

C. MARA SUTTMANN-LEA

Assistant Professor | Department of Government and International Relations | Connecticut College | csuttmann@conncoll.edu | marasuttmannlea.com

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Ph.D., Political Science

2017

Major: American Politics, Minor: Methodology

Dissertation: *"Convenience at a Cost: The Unintended Consequences of Early Voting"*

Dissertation Committee: Daniel Galvin (Chair), James Druckman, James Mahoney, and Traci Burch

M.A., Political Science

2013

Master's Thesis: *"Towards More Equal Participation? How Battleground States Influence the Effectiveness of Electoral Reforms"*

First Reader: Daniel Galvin, Second Reader: James Druckman

DePaul University, Chicago, IL

B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Political Science and Islamic Studies, Honors

2009

Honors Thesis: *"Constructing a Political Spectacle: Peace and Violence in Cable News Coverage of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"*

First Reader: Cathy May, Second Reader: Khalil Marrar

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Convenience at a Cost: The Unintended Consequences of Voting Reforms"

Book Project

"Poll Worker Decision Making at the American Ballot Box"

Manuscript, Revise and Resubmit

"Measuring Voter Engagement in Election Administration: How Much Do States Expect From Local Election Officials?" Manuscript, with Thessalia Merivaki, Mississippi State University

"Are You a Russian Agent? Working with U.S. Election Administrators in an Era of Electoral Mistrust"

Manuscript

"Towards More Equal Participation? Early Voting, Mobilization, and Turnout Biases"

Manuscript

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Don't be shocked by the North Carolina Absentee fraud allegations. Absentee ballots are much less secure than polling places." 2018. *The Washington Post: Monkey Cage Blog*.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/12/13/dont-be-shocked-by-the->

[north-carolina-fraud-allegations-absentee-ballots-are-much-less-secure-than-polling-places/?utm_term=.ec4d4fe5c877](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2017/06/07/profound-partisanship-rather-than-early-voting-may-have-guaranteed-greg-gianfortes-success-in-montana-amidst-assault-charges/)

“Early voting in the 2017 Montana special congressional election.” 2017. *The London School of Economics United States Politics and Policy Blog*.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2017/06/07/profound-partisanship-rather-than-early-voting-may-have-guaranteed-greg-gianfortes-success-in-montana-amidst-assault-charges/>

“Prospects for Success in the Trump Presidency.” 2017. *The London School of Economics United States Politics and Policy Blog*. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2017/01/12/as-a-true-outsider-what-trumps-presidency-will-look-like-is-anybodys-guess/>

“An Overview of the 2016 Illinois Senate Race.” 2016. *The London School of Economics United States Politics and Policy Blog*. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2016/10/11/in-illinois-tammy-duckworths-better-funded-campaign-puts-mark-kirks-senate-seat-in-a-precarious-position/>

“The 1980s Republican roots of Hillary Clinton’s early voting strategy.” 2016. *The London School of Economics United States Politics and Policy Blog*. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2016/10/26/the-1980s-republican-roots-of-hillary-clintons-early-voting-strategy/>

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Poll Worker Decision Making at the American Ballot Box”

“Measuring Voter Engagement in Election Administration: How Much Do States Expect From Local Election Officials?” with Thessalia Merivaki, Mississippi State University

Election Sciences, Reform, & Administration Conference **2019**

“Poll Worker Evaluations of Minority Voter Eligibility”

State Politics and Policy Conference **2019**

“The Deserving Voter: Poll Worker Decision Making at the American Ballot Box”

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference **2019**

“The Deserving Voter: Poll Worker Decision Making at the American Ballot Box”

American Political Science Association Annual Conference **2018**

“Are You a Russian Agent? Working with U.S. Election Administrators in an Era of Electoral Mistrust”

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference **2018**

- “Towards More Equal Participation? Early Voting, Mobilization, and Turnout Biases”*
Law in Motion Conference, Department of Legal Studies, Northwestern University **2017**
- “Convenience at a Cost: The Unintended Consequences of Early Voting, Case Studies of Washington and California”*
Northwestern / Columbia / Science Po / Max Plank Political Economy Conference **2016**
- “Towards More Equal Participation? The Performance of Electoral Reforms in Competitive Electoral Contexts”*
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference **2014**
- “The Political Effects of Economic Inequality in Rich Democracies”*
Co-Authored with Benjamin I. Page (First Author)
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference **2014**
- “Towards More Equal Participation? How Battleground States Influence the Effectiveness of Electoral Reforms”*
Applied Quantitative Methods Workshop, Northwestern University **2013**
- INVITED TALKS**
- “The Deserving Voter: Poll Worker Decision Making at the American Ballot Box”*
Race, Politics, and Cities in America Conference **2019**
- “Early Voting and the 2016 Presidential Elections”*
Northwestern University Department of Political Science Elections Round-Up **2016**
- “Convenience at a Cost: The Unintended Consequences of Early Voting, Case Studies of Washington and California”*
Comparative Historical Social Sciences Workshop at Northwestern University **2016**
- “Early Voting: Politics, Process, and Participation”*
Winnetka Public Library Adult Education Series on Elections **2016**
- “The Political Effects of Economic Inequality”*
Co-Authored with Benjamin I. Page
New Directions for Research on the Effects of Rising Inequality at Harvard University **2013**
- RESEARCH GRANTS**
- M.I.T. Election Data and Science Lab Research Grant (\$10,000) **2017**
- Minar Memorial Summer Award, Northwestern University (\$1000) **2016**
- Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$2524) **2015**
- The Institute for Qualitative Methods Research at Syracuse University **2014**

(Methods training grant)

The Institute for Survey Research at the University of Michigan **2012**

(Methods training grant)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Weinberg College Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award (\$1000) **2017**

Weinberg College Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Nominee **2016**

University Fellowship, Northwestern University **AY 2011-2012, AY 2014-2015**

Conference Travel Grant, Northwestern University (\$500) **2014**

Outstanding Student Scholar, DePaul University, Political Science Department **2009**

DePaul Senior Grant (\$5000), DePaul University **2008**

Pi Sigma Alpha **2007**

Centennial Scholarship (\$10,000 per academic year), DePaul University **2005 – 2009**

TEACHING

Connecticut College, Department of Government and International Relations, New London, CT

Assistant Professor

Introduction to American Politics **Fall 2018 and Spring 2019**

The Politics of Voting Reforms **Spring 2019**

Campaigns, Parties, and Elections **Fall 2018**

Skidmore College, Political Science Department- Saratoga Springs, NY

Visiting Assistant Professor

Introduction to American Politics **Fall 2017**

The American Presidency **Fall 2017**

Congress and the Legislative Process **Spring 2018**

Campaigns and Elections in American Politics **Spring 2018**

Northwestern University, Political Science Department- Evanston, IL

Teaching Assistant

The American Presidency, Professor Daniel Galvin **Spring 2016**

Congress and the Legislative Process, Professor Laurel Harbridge **Spring 2013 and Winter 2015**

Urban Politics, Professor Reuel Rogers **Fall 2012 and Fall 2015**

African American Politics, Professor Reuel Rogers **Winter 2013**

Graduate Student Advisor for Undergraduate Honors Thesis Projects **AY 2013-2014**

Northwestern University, Searle Center for Advanced Learning & Teaching- Evanston, IL

Teaching Certificate Program **AY 2015-2016**

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Northwestern University, Institute for Policy Research, Evanston, IL

Research Assistant- Daniel Galvin

AY 2016-2017

Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy, Fordham University- New York, NY

Research Affiliate- Costas Panagopoulos

2015

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Discussant

American Political Science Association Annual Conference

2018

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference

2018, 2019

Reviewer

State Politics and Policy Quarterly

Political Behavior

New England Journal of Political Science

Northwestern University, Department of Political Science- Evanston, IL

Teaching Committee

AY 2015-2016

Graduate Student Organization Co-Chair

AY 2014-2015

American Politics Graduate Student Working Group Chair

AYS 2012-2014

MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association