

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
Gambrell Hall 323
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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Research Interests American Politics, Political Behavior, Social Influence, Political Psychology, Experimental Methods, Survey Methods

Academic Positions Associate Professor, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2025 – present

- Faculty Affiliate, Women’s and Gender Studies Program

Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2019 – 2025

Education Ph.D., Political Science, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, 2019

M.A., Political Psychology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, 2014

B.A., Political Science, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, 2010

Book Elizabeth C. Connors, Matthew T. Pietryka, and John Barry Ryan. 2022. *Examining Motivations in Interpersonal Communication Experiments*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Elements in Experimental Political Science.

Articles Elizabeth C. Connors, Taylor Carlson, and Steven W. Webster. 2026. “You’re Making Us Look Bad: Can Partisan Embarrassment Dampen Partisanship and Polarization?” *Public Opinion Quarterly*, forthcoming.

Elizabeth C. Connors, Alessandro Del Ponte, and Peter DeScioli. 2025. “Indirect Restrictions Demobilize Supporters of Abortion Rights.” *Policy Studies Journal*, 53(4):1123-1157.

Eric Groenendyk, Yanna Krupnikov, John Barry Ryan, and Elizabeth C. Connors. 2025. “Selecting Out of ‘Politics’: The Self-Fulfilling Role of Conflict Expectation.” *American Political Science Review* 119(1): 40-55.

Elizabeth C. Connors. 2024. “Party Foul: The Effectiveness of Political Value Rhetoric is Constrained by Party Ownership.” *Political Behavior* 46(2): 707-726.

Elizabeth C. Connors. 2023. “Social Desirability and Affective Polarization.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 87(4): 911-934.

- Covered by *TIME* magazine
- Earlier draft awarded American Political Science Association’s 2021 award for best paper in political psychology delivered at the 2020 meeting
- Partly funded by Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)

Steven W. Webster, Elizabeth C. Connors, and Betsy Sinclair. 2022. “The Social Consequences of Political Anger.” *The Journal of Politics* 84(3): 1292-1305.

- Write-up in *Political Violence @ a Glance*

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

Chandler Case*, Christopher Eddy*, Rahul Hemrajani*, Christopher Howell*, Daniel Lyons*, Yu-Hsien Sung*, and Elizabeth C. Connors. 2022. “The Effects of Source Cues and Issue Frames During COVID-19.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 9(3): 369-378.

- Funded by University of South Carolina internal grant

Elizabeth C. Connors. 2020. “The Social Dimension of Political Values.” *Political Behavior* 42(3): 961-982.

- Earlier draft awarded American Political Science Association’s 2018 John Sullivan Award for best paper delivered by a graduate student on an Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB) panel at the 2017 meeting

Yanna Krupnikov, Kerri Milita, John Barry Ryan, and Elizabeth C. Connors. 2020. “How Gender Affects the Efficacy of Discussion as an Information Shortcut.” *Political Science Research and Methods* 8(2): 268-284.

Elizabeth C. Connors, Yanna Krupnikov, and John Barry Ryan. 2019. “How Transparency Affects Survey Responses.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 83(S1): 185-209.

- Partly funded by Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)

Under Review

Elizabeth C. Connors and John V. Kane. “Un-Priming Politics: A Method to Reduce Overreporting of Political Engagement.” [*revise & resubmit*]

Elizabeth C. Connors and Christopher Howell*. “You Need to Calm Down: Heated Tones Drive Aversion to Political Discussions.”

Elizabeth C. Connors, Samara Klar, Yanna Krupnikov, and John Barry Ryan. “Political Disconnection: When Are Partisan Differences a Reason to End Relationships?”

Elizabeth C. Connors and Katelyn Stauffer. “Feminism Through a Partisan Lens: How Group Perceptions Shape Affect and Identity.”

Tobias Heinrich, Menevis Cilizoglu, Elizabeth C. Connors, Lauren Poupore**, and Yoshiharu Kobayashi. “Welcoming Strangers? Effects of Border Security Confidence on the Reception of Refugees.”

- Partly funded by the Institute for Humane Studies

Kristin Lunz Trujillo, David Darmofal, Elizabeth C. Connors, and Todd C. Shaw. “Evaluating Common Strategies to Detect AI-Generated Political Images.”

- Funded by McCausland Innovation Fund

Working Projects

The Femin[ist] Mystique (book project), with Katelyn Stauffer

- Partly funded by Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)

“Political Discussions 101: Understanding How Young People Perceive and Experience Political Conversation,” with Kathleen Searles.

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

“How Low Candidate Approval Affects Partisanship,” with Robert Bird, Samara Klar, and Yanna Krupnikov

“What’s Wrong with Being Confident? A Lot: How Confidence Shapes Political Interactions,” with Christopher Howell* and Taylor Carlson

“Revisiting the Link between Expected Election Outcomes and Turnout,” with Jacob A. Martin*, and John Barry Ryan

“Immigration Support: Does Immigrant Skill-Level Override the Effects of Racial and Ethnic Prejudice,” with Leonie Huddy, Stanley Feldman, and Romeo Gray*

Book Chapter

Yanna Krupnikov and Elizabeth C. Connors. 2018. “Negative Campaigns: Are They Good for American Democracy?” in *New Directions in Media and Politics, 2nd Edition* (Ridout, ed). Routledge.

Other Published Work

Steven W. Webster, Elizabeth C. Connors, and Betsy Sinclair. “Political Anger and Division.” *Political Violence @ a Glance*. October 10, 2022.

Elizabeth C. Connors. “Do Republicans Really Believe the Election was Stolen – or Are They Just Saying That?” *The Monkey Cage, The Washington Post*. December 22, 2020.

Elizabeth Connors, Samara Klar, and Yanna Krupnikov. “There May Have Been Shy Trump Supporters After All.” *The Monkey Cage, The Washington Post*. November 12, 2016.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

University of South Carolina McCausland College of Arts and Sciences Fellow (\$40,000), 2024-2027

McCausland Innovation Fund Grant (\$19,880.52): “Artificial Intelligence and Misinformation in American Politics,” with Kristin Lunz Trujillo, David Darmofal, and Todd Shaw, 2023

The Institute for Humane Studies Grant (\$3,500): “Trusting Refugees after Learning to Trust Borders,” with Tobias Heinrich, Yoshiharu Kobayashi, and Lauren Poupore**, 2023

National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) Short Study Grant: “The Femin[ist] Mystique: How Group Perceptions Shape Affect and Identity,” with Katelyn Stauffer, 2023

Best paper in Political Psychology at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: “Social Context Shapes Affective Polarization,” 2021

University of South Carolina, Office of Research, COVID-19 Research Initiative Grant (\$15,400): “To Believe or To Not Believe: Reception of Expert Cues During

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

COVID-19,” with Chandler Case*, Christopher Eddy*, Rahul Hemrajani*, Christopher Howell*, Daniel Lyons*, and Yu-Hsien Sung*, 2020

National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) Grant: “Everyone’s Doing It: Affective Polarization is Inflated by Social Pressure,” 2020

Artinian Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2020

Milton Lodge Award for outstanding graduate student researcher in Political Science at Stony Brook University, co-recipient class of 2019

John Sullivan Award for the best paper presented by a graduate student in the field of Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: “Political Values as Partisan Social Norms: The Social Context on Value Endorsement,” 2018

Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior American Political Science Association Travel Award, 2018

American Political Science Association Travel Award, 2018

Midwest Women’s Caucus for Political Science Graduate Student Travel Award, 2018

National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) Grant: “Does Transparency Affect Survey Research?” with Yanna Krupnikov and John Barry Ryan, 2015

Teaching Assistantship, Stony Brook University, 2016 – 2019

Graduate Assistantship, Stony Brook University, 2014 – 2016

Full Tuition Scholarship, Stony Brook University, 2014 – 2019

Conference Presentations, Invited Talks, and Interviews

Research presented at APSA 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022; MPSA 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025; SPSA 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025

Research presented at the Polarization Research Lab Annual Meeting, 2025

Invited talk at Dartmouth College political psychology course, 2025

Invited talk at University of South Carolina philosophy course, 2025

Invited talk at the Political Conversations and Polarization in the United States Conference at Brigham Young University: “‘You Need to Calm Down’: Heated Tones Drive Aversion to Political Discussions,” 2024

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

Invited talk at the University of Virginia: “‘You Need to Calm Down’: How Tone Shapes Political Discussion,” 2024

Invited talk at William and Mary: “‘You Need to Calm Down’: How Tone Shapes Political Discussion,” 2023

Invited talk at Indiana University: “‘You Need to Calm Down’: How Tone Shapes Political Discussion,” 2022

Featured Interview by the University of South Carolina’s College of Arts and Sciences: “UofSC Researchers Unpack Identity Politics in Feminism, Anger, and COVID,” 2022

Invited talk at Gothenburg University: “Social Desirability and Affective Polarization,” 2022

Invited talk at the Online Hot Politics Lab: “Partisan Social Pressure and Affective Polarization,” 2021

Research presented at PolNet, 2021

Invited contributor to the Niskanen Center’s *The Science of Politics* podcast: “How Political Values and Social Influence Drive Polarization,” 2021

Invited contributor to the University of South Carolina’s Post-Election Forum: “Interpreting the Results of the 2020 Election,” 2021

Invited talk at the Rapid Innovation Task Force with Prisma Health: “The Effects of Source Cues and Issue Frames During COVID-19” (research with Chandler Case*, Christopher Eddy*, Rahul Hemrajani*, Christopher Howell*, Daniel Lyons*, and Yu-Hsien Sung*), 2020

Research presented at Toronto Political Behavior Workshop, 2019

Invited contributor to *A Public Affair*, *WORT Community Radio*: “Political Polarization and Talking Across Differences,” 2019

Research presented at the NYU-CESS Experimental Political Science Conference, 2017

Participation and Service

Executive Council, APSA’s EPOVB, 2024 – present

Co-Founder of Women with Wisdom (biannual political science mentoring event), 2025 – present

Warren E. Miller Prize Committee, APSA’s EPOVB, 2026

Member of Faculty Annual Review Committee, University of South Carolina, 2025 – present

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

APSA's Political Psychology Division Co-Chair, 2026

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2025 – 2026

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2025 – 2026

Second Reader for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2025 – 2026

Member of Search Committee, University of South Carolina, 2025

Member of Advisory Committee, University of South Carolina, 2025

Member of Search Committee, University of South Carolina, 2025

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2024 – 2025

Member of Graduate Committee, University of South Carolina, 2020 – 2024

Invited participant and discussant at the Polarization Research Lab Annual Meeting, 2024

Program Committee Member for the Southern Political Science Association Conference, 2024

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2022 – 2023

Member of the SPARC Award Committee, University of South Carolina, 2022

Member of Search Committee, University of South Carolina, 2022

Co-Coordinator of University of South Carolina's Political Science Department Cooperative Election Study (CES), 2022

Program Committee Member for the Political Networks Conference, 2022

Invited discussant at Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS), 2022

Chair of APSA's Political Psychology section best dissertation award committee, 2022

Member of SPSA's Marian Irish award committee, 2021

Member of APSA's EPOVB John Sullivan award committee, 2021

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

Member of Search Committee, University of South Carolina, 2021

Member of APSA's EPOVB John Sullivan award committee, 2020

Member of Undergraduate Committee, University of South Carolina, 2019 – 2020

Co-organizer for Speaker Series, Stony Brook University, 2018 – 2019

Organizer for Graduate Colloquium & In-House Speaker Series, Stony Brook University 2016 – 2018

Invited Participant and Program Assistant at the Visions in Methodology Conference, 2017

Assistant to Women Also Know Stuff, 2017

Poster Presentation at MPSA 2016

Alternate Graduate Academic Judiciary Member at Stony Brook University, 2014 – 2015

Conference Discussant and/or Chair at: APSA 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022; MPSA 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2025

Reviewer for: *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *Political Behavior*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Political Science Research and Methods*; *Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences*; *Political Communications*; *Politics & Gender*; *Political Science & Politics*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*; *Research & Politics*; *American Politics Research*; *Party Politics*; *Journal of Social and Political Psychology*

Graduate Students

Conor Craig (University of South Carolina), committee member

Chandler Case (University of South Carolina), committee member

Susan Yang (University of South Carolina), committee member

Haley Stiles (University of Virginia), outside committee member

Matthew Fryman (University of South Carolina), defense completed in 2026, committee member

Undergraduate Students

Faculty Mentor for Top Scholar Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2025 – 2026

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2025 – 2026

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2025 – 2026

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2024 – 2025

Faculty Mentor for Top Scholar Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2022 – 2023

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2022 – 2023

Thesis Director for Undergraduate at the University of South Carolina Honors College, 2019 – 2020

Teaching Experience

Graduate

American Government and Politics (University of South Carolina)

- *Spring 2022*

Experiments (University of South Carolina)

- *Spring 2026, Spring 2023, Spring 2020*

Research Design (Stony Brook University)

- *Fall 2017*

Undergraduate

Peer Pressure & Politics (University of South Carolina)

- *Fall 2025*

American National Government (University of South Carolina)

- *Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Summer 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2019*

Political Psychology (University of South Carolina)

- *Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020*

American Government (Stony Brook University)

- *Fall 2016, Spring 2017*

Current Political Events (Stony Brook University)

- *Summer 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Summer 2018*

The Politics of Trump (Stony Brook University)

- *Winter 2018, Summer 2017*

Elizabeth C. Connors

Curriculum Vitae