

Leah Christiani

- CONTACT INFORMATION** Department of Political Science ✉ christiani@utk.edu
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Knoxville, Tennessee 37996 Updated: June 15, 2021
- 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
- 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. (*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** (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.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. Online: 10
June 2021.
- 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.” *Political Behavior*. Online: 18 March 2021.
- 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.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. Online: 4 March
2021.
- (4) Roach, Kevin, Frank R. Baumgartner, Leah Christiani, Derek A. Epp, and
Kelsey Shoub. 2020. “At the intersection: Race, gender, and discretion in po-
lice traffic stop outcomes.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. Online:
11 November 2020.
- (3) 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.

- (2) Shoub, Kelsey, Leah Christiani, Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, and Kevin Roach. 2020. “Fines, fees, forfeitures, and disparities: A link between municipal reliance on fines and racial disparities in policing.” *Policy Studies Journal*. Online: 7 August 2020.
- (1) Christiani, Leah. 2020. “Intersectional stereotyping in policing: An analysis of traffic stop outcomes.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. Online: 7 April 2020.
- 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)

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

“A light brush with the law: The effect of traffic tickets on political participation” (with Kelsey Shoub). *Under review*.

“The new white visibility: Racial solidarity in the post-2016 era” (with Lucy Britt).

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

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.

AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS

2021 – Faculty mentor, Summer Undergraduate Research Internship, UTK OUR
2020 – Departmental nominee, Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award, UNC
2020 – Faculty R.A. Funding, UTK Office of Undergraduate Research
2019-2020 – Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC CAS
2019 – Society for Political Methodology Travel Award
2019 – James W. Prothro Award for Outstanding Research, Best Graduate Student Paper, UNC Department of Political Science
2019 – Uhlman Fellow, UNC Department of Political Science
2018-2019 – Dean's Graduate Fellow, UNC College of Arts and Sciences
2018 – James W. Prothro Award for Outstanding Research, Best Master's Thesis, UNC Department of Political Science
2017 – Graduate Student Transportation Grant Award, UNC
2017 – Ayers Family Travel Award, UNC
2017 – Prestage-Cook Travel Award, SPSA
2012 – Segal Education Award, AmeriCorps
2011 – CLAS Outstanding Woman Scholar, UConn
2011 – Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, UConn representative
2011 – Fannie Dixon Welch Scholarship, UConn
2011 – Babbidge Scholar, UConn

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

2020. "Explicit racial appeals and perceptions of threat in US House elections." *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.*

2019. "When are racist appeals effective? Examining the role of perceived group threat" *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.*

2019. "When are racial appeals accepted? Examining the role of anxiety and perceived status threat." *Harvard Experimental Political Science Conference.*

2019. "When are explicit racial appeals accepted? Examining the role of anxiety and perceived group threat" *Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting.*

2019. "He said *what?! The shifting effectiveness of negative, explicit, group-based appeals.*" *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting.*

2018. "Intersectional stereotyping in policing: An analysis of traffic stop out-

comes.” *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*.

2018. “Policing the powerless: How black political power reduces racial disparities in traffic stops outcomes” (with Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, Kevin Roach, and Kelsey Shoub). *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*.

2018. “Driving while black: A hierarchical Bayesian latent threshold model of suspicion” (with Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, Santiago Olivella, Kevin Roach, and Kelsey Shoub). *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*.

2017. “Ladies on television news: How gender influences the use of powerful language on television news” (with Pamela J. Conover, Kelsey Shoub, and Amy Sentementes). *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*.

2017. “Man! I feel like a woman: Socialization and men’s views of women’s issues” (with Amy Sentementes). *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting*.

2017. “Racial disparities in police traffic stops across the U.S.” (with Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, Kevin Roach, and Kelsey Shoub). *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*.

2017. “Racial disparities in police traffic stops across the U.S.” (with Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek A. Epp, Kevin Roach, and Kelsey Shoub). *Duke Forum for Law and Social Change*.

2016. “How powerful a presence? Women as sources in television news” (with Pamela J. Conover, Kelsey Shoub, and Amy Sentementes). *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

The University of Tennessee

Instructor

- Research Methods (Pols 301: S2021, F2020)
- Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics (Pols 410: F2020)

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 Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Public Administration*; *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*; *Policy Studies Journal*
Discussant & Chair: *APSA (2020)*

The University of Tennessee

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2020 – present)
Baker’s Scholar Advisor: 2 UTK undergraduates (2020 – present)
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: 6 UTK undergraduates (2020 – present)
Supervisor: 13 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; \LaTeX

PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association · Midwest Political Science Association
Southern Political Science Association · Society for Political Methodology

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 & African American Studies
Pennsylvania State University
cwsmith@psu.edu

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