

DANIEL J. SIMMONS

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Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Affiliated Faculty in the Mark Stephen Cosby Honors College

Eau Claire, WI

August 2023 - present

Saint Michael's College

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Affiliated Faculty in the Criminology & Gender Studies Programs

Colchester, VT

August 2020 - June 2023

University of California, Davis

Associate Instructor of Political Science

Davis, CA

January 2018 - June 2020

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis

Political Science, U.S. & Comparative Politics

Ph.D. & M.A.

Weber State University

Political Science, *summa cum laude*

University and Departmental Honors, English minor

B.S. & A.S.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political psychology, public opinion & policy, law & politics, state & local politics, rural politics, survey methods

PUBLICATIONS

10. "God in the Country: Religiosity and Political Behavior in Rural America." with Spencer Kiesel in *The Politics of Rural America: No Longer Fly Over Country*, eds. Karen M. Kedrowski and Leah Murray. In Print.
9. "The Impacts of LGBTQ Studies on Political Science." in *SAGE Handbook on LGBTQ Studies: Volume One: Foundations and Consolidations*, eds. Nael Bhanji, Momin Rahman, Markus Thiel, and Denise Tse-Shang Tang. In Print.
8. "Critical Cues: U.S. Public Sympathies for Israel and Palestine." with Evan Sandlin. 2026. *Politics, Groups, & Identities*. 1-25.
7. "Interest Group Influence on Preferences for New Voting Rights Legislation in a Polarized Environment." with Carlos Algara and Isaac Hale. 2025. *Representation*. 61(4): 721-732.

6. “Polarized Perceptions: How Time and Vaccination Status Modify Republican and Democratic COVID-19 Risk Perceptions.” with Evan Sandlin. 2023. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*. 34(4): 624-642.
5. “Incentivizing COVID-19 Vaccination in a Polarized and Partisan United States.” with Carlos Algora. 2023. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, & Law*. 48(5): 679-712.
 - “As Little As \$20 in Cash Might Persuade The Reluctant to Get Vaccinated, Our Research Shows.” with Carlos Algora. 2021. *Washington Post*: Monkey Cage blog.
4. “Assessing the Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccine Lotteries: A Cross-state Synthetic Control Methods Approach.” with Carlos Algora, Sam Fuller, and Sara Kazemian. 2022. *PLoS ONE*. 17(9): e0274374.
3. “Unworthy Victims and Threatening Adversaries: Islam, Muslims, and United States Foreign Policy.” with Evan Sandlin. 2022. *Social Science Quarterly*. 103(5): 1019-1031.
2. “Police Violence and Public Opinion after George Floyd: How the Black Lives Matter Movement and Endorsements Affect Support for Reforms.” with Cheryl Boudreau & Scott A. MacKenzie. 2022. *Political Research Quarterly*. 75(2): 497-511.
1. “Police Violence and Public Perceptions: An Experimental Study of How Information and Endorsements Affect Support for Law Enforcement.” with Cheryl Boudreau & Scott A. MacKenzie. 2019. *The Journal of Politics*. 81(3): 1101-1110.

WORKING PAPERS & ONGOING PROJECTS

Representing the Countryside: Rural Responsiveness in Wisconsin Policymaking. with Spencer Kiesel and Adam Scott Kunz.

“Pictures vs. Text in Conjoint Experiment Prompts.” with Spencer Kiesel and Adam Scott Kunz.

“The Effects of Shocks on Social Multiplex Networks: A Comparative Analysis of Experimental and Simulated Behavior in Small Networks.” with Keith Burghardt, Luba Levin-Banchik, & Zeev Maoz.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Outstanding Instructor	May 2026
<i>University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire - Mark Stephen Cosby Honors College</i>	
Faculty-Student Summer Research Grant	Summer 2026
<i>Menard Center for Constitutional Studies</i>	\$5,000 (\$2,300 faculty portion)
Representing the Countryside:	June 2025
Measuring Policymaking Responsiveness to Rural Identity	\$35,270
<i>Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership Research Grant</i>	
Co-PIs: Daniel J. Simmons & Adam Scott Kunz	
Faculty-Student Summer Research Grant	Summer 2025
<i>Menard Center for Constitutional Studies</i>	\$5,000 (\$2,300 faculty portion)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

August 2023 - present

- *American National Politics, Introduction to Political Analysis, State and Local Politics, Political Psychology, Identity & Discrimination in Politics, Washington D.C. Policy Seminar, U.S. Constitutional Principles: Due Process and Criminal Law, Political Science Internship, *Fall of the Fifth U.S. Republic, *Reflecting on 250 Years of the American Experiment.

*Denotes course offered in the Mark Stephen Cosby Honors College

Saint Michael's College

July 2020 - June 2023

- Introduction to U.S. Politics, Research Methods, Politics of Cities, U.S. Constitutional Law: Government Power, U.S. Constitutional Law: Rights & Liberties, Law & Social Change, Criminal Justice

University of California, Davis

January 2018 - June 2020

- American National Government, Urban Public Policy

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION & INVITED TALKS

“‘[This] will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in History!’: Election Integrity in 1876 and the Trump Era.” Presented at the **Menard Center for Constitutional Studies High School & Middle School Social Science Teachers Symposium**, July 2026.

“Success or Failure: Status Report on Legislative Power in the American Experiment.” Presented at the **Menard Center for Constitutional Studies High School & Middle School Social Science Teachers Symposium**, July 2025.

“The Rise and Fall (?) of the Fifth U.S. Republic.” Presented at the **Menard Center for Constitutional Studies High School & Middle School Social Science Teachers Symposium**, July 2024.

“Police Violence and Public Opinion after George Floyd: How the Black Lives Matter Movement and Endorsements Affect Support for Reforms.” with Cheryl Boudreau & Scott A. MacKenzie. Presented at the **University of California Center Sacramento**, October 2021.

“Policing and Politics: An Experimental Examination of the Political Effects of Officer-involved Shootings.” Presented at the **Experimental Political Science Workshop** in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Davis, October 2019.

“Police Violence and Public Perceptions: An Experimental Study of How Local Law Endorsements Affect Support for Black and White Candidates” with Cheryl Boudreau & Scott A. MacKenzie. Presented at the **Politics of Policing Virtual Conference**, sponsored by the Conflict Consortium’s Virtual Workshop series, January 2019.

“Police Violence and Public Perceptions: An Experimental Study of How Local Law Endorsements Affect Support for Black and White Candidates” with Cheryl Boudreau & Scott A. MacKenzie. Presented at the **Race & Law Enforcement Symposium at the University of Southern California**, October 2018.

“2014 Legislative Agenda Issues” Polling data presented on behalf of the Olene S. Walker Institute for Politics and Public Service at the **Utah Legislative Policy Summit**, January 2014.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2021-22, '19, '17
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2025-26, '20-22, '18
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2024, '19, '17

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Badger Boys State instructor of courses on political socialization and the political psychology of campaign advertising. June 2024-26.

“Crisis in Ukraine” panel presenter on how individuals can mobilize in defense of democracy and democratic norms and ideals. *Saint Michael's College*. March 2022.

“Mirror Justice: The Redemption Court and the Roberts Court.” Presentation for the *Saint Michael's College Alumni Association* faculty speaker series. January 2022.

[Interview on the impact of Senators Sanders and Leahy chairing the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committees](#) with Scooter MacMillan of *Shelburne News*. January 2021.

[Interview on the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the US Supreme Court and potential impact on 2020 elections and LGBTQ+ rights](#) with Sarah Knickerbocker of *The Defender*. November 2020.

“Democracy in Crisis” panel presenter on how individuals can mobilize in defense of democracy and democratic norms and ideals. *Saint Michael's College*. October 2020.

“Factors of Political Behavior, Expectation in our Political Climate, Objectives in the Polls” episode of *The Mike Exchange* podcast series with Patrick Walsh and Margaret Taylor. September 2020.

[Interview on the 2020 U.S. presidential debates](#) with Jolie Sherman of *Local 22 & 44 News* in Colchester, VT. September 2020.

[Interview on the 2020 U.S. presidential debates](#) with Liz Strzepa of *NBC5 News* in Colchester, VT. September 2020.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University/College/Department

Co-Director <i>UW Model Constitutional Convention Planning Committee</i>	August 2026 - present <i>Eau Claire, WI</i>
Political Science Internship Coordinator <i>Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice - UWEC</i>	August 2025 - present <i>Eau Claire, WI</i>
Steering Committee Member <i>Menard Center for Constitutional Studies - UWEC</i>	September 2023 - present <i>Eau Claire, WI</i>
Committee Member <i>Criminal Justice Assistant Professor Search Committee - UWEC</i>	July 2026 - present <i>Eau Claire, WI</i>

Committee Member <i>Political Science Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee - UWEC</i>	May 2026 - July 2026 <i>Eau Claire, WI</i>
Committee Member <i>Student Evaluation of Instruction Work Group - UWEC</i>	September 2025 - May 2026 <i>Eau Claire, WI</i>
Holistic Admission Reviewer <i>Honors Program - UWEC</i>	September 2023 - May 2025 <i>Eau Claire, WI</i>
Pre-Law Advisor <i>Saint Michael's College</i>	March 2021 - June 2023 <i>Colchester, VT</i>
Steering Committee Member <i>Criminology Program - Saint Michael's College</i>	September 2020 - June 2023 <i>Colchester, VT</i>
Steering Committee Member <i>Gender Studies Program - Saint Michael's College</i>	March 2022 - June 2023 <i>Colchester, VT</i>
Committee Member <i>Faculty Development Committee - Saint Michael's College</i>	July 2021 - June 2023 <i>Colchester, VT</i>
Dual Enrollment Coordinator <i>Department of Political Science - Saint Michael's College</i>	June 2021 - June 2023 <i>Colchester, VT</i>
Committee Member <i>History Department Faculty Search Committee - Saint Michael's College</i>	October 2022 - January 2023 <i>Colchester, VT</i>
Committee Member <i>Student & Peer Evaluation Committee - Saint Michael's College</i>	August 2021 - December 2022 <i>Colchester, VT</i>
Secretary <i>American Association of University Professors - Saint Michael's College</i>	September 2020 - January 2021 <i>Colchester, VT</i>

Discipline

Reviewer <i>American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, British Journal of Political Science, Time Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS)</i>	Recurring
Conference Panel Chair/Discussant <i>APSA, MPSA, WPSA</i>	Recurring

Student Research Advising^{*†‡§}

Jack Kasper* "Tracking and Analyzing Legislative Aims of Rural Representatives on Land Use and Outdoor Recreation."	Summer 2026 - UW Eau Claire
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*Menard Center for Constitutional Studies Summer Research Collaboration awardee

†Selected for presentation at UWEC's Annual Provost's Honors Symposium

‡Selected for presentation at National Conference on Undergraduate Research

§Selected for UWEC's Celebration of Research and Creative Activity Poster Presentation

Olivia Milano* Summer 2026 - UW Eau Claire
 “Rural Responsiveness: Wisconsin’s Interests in Agricultural and Transportation Policy.”

Jack Kasper, Olivia Milano, & Bella Wulterkens§ Spring 2026 - UW Eau Claire
 “Examining the Responsiveness of Elected Representatives in Rural Constituencies.”

Olivia Milano Spring 2026 - UW Eau Claire
 “Who’s My Voice?: An Analysis of Felony Disenfranchisement and Its Impact on Civil Rights.”

Bella Pearson Spring 2026 - UW Eau Claire
 “Legal Reasons Why Birthright Citizenship was Adopted.”

Adam Malone Fall 2025 - UW Eau Claire
 “Ideological Evolution or Strategic Adaptation? Explaining Polarization Among Long-Tenure Congressional Republican Legislators.”

Norah Selby Fall 2025 - UW Eau Claire
 “You Run Like a Girl: Analyzing the Factors Influencing Women to Run for Office in the U.S.”

Michael Hansen*†‡ Summer 2025 - UW Eau Claire
 “Examining the Presence of Presidential Immunity in the U.S. Constitution from Nixon to *Trump v. U.S.*”

Jaylyn Duda Spring 2025 - UW Eau Claire
 “Intersection: Characteristics of Cults and How They Relate to Nonreligious Groups”

Isaac Lindstrom Spring 2025 - UW Eau Claire
 “Money and Politics: An Examination of Campaign Contribution Impacts on Middle Class Economic Indicators During Presidential Elections Cycles 2012-2024.”

Sadie Matthews Spring 2025 - UW Eau Claire
 “Whistleblowers: Promoting Transparency or Harming It?”

Bruce Doughty Fall 2024 - UW Eau Claire
 “College Students’ Support for Policy vs. Party.”

Henry Doncavage Spring 2024 - UW Eau Claire
 “The Impact of Union Endorsement on Member Voting Behavior.”

Grayson Farago Spring 2024 - UW Eau Claire
 “Funding the Gap? Property Taxes and Racial Disparity in Wisconsin’s Public Schools.”

Brett Neumann† Fall 2023 - UW Eau Claire
 “The Implications of a Globalized World: An Analysis of Economic Perception on U.S. Public Opinion.”

Sarah Klatt Fall 2023 - UW Eau Claire
 “Students’ Right to Read and Think: The Battle between Public K-12 School Boards’ Use of Discretion and Students’ First Amendment Rights to Access and Receive Speech.”

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative	valid until:
Social-Behavioral-Educational Researchers	January 2027
Faculty Responsible Conduct of Research	January 2028

American Political Science Association

Section Member: Civic Engagement - Elections, Public Opinion, & Voting Behavior - Experimental Research - Political Psychology - Political Science Education - State Politics & Policy

Midwest Political Science Association**Western Political Science Association****Pi Sigma Alpha & Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies****SKILLS**

Languages: Bulgarian (limited proficiency), English (native language)

Programming: R, Stata, z-Tree, Qualtrics, L^AT_EX, Canvas