

Leah Christiani

- CONTACT INFORMATION Department of Political Science ✉ leahchristianiphd@gmail.com
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1001 McClung Tower Box 410 ☎ +1 203.993.5072
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996 Updated: October 28, 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
 Concentrations: American Politics and Political Methodology
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 (9) 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*. Online: 22 August 2022
- (8) Shoub, Kelsey and Leah Christiani. 2022. “[Context matters: The conditional effect of Black police chiefs on policing outcomes.](#)” *Urban Affairs Review*. Online: 11 July 2022.
- (7) 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](#)
- (6) 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.
- (5) Christiani, Leah. 2021. “[When are explicit racial appeals accepted? Examining the role of racial status threat.](#)” *Political Behavior*. Online: 18 March 2021.
- Winner, best graduate student paper 2019 (UNC Political Science)

- (4) Christiani, Leah, Kelsey Shoub, Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, and Kevin Roach. 2021. “Better for everyone: Black descriptive representation and police traffic stops.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. Online: 4 March 2021.
- (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.
- (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

- 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

“Who’s triggered? Explicit racial rhetoric and the desire to maintain white dominance in U.S. politics.” *Book manuscript*. Conference scheduled for 11/2022.

*DENOTES GRADUATE STUDENT

“White privilege, white grievance, and the limitations of white antiracism” (with Lucy Britt). *Invitation to revise and resubmit*.

“Racial inequality and support for democracy in the American mass public” (with Nathan Kelly and Jana Morgan). *Under review*.

“American dream versus American reality: How encountering information about structural racism can prompt support for anti-racist policies” (with Nathan Kelly and Jana Morgan). *Under review*.

“Pandering politics: Examining the effect of positive, explicit racial appeals on support for political candidates” (with Jeremiah Muhammad*).

“Racial inequality and attitudes toward redistributive policy in the United States”
(with Nathan Kelly and Jana Morgan).

“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*.

PUBLIC
WRITING &
REPORTS

Review of *Profiled* and *Always in Season*. *Films for the Feminist Classroom*.
August 19, 2022.

“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. Johnson City, TN. April 2022.

University of South Carolina. Columbia, SC. February 2022.

University Housing, University of Tennessee. Knoxville, TN. October 2020.

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

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 Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *British Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*; *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*; *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*; *Journal of Policing, Intelligence, and Counter Terrorism*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Policy Studies Journal*; *Political Behavior*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Politics & Gender*; *Public Administration*; *Frontiers in Public Health*; *American Sociological Review*

Discussant & Chair: *MPSA (2022)*, *SPSA (2022)*, *APSA (2020)*

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

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

The University of Tennessee

Provost's Junior Faculty Fellows (2022 – present)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2020 – present)

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

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)

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 Statistical computing in R (expert), Stata (expert), and Python (beginner); SQL
(beginner); L^AT_EX(expert)

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

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

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

Nathan J. Kelly, nathan.j.kelly@gmail.com
Professor of Political Science
University of Tennessee, Knoxville