

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

AFFILIATIONS

Policing Accountability and Policy Evaluation Research Lab (Director). University of Utah
Governance and Responsible AI Lab (Faculty Affiliate). Purdue University

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

Hassell, Hans, **Joshua McCrain**, and Matthew Miles. *Conditionally Accepted*. “Gendered Barriers to Entry: Responses to Requests for State Legislative Internships.” *Journal of Politics*.

Egerod, Benjamin, Hans Hassell, **Joshua McCrain**, and David Miller. 2025. “Descriptive Representation on K Street: Race and Gender Among Federal Lobbyists.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

Fong, Christian and **Joshua McCrain**. 2024. “A Tournament Theory of Congressional Committee Leadership.” *Public Choice*.

Adams, Ian, **Joshua McCrain**, Daniel Schiff, Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, and Scott Mourtgos. 2024. “Police Reform from the Top Down: Experimental Evidence on Police Executive Support for Civilian Oversight.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Mourtgos, Scott, Ian Adams, **Joshua McCrain**, Daniel Schiff and Kaylyn Jackson Schiff. 2024. “Command Voice: Changes in Police Executive Attitudes to Oversight Following Public and Peer Information.” *Criminology and Public Policy*.

Egerod, Benjamin, Hans Hassell, **Joshua McCrain**, and David Miller. 2024. “Partisanship, Expertise, or Connections? A Conjoint Survey Experiment on Lobbyist Hiring Decisions.” *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations*.

McCrain, Joshua, Adrianna McIntyre and Danielle Pavliv. 2024. “Medicaid by Any Other Name? Investigating Malleability of Partisan Attitudes Toward the Public Program.” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*.

Schiff, Kaylyn Jackson, Daniel Schiff, Ian Adams, **Joshua McCrain** and Scott Mourtgos. 2024. “Institutional Factors Driving Citizen Perceptions of AI in Government: Evidence from a Survey Experiment on Policing.” *Public Administration Review*.

McCrain, Joshua and Erik Peterson. 2024. “Local Elections Do Not Increase Demand for Local News.” *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Bolton, Alexander and **Joshua McCrain**. 2023. “A foot out the door: what drives bureaucratic exit into lobbying careers?” *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

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.” *Perspectives on Politics*.

UNDER
REVIEW

“Does Civilian Oversight Impact Police Legitimacy?” with Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, Daniel Schiff, Ian Adams, Bryant Moy and Scott Mourtgos. (Invited to Revise and Resubmit, *PNAS Nexus*)

“Human Capital Exiting Capitol Hill? Differences in Congressional Staff Turnover by Race and Gender” with Alexander Bolton and Hans Hassell (Invited to Revise and Resubmit, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*)

“Campaign Contributions, Reciprocity, and Gender Solidarity” with Christian Fong and Cathy Wineinger (Invited to Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Politics*)

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

“Vetting the AI that Vets Us: Ethical Trade-offs in Public and Private Sector AI Adoption Decisions” with Daniel Schiff, Stephanie Kelley, Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, and Ian Adams

GRANTS

External Grants & Fellowships:

Law Enforcement Administrative Data for Research (2024) – **\$184,374**. Arnold Ventures.

With Ian Adams, Scott Mourtgos Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, Daniel Schiff

Policing Research Seminar (2024) – **\$13,800**. Arnold Ventures.

Policing Policy Research Workshop (2024) – **\$63,628**. Arnold Ventures.

With Ian Adams, Scott Mourtgos Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, Daniel Schiff

Policing Leadership and Accountability: Harnessing Big Data and Causal Inference for Evaluating Police Reform Practices (2023) – **\$972,083**

National Institute of Justice (Principal Investigator).

Co-PIs: Ian Adams, Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, Daniel Schiff

Representation, Responsiveness, and COVID-19. Russell Sage Foundation – **\$138,832**

William Bianco, Rachel Blum, and Joshua McCrain (2022)

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**

Internal Grants:

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

Policing Policy, Reforms, and Human Capital. Univ. of Utah. (2022) – **\$26,796**

Vice President of Research Seed Grant. Co-PIs: Ian Adams & Scott Mourtgos.

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 & PROGRAMMING

congress: An R Package for Comprehensive Congress Data, 2022.

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)

Congressional Data in R: A Guide, available at congressdata.joshuamccrain.com

AWARDS

National Institute of Justice Measuring Community Perceptions Competition (\$2,500)

With Ian Adams, Scott Mourtgos, Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, Daniel Schiff

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).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- *Media Consolidation*, University of Texas at Austin, May 2024.
- *Media Consolidation*, Purdue University, April 2024.
- *Media Consolidation and Demand for Local Media*, Duke University, October 2023.
- *Patrolling the Police: Experimental Evidence on Police Executives’ Support for Oversight*, Yale University, Center for the Study of American Politics, September 2023.
- *Media Consolidation*, University of Pennsylvania, September 2023.
- *Human Capital on Capitol Hill*, University of Bologna, 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*, *Nature Communications*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Police Practice and Research*, *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Policing: An International Journal*, *Political Studies*, *State and Local Government Review*, *Governance*, *Socius*, *Cogent Social Sciences*

External Grant Reviewer:
National Science Foundation (2023)

Committees & Workshops:

Organizer, Utah Policing Policy Research Workshop (2023, 2024)
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	2024	Berkeley Winter American Politics Research Meeting Southern Political Science Association Political Methodology Conference
	2023	Southern Political Science Association European Society of Criminology
	2022	Southern Political Science Association Midwest Political Science Association Political Methodology Conference American Political Science Association American Society of Criminology
	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, 2024) 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, 2024) WPSA (2019)
TEACHING EXPERIENCE		University of Utah POLS 7980 - Statistical Programming (Graduate; 2023, 2024) POLS 6002 - Advanced Quantitative Analysis for Political Science (Graduate; 2022, 2023, 2024) POLS 6001 - Quantitative Analysis for Political Science (Graduate; 2021, 2022) POLS 1100 - Introduction to US National Government (Undergraduate; 2021, 2022, 2024) 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	<p>Scott Mourtgos, University of Utah (PhD Candidate), Committee Member</p> <p>University of South Carolina, Assistant Prof., Dept. of Criminology and Criminal Justice (2024)</p> <p>Chandler Robinson, University of Utah (PhD Student), Committee Co-Chair</p> <p>Matthew Kumar, University of Utah (PhD Student), Committee Member</p> <p>Michael Dillman, University of Utah (PhD Student), Committee Member</p> <p>Andrew Welhouse, University of Utah (PhD Student), Committee Co-Chair</p>
UNIVERSITY SERVICE	<p>Hinckley Institute of Politics Forum Series participant, <i>The Role of Local Media</i>. Sept. 2021</p> <p>Sutherland Institute Round-table on Ranked Choice Voting, April 2022.</p> <p>Political Research Colloquium Speaker Series Organizer (2022-2024)</p> <p>Interdisciplinary Methods Colloquium Co-Organizer (2022)</p>
ADDITIONAL TRAINING	<p>EITM Summer Institute, 2018. Ann Arbor, Michigan.</p> <p>Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program, 2017. Emory University.</p>
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<p>NCAA Lacrosse Official (2018-present).</p> <p>Associate, M+R Strategic Services, Washington D.C. (2014-2015).</p> <p>Assistant Director for Government Relations, Consortium of Social Science Associations, Washington D.C. (2013-2014).</p> <p>Intern, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C. (2013).</p> <p>Project Assistant, National Democratic Institute, Washington D.C. (2012)</p>