Isaac D. Mehlhaff

Data Science Institute
The University of Chicago
150 John Crerar Library
Chicago, IL 60637

Updated: May 3, 2024
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Academic Appointments

Texas A&M University   College Station, TX
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science   Beginning 2024

The University of Chicago   Chicago, IL
Postdoctoral Scholar, Data Science Institute   2023 - 2024

Education

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill   Chapel Hill, NC
Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science   2023
Committee: Marc J. Hetherington (chair), Mary A. Kroeger, Timothy J. Ryan,
       Rahsaan Maxwell (NYU), Jaime E. Settle (William & Mary)

Master of Arts in Political Science   2020
Committee: Marc J. Hetherington (chair), Ted Enamorado, Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo

University of Wisconsin-Madison   Madison, WI
Bachelor of Arts with Honors in the Liberal Arts   2018
Thesis Advisor: Erica S. Simmons

Book

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. *Mass Polarization across Time and Space*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Elements in Comparative Political Behavior. Under contract.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. "A Group-Based Approach to Measuring Polarization." *American Political Science Review*, forthcoming.

Isaac D. Mehlhaff, Matías C. Tarillo, Ayelén Vanegas, and Marc J. Hetherington. "Partisanship and the Pandemic: How and Why Americans Followed Party Cues on COVID-19." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* 49, no. 3 (June 2024): 351-374.

Isaac D. Mehlhaff, Marc J. Hetherington, Michael B. MacKuen, and Timothy J. Ryan. "Where Motivated Reasoning Withers and Looms Large: Fear and Partisan Reactions to the COVID-19 Pandemic." *American Journal of Political Science* 68, no. 1 (January 2024): 5-23.

Sam Schmitt, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Emily Cottle Ommundsen. "Integrating Classroom and Community with Undergraduate Civically Engaged Research." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 56, no. 4 (October 2023): 469-474.

Under Review

Marc J. Hetherington, Andrew M. Engelhardt, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. "More Than a Partisan Pandemic: Worldview and COVID-19 Response in the United States."

Amirhossein Farzam, Shashank Shekhar, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Marco Morucci. "Multi-Task Learning Improves Performance in Deep Argument Mining Models."

Robert C. Luskin, Daron R. Shaw, Marc J. Hetherington, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. "Signed Forecast Errors in Pre-Election Media Polls: A Mainly Political Story."

Working Papers

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. "Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Global Evidence from a Half-Century of Public Opinion."

Marc J. Hetherington, **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**, and Caroline Marie Lancaster. "Worldview Politics in the United States and Great Britain."

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. "Political Argumentation and Attitude Change in Online Interactions."

Software

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. `PolarCAP`: Access the Polarization in Comparative Attitudes Project (version 1.0.1). *Comprehensive R Archive Network.* https://cran.r-project.org/package=PolarCAP.

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. `CPC`: Implementation of Cluster-Polarization Coefficient (version 2.6.0). *Comprehensive R Archive Network.* https://cran.r-project.org/package=CPC.

Editor-Reviewed Publications

Marc J. Hetherington and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff**. "American attitudes toward covid-19 are divided by party. The pandemic itself might undo that." *The Washington Post* (August 18, 2020).

Isaac D. Mehlhaff. "Subverting Solidarity: The Role of American Organized Labor in Pursuing United States Foreign Policy Objectives in Chile, 1961-1973." *The Burkhardt Review* 1, no. 2 (2018): 24-40.

Funding

National Science Foundation
Graduate Research Fellowship, $138,000 — 2020-2023

Society for Political Methodology
Travel Award, $1,650 — 2023

Midwest Political Science Association
Pi Sigma Alpha Travel Award, $500 — 2023

American Political Science Association
Centennial Center Research Grant, $2,400 — 2022
Travel Award, $150 — 2022

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Program for Public Discourse
Graduate Fellowship, $1,000 — 2021-2022

Institute for the Study of the Americas
Americas Graduate Fellowship, $5,000 — 2018-2020

Department of Political Science
Uhlman Research Grant, $2,000 — 2019

European Consortium for Political Research
Travel Award, €150 — 2019

Honors and Awards

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The Graduate School
Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences — 2024

Department of Political Science
James W. Prothro Award for Best Master's Thesis in Political Science 2021

Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning,
Associate Level of Accomplishment 2021

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Political Science
William Jennings Bryan Award for Best Thesis in Political Science 2018

Department of History
William F. Allen Research Award 2017

College of Letters and Science
Phi Beta Kappa 2017

Ball State University
Student History Conference
Best Paper in Global History 2018

INVITED TALKS

The University of Chicago, Quantitative Methods Workshop 2023
The University of Chicago, American Politics Workshop

Texas A&M University, Department of Political Science 2022
Duke University, Department of Political Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, American Politics Research Group

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA 2024
Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop, Yale University
Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL

Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, University of California, Los Angeles 2023
Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology, Stanford University
Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, QC 2022
Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology, Washington University in St. Louis
Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Rice University
Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA 2021
Conference on Theories of the Contemporary Divide in Western Societies, European University Institute
Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA

Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology, Toronto, ON 2020

Standing Group on Latin American Politics, European Consortium for Political Research, Segovia, Spain 2019

SERVICE

Graduate Student President
Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2022 - 2023

Graduate Coordinator
Formal and Quantitative Seminar 2022 - 2023
UNC-Duke University Working Group on Latin American Politics 2019 - 2020

Member
Removing Inequities in Political Science Working Group 2020 - 2023
Award Committee, Charles Robson Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction 2022, 2023
Graduate Stipends Committee 2020 - 2021

Discussant

American Politics Research Group, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill   2023
Workshop on Latin American Politics and Party Competition, Duke University   2021
Standing Group on Latin American Politics, European Consortium for Political Research   2019

Reviewer

The Journal of Politics, *British Journal of Political Science*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Political Communication*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, NSF GRFP Peer Review Workshop

Teaching

Texas A&M University
POLS 309: Polimetrics   2024

The University of Chicago
Data Science Clinic, Data Science Institute (Project Mentor)   2023 - 2024

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
POLI 276: Everyday Political Theory: Seeing Like a Citizen (Graduate Consultant)   2022
Agora Fellows, Program for Public Discourse (Facilitator)   2021
POLI 203: Race, Innocence, and the End of the Death Penalty (Teaching Assistant)   2020
POLI 100: American Democracy in Changing Times (Teaching Assistant)   2019
POLI 208: Political Parties and Elections (Instructional Assistant)   2018

Skills

Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese
Technical: R, Python, LaTeX, Stan, SQL, Git, Tensorflow/Keras, Pytorch, Qualtrics

References

Marc J. Hetherington
Raymond Dawson Distinguished Bicentennial Professor of Political Science   Department of Political Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill   320 Hamilton Hall
Email: marcj@email.unc.edu   Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Timothy J. Ryan
Associate Professor of Political Science   Department of Political Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill   307 Hamilton Hall
Email: tjr@email.unc.edu   Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Santiago Olivella
Associate Professor of Political Science   Department of Political Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill   352 Hamilton Hall
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