

# Joshua McCrain

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of Utah**, 2021 – Present  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

**Michigan State University**, 2020 – 2021  
Post-doctoral Research Associate  
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

## EDUCATION

**Emory University**  
Ph.D., Political Science, 2020.

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
M.A., Political Science, 2013.  
B.A., Political Science, 2011.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**McCrain, Joshua** and Erik Peterson. *Conditionally Accepted*. “Local Elections Do Not Increase Demand for Local News” *Political Science Research and Methods*

Bolton, Alexander and **Joshua McCrain**. *Conditionally Accepted*. “The Bureaucratic Revolving Door: Career Trajectories and Regulatory Action.” *Political Science Research and Methods*

Arel-Bundock, Vincent and **Joshua McCrain**. 2023. “Software Citations in Political Science.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

Fortunato, David, **Joshua McCrain** and Kaylyn Jackson Schiff. 2023. “Public Support for Professional Legislatures.” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*

Egerod, Benjamin C.K. and **Joshua McCrain**. 2023. “Lobbyists into Government.” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.

Lelkes, Yphtach, Eunji Kim and **Joshua McCrain**. 2022. “Measuring Dynamic Media Bias.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.  
· Coverage: [The Washington Post](#)

**McCrain, Joshua** and Stephen D. O’Connell. 2022. “Experience, institutions, and candidate emergence: The political career returns to state legislative service.” *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Bussing, A., Furnas, Z., Ladam, C., **McCrain, J.**, Miller, D. and Porter, R. 2022. “The Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS).” *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

Grossmann, Matt, Marty Jordan and **Joshua McCrain**. 2021. “The Correlates of State Policy and the Structure of State Panel Data.” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*.

Martin, Gregory J. and **Joshua McCrain**. 2019. “Local News and National Politics.” *American Political Science Review*.  
· Winner of 2019 Pi Sigma Alpha Award and Best Paper in American Politics Award, MPSA

· Coverage: [Nature Human Behavior](#); [CNN](#); [NPR](#); [NY Magazine](#); [USA Today](#); [Vox](#); [Washington Post](#)

Montagnes, B. Pablo, Zac Peskowitz and **Joshua McCrain**. 2019. “Bounding Partisan Approval Rates Under Endogenous Partisanship: Why High Presidential Partisan Approval May Not Be What It Seems.” *Journal of Politics*.

**McCrain, Joshua**. 2018. “Revolving Door Lobbyists and the Value of Congressional Staff Connections.” *Journal of Politics*.

· Winner of 2018 Political Networks Section John Sprague Award, APSA

EDITOR  
SOLICITED

**McCrain, Joshua** . 2022. “News Hole: The Demise of Local Journalism and Political Engagement. By Danny Hayes & Jennifer L. Lawless. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 250p. \$29.99 paper.” *Perspectives on Politics*.

UNDER  
REVIEW

“Institutional Factors Driving Citizen Perceptions of AI in Government: Evidence from a Survey Experiment on Policing” with Ian Adams, Scott Mourtgos, Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, and Daniel Schiff (Invited to Revise and Resubmit at *Public Administration Review*)

“The Congressional Leadership Tournament” with Christian Fong

“Hiring Faithful Agents, Expertise, or Connections? A Conjoint Survey Experiment on Lobbyist Hiring Decisions” with Benjamin Egerod, Hans Hassell, and David Miller

“Public Pressure or Peer Influence: What Shapes Police Executives’ Views on Civilian Oversight?” with Ian Adams, Scott Mourtgos, Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, and Daniel Schiff

“Medicaid by Any Other Name” with Adrianna McIntyre and Danielle Pavliv

SELECTED  
WORKING  
PAPERS

“Lobbying Against Discrimination: The Effects of Race and Gender in Lobbyist Hiring Decisions” with Benjamin Egerod, Hans Hassell, and David Miller

“Legislative Resources and Inequality in Representation”

· Winner of 2019 APSA Class & Inequality Section Best Poster in Economic Inequality Award

“Media Coverage of Police Killings” with Ian Adams, Michael Dillman, Scott Mourtgos

“Racial and Gender Solidarity in Congress” with Christian Fong and Cathy Wineinger

“Responses to Requests for State Legislative Internships” with Hans Hassell and Matthew Miles

“Brain Drain on Capitol Hill” with Alexander Bolton and Hans Hassell

“Experimental Evidence for Mutable Inflation Expectation” with David Lee (Utah undergraduate)

“Human Capital on Capitol Hill”

“The Gender Pay Gap in Congressional Offices” with Maxwell Palmer

Media Coverage: [CNBC](#); [Newsweek](#)

“Media Consolidation” with Gregory Martin, Niccolo Mastrorocco, and Adrianna Ornaghi

GRANTS

Univ. of Utah Political Science Betty Glad Award (2023) – **\$12,000**

APSA Centennial Center Research Grant (2022) – **\$9,943**

Co-PIs: A. Bussing, L. Christiani, A. Furnas, C. Ladam, D. Miller, R. Porter  
Levin Center Oversight Fellowship, Wayne State University (2022) – **\$10,000**

*Policing Policy, Reforms, and Human Capital*. Univ. of Utah. (2022) – **\$26,796**  
Vice President of Research Seed Grant. Co-PIs: Ian Adams & Scott Mourtgos.  
*Representation, Responsiveness, and COVID-19*. Russell Sage Foundation – **\$138,832**  
William Bianco, Rachel Blum, and Joshua McCrain (2022)  
*Support for Police Reforms*. University of Utah Faculty Small Grant Program (2022) – **\$5,320**  
*Cataloging State Legislation*. University of Utah Faculty Small Grant Program (2022) – **\$6,000**  
James Curry, David Carter, and Joshua McCrain  
Emory Professional Development Support Research Grant – **\$1500**  
Emory Professional Development Support Training Award (2018) – **\$950**  
Political Networks Fellowship (National Science Foundation) – **\$800**  
Emory Professional Development Support Training Award (2017) – **\$681**

SOFTWARE  
AND  
PROGRAMMING

**congress**: An R Package for Comprehensive Congress Data, 20222.

Caleb Lucas, **Joshua McCrain**, and Ian Ostrander. github.

**cspp**: An R Package for the Correlates of State Policy Project Data (Version 0.2), 2020.  
Caleb Lucas and **Joshua McCrain**. CRAN.

**nicknameR**: Match names to nicknames for name merging (GitHub)

**congressdata**: A Toolkit for Congressional Data in R (*in progress*)

*Congressional Data in R: A Guide*, available at [congressdata.joshuamccrain.com](https://congressdata.joshuamccrain.com)

AWARDS

2019 APSA Class & Inequality Section Best Poster in Economic Inequality

2019 MPSA Pi Sigma Alpha Award with Gregory J. Martin

*Awarded for best overall paper presented the MPSA annual meeting.*

2019 MPSA Best Paper in American Politics Award with Gregory J. Martin

2019 Malcolm Jewell Award

*Awarded for best graduate student paper presented at the SPSA annual meeting.*

2018 APSA Political Networks Section John Sprague Award

*Awarded for best paper on political networks presented by a graduate student in the previous year.*

SELECTED  
PUBLIC  
SCHOLARSHIP

Memo on Congressional Staff Salaries in the House and Senate, prepared for  
Congressional Select Committee on Modernization, 2020

Testimony in support of *HB 1978: Legislative Staff Development Fund*, Virginia House of Delegates,  
January 2021.

“Congress is bumping up its top staffers’ salaries. But its real problem is the underpayment of  
junior staffers.” [Monkey Cage Blog](#), *The Washington Post* (August 20, 2021.).

“Yes, Sinclair Broadcast Group does cut local news, increase national news and tilt its stations  
rightward.” With Gregory Martin. [Monkey Cage Blog](#), *The Washington Post* (April 10, 2018).

“What Does Donald Trump Need for a Successful Presidency? Bureaucrats.” [Monkey Cage Blog](#),  
*The Washington Post* (November 14, 2016; Republished January 27, 2017).

“Convincing evidence that congressional staff do, in fact, matter.” [LegBranch.com](#) (January 23,  
2018).

“Cashing In On Connections: For Congressional Staff-Turned-Lobbyists, Who You Know Matters.”  
[LegBranch.com](#) (August 21, 2017).

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

**University of Utah**

POLS 7980 - Statistical Programming (Graduate, Fall 2023)

POLS 6002 - Advanced Quantitative Analysis for Political Science (Graduate, Spring 2022)  
POLS 1101 - Introduction to US National Government (Undergraduate, Spring 2022)  
POLS 6001 - Quantitative Analysis for Political Science (Graduate, Fall 2021)  
POLS 1101 - Introduction to US National Government (Undergraduate, Fall 2021)

**Emory University**

POLS 200: Intermediate American Government (Undergraduate, Co-Instructor, Spring 2019)  
POLS 208: Research Design and Methods (Undergraduate, TA, Spring and Fall 2018)  
Introduction to R for Data Manipulation and Analysis (Graduate, Instructor, Fall 2018)

ADVISING

Scott Mourtgos, University of Utah (PhD Candidate), Committee Member  
Jordan Geise, University of Utah (PhD Student), Committee Member  
Matthew Kumar, University of Utah (Master's Student), Thesis Advisor  
Michael Dillman, University of Utah (PhD Student), Committee Member

UNIVERSITY  
SERVICE

Hinckley Institute of Politics Forum Series participant, *The Role of Local Media*. Sept. 2021  
Sutherland Institute Round-table on Ranked Choice Voting, April 2022.  
Political Research Colloquium Speaker Series Organizer (2022-2023)  
Interdisciplinary Methods Colloquium Co-Organizer (2022)

INVITED  
PRESENTATIONS

*Winter American Politics Research Meeting*  
UC Berkeley, March 2024.

*Center for the Study of American Politics*  
Yale University, September 2023.

*Inequality and Covid-19*  
University of Oklahoma, August 2023.

*Media Consolidation*  
Columbia University, May 2023.

*Local Elections Do Not Increase Local News Demand*  
George Washington University, October 2022.

*The Political Consequences of Media Ownership*  
Money in Politics Conference, Copenhagen Business School, June 2022.

*Human Capital on Capitol Hill*  
Thursday Group, Brigham Young University, January 2022.

*Differences-in-Differences with Staggered Treatments*  
Workshop in Methods, Indiana University, September 2021 .

*Human Capital on Capitol Hill*  
Copenhagen Business School, Money in Politics Workshop, November 2021.

*Human Capital on Capitol Hill*  
American Politics Workshop, Indiana University, March 2021 (Virtual).

*Local News and National Politics*  
Seminar on Causal Inference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, March 2021 (Virtual).

*Human Capital on Capitol Hill*  
Democracy and Information Group, University of Pennsylvania, October 2020 (Virtual).

*R for Congressional Data*  
Carl Albert Center, University of Oklahoma, July 2020 (Virtual).

*News Coverage of US Elections*, Workshop (Canceled due to COVID)  
Social Science Research Council, Brooklyn, NY, April 2020.

*Legislative Staff and Inequality in Representation*  
Florida State University, March 2020.

*An Introduction to R for Data Manipulation and Analysis*  
Georgia State University, October 2017 and October 2018.

SERVICE  
TO THE  
DISCIPLINE

**Reviewer:** *Journal of Politics, American Politics Research, American Journal of Political Science, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Public Choice, Organization Studies, American Political Science Review, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, European Union Politics, Interest Groups & Advocacy, Political Science Research and Methods, Political Research Quarterly, Sociological Forum, Political Communication, The Review of Economics and Statistics, PS: Political Science & Politics, The Scandinavian Journal of Economics, World Politics, The Journal of Common Market Studies, Political Behavior, Research and Politics, Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media, Business and Politics, Journal of European Political Economy, Congress and the Presidency, The Journal of Legislative Studies*

**Award Committees:**

State Politics and Policy Career Achievement Award Committee (2023)  
MPSA Best Paper in American Politics Award Committee (2022)  
John Sprague Award Committee, APSA Political Networks Section (2019)  
Co-Founder and Co-Organizer, Junior Americanist Workshop Series, 2020-2022

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

2023 Southern Political Science Association

2022 Southern Political Science Association  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Political Methodology Conference  
American Political Science Association

2021 Midwest Political Science Association  
American Political Science Association  
Southern Political Science Association

2020 Midwest Political Science Association (Canceled due to COVID)  
Southern Political Science Association  
American Political Science Association (Canceled due to COVID)

2019 Southern Political Science Association  
Midwestern Political Science Association  
Western Political Science Association  
State Politics and Policy Conference  
Local Political Economy Conference (APSA)  
American Political Science Association

2018 American Political Science Association  
Southern Political Science Association  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Emory Conference on Causal Inference, Institutions & Law Making  
Annual Political Networks Conference

2017 Southern Political Science Association  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Annual Political Networks Conference  
Atlanta Symposium on Political Science

DISCUSSANT

Polarization Research Lab Annual Meeting (2023)  
APSA Pre-Conference in Money in Politics (2021)  
Virtual Workshop on Interest Groups (2021)  
MPSA (2019, 2021)

APSA (2019)  
SPSA (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023)  
WPSA (2019)

ADDITIONAL  
TRAINING

EITM Summer Institute, 2018. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program, 2017. Emory University.

PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

NCAA Lacrosse Official (2018-present).

Associate, M+R Strategic Services, Washington D.C. (2014-2015).

Assistant Director for Government Relations, Consortium of Social Science Associations,  
Washington D.C. (2013-2014).

Intern, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C. (2013).

Project Assistant, National Democratic Institute, Washington D.C. (2012)