

Leah Christiani

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science The University of Tennessee 1001 McClung Tower Box 410 Knoxville, Tennessee 37996	✉ christiani@utk.edu 🌐 leahchristiani.com ☎ +1 203.993.5072 Updated: May 9, 2022
EMPLOYMENT	The University of Tennessee , Knoxville, Tennessee USA Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2020 – present Faculty Affiliate, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, 2020 – present Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Justice, 2022 – present	
EDUCATION	The University of North Carolina , Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA Ph.D., Political Science, 2020 M.A., Political Science, 2017 The University of Connecticut , Storrs, Connecticut USA B.A. (<i>summa cum laude</i>) 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	(7) Christiani, Leah, Christopher J. Clark, Steven Greene, Marc J. Hetherington, and Emily Wager. 2021. “ Masks and racial stereotypes in a pandemic: The case for surgical masks. ” <i>Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics</i> . Online: 10 June 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covered by WRAL, FiveThirtyEight, ABC11, and The Monkey Cage (6) Christiani, Leah. 2021. “ When are explicit racial appeals accepted? Examining the role of racial status threat. ” <i>Political Behavior</i> . Online: 18 March 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winner, best graduate student paper 2019 (UNC Political Science) (5) Christiani, Leah, Kelsey Shoub, Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, and Kevin Roach. 2021. “ Better for everyone: Black descriptive representation and police traffic stops. ” <i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i> . Online: 4 March 2021. (4) Christiani, Leah. 2021. “ Intersectional stereotyping in policing: An analysis of traffic stop outcomes. ” <i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i> , 9(5): 893-915. Online: 7 April 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anthologized in <i>The politics of protest: Readings on the Black Lives Matter movement</i>. Nadia E. Brown, Ray Block Jr., and Christopher Stout, eds. 2021, 1st edition. Routledge.• Winner, best Master’s thesis 2018 (UNC Political Science)	

- (3) 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. Online: 7 August 2020.
- (2) Roach, Kevin, Frank R. Baumgartner, Leah Christiani, Derek A. Epp, and Kelsey Shoub. 2020. [“At the intersection: Race, gender, and discretion in police traffic stop outcomes.”](#) *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. Online: 11 November 2020.
- (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. Online: 27 August 2020

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS

- 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 \(2019\)](#)

ARTICLES IN
PROGRESS

- “Can light contact with the police motivate political participation? Evidence from traffic stops” (with Kelsey Shoub). *Invitation to revise and resubmit*.
- “The ‘great awakening’? The limitations of white antiracism” (with Lucy Britt). *Under review*.
- “Racial inequality and the fragility of democracy: How unequal citizenship threatens democratic legitimacy” (with Jana Morgan and Nathan Kelly).
- “Context matters: The conditional effect of Black police chiefs on policing outcomes” (with Kelsey Shoub). *Under review*.
- “Are you talking to me? How ideological and gender characteristics moderate the effect of legitimizing rhetoric on perceptions of the Supreme Court’s legitimacy” (with Ryan Williams). *Under review*.
- “American dream versus American reality: How encountering information about structural racism can prompt support for anti-racist policies” (with Jana Morgan and Nathan Kelly).

PUBLIC
WRITING &
REPORTS

“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

East Tennessee State University. “He Said *What?! Group threat and the tolerance for explicit racial appeals in American politics.*” April 2022.

University of South Carolina. “He Said *What?! Group threat and the tolerance for explicit racial appeals in American politics.*” February 2022.

University Housing, University of Tennessee. “Civil discourse and campus climate.” October 2020.

Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice (POLI 248), University of North Carolina. “Intersectional stereotyping in policing: An analysis of traffic stop outcomes.” April 2018.

GRANTS,
AWARDS, &
SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

2021 – Faculty mentor, Summer Undergraduate Research Internship, 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 – James W. Prothro Award for Outstanding Research, Best Graduate Student Paper, UNC Department of 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 – James W. Prothro Award for Outstanding Research, Best Master’s Thesis, UNC Department of 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 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: ’16, ’18 – ’21
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: ’17 – ’19, ’22
 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting: ’17, ’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

The University of Tennessee

Instructor

- Research Methods (Pols 301: S2022, F2021, S2021, F2020)
- Gender & Politics (Pols 414: S2022)
- Public Opinion & Political Socialization (Pols 635 Graduate: F2021)
- Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics (Pols 410: F2020)

Training

- Safe Zone at UT: Pride Center (2021)

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor

- Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Poli 281: S2019, F2017)

Teaching Assistant

- Probability and Statistics Lab (graduate level) (Poli 783: F2018)
- Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice, Frank R. Baumgartner (Political Science), Jennifer Ho (English), Tanya Shields (Women’s and Gender Studies), and Sharon Holland (American Studies) (Poli/Amst/Wgst/Engl 248: S2018, S2017)
- Introduction to American Politics, Jason Roberts (Poli 100: F2016)

Graduate Research Consultant

- Political Psychology, Timothy J. Ryan (Poli 417: F2018)

Statistical Consultant

- The Odum Institute for Research in Social Science (2018)

Grader

- Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty, Frank R. Baumgartner (Poli 203: S2016)
- Introduction to American Politics, Pamela J. Conover (Poli 100: F2015)

Training

- Mental Health First Aid, Certification (2019)

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE AND
ACTIVITY

Discipline

Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Journal of Politics*; *British Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Policy Studies Journal*; *Political Behavior*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Politics & Gender*; *Public Administration*; *Frontiers in Public Health*
Discussant & Chair: *MPSA (2022)*, *SPSA (2022)*, *APSA (2020)*
Co-Organizer: [Junior Americanist Workshop Series](#) (2021 – present)
Member: WPSA’s Critical Whiteness Studies Virtual Community

The University of Tennessee

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

The University of North Carolina

Program Coordinator, State Politics Working Group (2019 – 2020)
Program Coordinator, American Politics Research Group (2017 – 2018)
Assistant Professor in Political Methodology Search Committee (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)

METHODS
TRAINING

Ordinary Least Squares Regression · Generalized Linear Models · Panel Data · Factor Analysis and Latent Variable Modeling · Game Theory · Bayesian Models for the Social Sciences

TECHNICAL
SKILLS

Statistical computing in R and Stata; L^AT_EX

PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association · Midwest Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Frank R. Baumgartner
Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professor of Political Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
fbaum@email.unc.edu

Timothy J. Ryan
Associate Professor of Political Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
tjr@email.unc.edu

Candis W. Smith
Associate Professor of Political Science
Duke University
cw.smith@duke.edu

James Stimson
Raymond Dawson Distinguished Bicentennial Professor of
Political Science Emeritus
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
jstimson@email.unc.edu