani, Leah, Kelsey Shoub, Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, and Kevin Roach. 2022. "Better for everyone: Black descriptive representation and police traffic stops." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 10(5): 807-816.
- (3) Christiani, Leah. 2021. "Intersectional stereotyping in policing: An analysis of traffic stop outcomes." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 9(5): 893-915.
 - Anthologized in *The politics of protest: Readings on the Black Lives Matter movement*. Nadia E. Brown, Ray Block Jr., and Christopher Stout, eds. 2021, 1st edition. Routledge.
 - Winner, best Master's thesis 2018 (UNC Political Science)
- (2) Shoub, Kelsey, Leah Christiani, Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, and Kevin Roach. 2021. "Fines, fees, forfeitures, and disparities: A link between municipal reliance on fines and racial disparities in policing." *Policy Studies Journal*, 49(3): 835-859.

- Reprinted in *Applying Policy Process Research to Policing Subsystems: Looking Back and Moving Forward*. Jack Mewhirter, James E. Wright II, Jill Nicholson-Crotty, and Sean Nicholson-Crotty, eds. 2024.
- (1) Shoub, Kelsey, Derek A. Epp, Frank R. Baumgartner, Leah Christiani, and Kevin Roach. 2020. “Race, place, and context: The persistence of race effects in traffic stop outcomes in the face of situational, demographic, and political controls.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 5(3): 481-508.
- OTHER PUBLICATIONS
- (4) Christiani, Leah. 2023. “The State You See: How Government Visibility Created Political Distrust and Racial Inequality. By Aaron J. Rosenthal. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2023. \$80.00 hardcover, \$34.95 paper, open access online.” *Perspectives on Politics*.
- (3) Christiani, Leah. 2023. “*Profiled*. Directed by Kathleen Foster. New York: Women Make Movies, 2016. 52 minutes. *Always in Season*. Directed by Jacqueline Olive. Los Angeles: Good Docs, 2019. 89 minutes.” *Films for the Feminist Classroom*. 12.1: Summer.
- (2) Christiani, Leah. 2023. “Neighborhood Watch: Policing White Spaces in America. By Shawn E. Fields. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. 193 pp. \$29.99 Paper.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*.
- (1) Baumgartner, Frank R., Leah Christiani, Derek A. Epp, Kevin Roach, and Kelsey Shoub. 2017. “Racial disparities in traffic stop outcomes.” *Duke Forum for Law and Social Change*. 9: 21-53.
- Covered by [InjusticeWatch](#), [The Daily Northwestern](#)
 - Cited in [State of Oregon v. Arreola-Botello](#), 365 Or 695 (2019)
- WORKS IN PROGRESS
- “Destabilized: Why Americans accept negative racial appeals.” *Book manuscript*.
- “The racialization of the United States Supreme Court? Examining changes in public opinion toward SCOTUS over time” (with Jamil Scott and Kelsey Shoub). *Invitation to revise and resubmit*.
- “Avoiding bias when measuring racial attitudes pre-reatment in survey experiments” (with Nathan J. Kelly and Jana Morgan). *Under review*.
- PUBLIC WRITING & REPORTS
- “To generate support for reducing racial inequality among white Americans, the focus should be on structural racism” (with Nathan J. Kelly and Jana Morgan). *London School of Economics (LSE) Blog*. July 5th, 2024.
- “Time to take off the mask? Some people assumed Black men in masks were threatening, our research found” (with Christopher J. Clark, Steven Greene,

Marc Hetherington, and Emily Wager). *The Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. May 28, 2021.

“Ten years of study and the protestors are right: What traffic stops tell us about racial bias in policing” (with Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, Kelsey Shoub, and Kevin Roach). *Medium*. June 25, 2020.

“To fight the coronavirus, most Americans support universal testing and mandatory quarantines” (with Marc Hetherington, Michael MacKuen, Graeme Robertson, and Emily Wager). *The Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. May 15, 2020.

“Update on racial disparities in traffic stops statistics from the Texas Department of Public Safety using 2016 data” (with Frank R. Baumgartner and Kevin Roach). Prepared on April 26, 2017.

“Analyzing racial disparities in traffic stop statistics from the Texas Department of Public Safety” (with Frank R. Baumgartner and Kevin Roach). Prepared for the September 20, 2016 committee hearing on the Texas Department of Public Safety’s traffic statistics.

INVITED
PRESENTATIONS

Princeton University, Race and Electoral Systems (POL 348). March 2025.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, APRG 25th Anniversary. September 2023.

East Tennessee State University. April 2022.

University of South Carolina. February 2022.

University of Tennessee, University Housing. October 2020.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice (POLI 248). April 2018.

GRANTS,
AWARDS, &
SCHOLARSHIPS

2022 – Racial Justice and Equity Research Fund, University of South Carolina (*Co-PI with Kelsey Shoub, \$10,000*)

2022 – The Centennial Center, APSA (*Co-PI with JAWS Organizers, \$9,943*)

2022 – The Centennial Center, APSA (*Co-PI with Jeremiah Muhammad, \$2,500*)

2021 – Southeastern Conference Visiting Faculty Travel Grant Program (*\$1,050*)

2021 – Faculty mentor, UTK Office of Undergraduate Research (*\$3,000*)

2020 – Departmental nominee, Dean’s Distinguished Dissertation Award, UNC

2020 – Faculty R.A. Funding, UTK Office of Undergraduate Research (*\$1,750*)

2019-2020 – Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC CAS (*tuition & stipend*)

2019 – Society for Political Methodology Travel Award (*\$1,325*)

2019 – Best Graduate Student Paper, UNC Political Science (*\$800*)

2019 – Uhlman Fellow, UNC Department of Political Science (*\$4,000*)

2018-2019 – Dean’s Graduate Fellow, UNC College of Arts and Sciences (\$5,000)
 2018 – Best Master’s Thesis, UNC Political Science (\$1,000)
 2017 – Graduate Student Transportation Grant Award, UNC (\$400)
 2017 – Ayers Family Travel Award, UNC (\$350)
 2017 – Prestage-Cook Travel Award, SPSA (\$150)
 2012 – Segal Education Award, AmeriCorps (\$5,000)
 2011 – CLAS Outstanding Woman Scholar, UConn
 2011 – Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, UConn representative
 2011 – Fannie Dixon Welch Scholarship, UConn (\$500)
 2011 – Babbidge Scholar, UConn

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC): '24
 Justice & Injustice Conference: '24
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: '16, '18 – '22
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: '17 – '19, '22
 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting: '17, '22
 Atlanta Network for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (ANREP): '22
 APSA Women’s Mentoring Workshop: '21
 APSA Political Psychology Pre-Conference: '19
 Harvard Experimental Political Science Workshop: '19
 Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting: '19
 Duke Forum for Law and Social Change: '17

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hunter College, CUNY

Instructor

- American Government: A Historical Introduction
- Gender and Politics
- Public Opinion and Political Participation
- Race, Criminal Justice, and Policing

The University of Tennessee

Instructor

- Research Methods
- Gender and Politics
- Public Opinion and Political Socialization (Graduate level)
- Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics

Training

- Safe Zone at UT: Pride Center

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor

- Quantitative Methods in Political Science

Teaching Assistant

- Probability and Statistics (Graduate level)
- Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice, Frank Baumgartner (Political Science), Jennifer Ho (English), Tanya Shields (Women and Gender Studies), and Sharon Holland (American Studies)

- Introduction to American Politics, Jason Roberts
Graduate Research Consultant
- Political Psychology, Timothy Ryan
Statistical Consultant
- The Odum Institute for Research in Social Science
Grader
- Race, Innocence, & the Decline of the Death Penalty, Frank Baumgartner
- Introduction to American Politics, Pamela Conover
Training
- Mental Health First Aid, Certification

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE AND
ACTIVITY

Discipline

Referee: *American Journal of Political Science (AJPS)*; *American Political Science Review (APSR)*; *American Sociological Review (ASR)*; *American Journal of Undergraduate Research*; *British Journal of Political Science (BJPS)*; *Canadian Journal of Political Science (CJPS)*; *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*; *De Gruyter*; *Frontiers in Public Health*; *Journal of Politics (JOP)*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science (JEPS)*; *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (JREP)*; *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*; *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*; *Journal of Policing, Intelligence, and Counter Terrorism*; *Journal of Urban Affairs*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Policy Studies Journal (PSJ)*; *Political Behavior (PB)*; *Political Research Quarterly (PRQ)*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities (PGI)*; *Politics & Gender*; *Public Administration*; *Polity*; *PS: Political Science & Politics*; *Social Problems*; *Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)*

Discussant and/or Chair: PRIEC (2024), Justice & Injustice Conference (2024), MPSA (2022), SPSA (2022), APSA (2020)

Associate Organizer: [Junior Americanist Workshop Series](#) (2021 – 2024)

Member: WPSA's Critical Whiteness Studies Virtual Community (2021 – 2022)

Hunter College, CUNY

Senate Grade Appeals Committee (2024 – present)
Dolciani Math Learning Center Faculty Panel (2023 – present)
Grade Appeal Committee (2024)
Faculty Notetaker (2023-2024)

The University of Tennessee

Provost's Junior Faculty Fellows (2022 – 2023)
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2020 – 2023)
Advisory Committee (2021 – 2022)
Search Committee, Director of MPPA Program (Spring 2022)
Search Committee, Department Head (Spring 2022)
Search Committee, Assistant Professor (Fall 2021)
Baker's Scholar Advisor: Two UTK undergraduates (2020 – 2022)
Facilitator, Constitution Day Celebration (2020)

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Program Coordinator, State Politics Working Group (2019 – 2020)

Program Coordinator, American Politics Research Group (2017 – 2018)
Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Political Methodology (2018)
Member, GIS Working Group (2016 – 2018)
Member, Chapel Hill Area Media Project (2015 – 2020)

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

Supervisor: Six UTK undergraduates (2020 – 2021)
Supervisor: Thirteen UNC undergraduates (2019 – 2020)
Research Assistant: Marc Hetherington (2020)
Research Assistant: Frank R. Baumgartner (2015 – 2020)

REFERENCES

Available upon request