

## **B. FAIRBANKS**

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### **EDUCATION**

#### **Ph.D. in Political Science**

**Georgia State University**

Graduation Date: Spring 2020

Dissertation: *How Do Judges Save Time: State Courts and the Opinion Writing Process*

#### **M.A. in Political Science**

**Georgia State University**

Fall 2015

Masters-in-Passing Title: *"Partisan Cues and the Supreme Court: Public Perceptions and Motivated Reasoning"*

#### **B.A. in Political Science**

**Georgia State University**

Spring 2013

Advanced Honors from Honors College at Georgia State University

Concentration: Pre-Law

Graduated Magna Cum Laude

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Bolsen, T., Fairbanks, B., Aviles, E., Pritchett, R., Kingsland, J., LaPlant, K., Montgomery, M., & Rogol, N. (2018). Merging Undergraduate Teaching, Graduate Training, and Producing Research: Lessons from Three Collaborative Experiments. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 1-6.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Georgia State University – Atlanta, Georgia

#### **Center for the Advancement of Students and Alumni (CASA) Graduate Assistant**

January 2018-Current

Lead curriculum developer and instructor for undergraduate professional development. I work to promote undergraduate students towards JD, MD, and PhD pathways into programs across the nation. My specific responsibilities include leading several semester long workshop series initiatives including GRE Game Nights for test preparation, Pathways to the PhD: Preparing Applications, and Advancing Your Professional Image. My responsibilities also include individual student consultations, program assessments, and promotional and educational material development alongside other members of the CASA team.

#### **Zoukis Summer Institute & Research Collaborative Group Instructor**

**Summer 2016 – Summer 2018 – POLS 4190**

Group instructor for the Zoukis Summer Institute in the Summers of 2016-2018. I worked alongside fellow graduate student instructors to teach undergraduate students (7-10 per group) about applied policy research in areas of criminal and social justice reform. Prior to the beginning of the Institute, each pair of group leaders created mini-syllabi, course objectives, and individualized lesson plans for students. During the Institute, we worked with students to develop hypothesis, evaluate and specify regression models, review relevant literature, and

create and interpret results from survey data on attitudes towards solitary confinement and the use of mandatory minimums.

### **Writing Across the Curriculum Consultant**

#### **Fall 2017**

Writing Across the Curriculum consultant for a course of undergraduate students in Constitutional Law. My role was to provide one-on-one consultation, guidance and critical feedback to student writing in Pre-Law courses. The pedagogical goal of the WAC program is to encourage students and faculty to use writing as a tool to foster critical thinking, to engage actively in their academic discipline, and to become better professional writers and communicators. WAC training and support is provided by the Center for the Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Georgia State.

### **Graduate Teaching Instructor**

#### **Summer 2017 – POLS 4130: American Constitutional Law**

Instructor of record for Constitutional Law course with 45 students. This course is a writing intensive course for Pre-Law students. The course is designed to provide a broad overview of the development of law and the powers and constraints of the various branches of government in the United States. I utilize the Socratic method throughout the class to engage students in a simulated law school seminar including a mock trial element and submission of case briefs and hypothetical judicial decisions.

### **Graduate Teaching Instructor**

#### **Summer 2017 – POLS 4131: American Civil Liberties & Rights**

Instructor of record for Civil Liberties course with 25 students. This course is a writing intensive course for Pre-Law students. The course is designed to provide a broad overview of the development of law in areas related to civil liberties, criminal rights, and civil rights. I utilize the Socratic method throughout the class to engage students in a simulated law school seminar including a mock trial element and submission of case briefs and hypothetical judicial decisions.

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

#### **Fall 2016 – POLS 4900: Social Justice**

Teaching assistant for Senior Seminar course of undergraduate students POLS 4900: Social Justice. During this course, I prepared course materials, coordinated guest lecturers, and provided feedback to student assignments. Additionally, this course was designed to be research intensive. Alongside the instructor of record, I assisted the students to develop a survey experiment, generate hypotheses, and collect and analyze original data on attitude change on social justice issues.

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

#### **Spring 2016 – POLS 4130: American Constitutional Law**

Teaching assistant for Constitutional Law course of undergraduate students. During this period, I prepared and designed course materials and provided written feedback and evaluations to students on hypothetical case assignments and exams.

### **Graduate Teaching Instructor**

#### **2014-2018 – POLS 1001: Introduction to American Government**

Instructor of Record for 8 sections of POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government Class sizes ranged from 25 students to 200 students per class. Courses also included sections of Georgia State Freshman Learning

Communities and Success Academy students. The course was designed to engage students with daily lectures, digital media content, in-class participation activities, and an adaptive learning online textbook by Soomo Learning.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Center for the Advancement of Students and Alumni (CASA) Graduate Assistant**

**January 2018 – Current**

Lead qualitative research assistant for exploration of undergraduate experiences and further advancement into professional programs including JD, MD, and PhD programs. The project's goal is to survey the experiences of professional alumni and the tactics of faculty on campus to determine predictors of success in and through advanced degree programs. The ultimate goal is to enhance trajectories of students into JD, MD, and PhD programs. Specific duties related to the project sponsored by the Andrew Mellon Foundation include conducting interviews and faculty focus groups, developing coding schemes for transcripts within NVIVO, and managing undergraduate and graduate student coding.

### **Office of Graduate Programs College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Assistant**

**Spring 2017**

The goal of the project was to identify successful mentorship, funding, and progression strategies to improve the graduate student experience at Georgia State. The data was also to be able to identify and target at-risk and minority populations to better improve their success while in graduate school. I used quantitative and analytical skills to gather, coordinate, and analyze data for the Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs about retention, enrollment, advisement, and recruitment of graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences from 2003-2013. All work was completed while serving as a member of the Dean's Strategic Planning Sub-Committee on Graduate Studies.

### **Zoukis Research Collaborative Graduate Assistant**

**2014-2016**

Social Justice issues in Political Science event organization and planning, data collection, teaching and research development that coincided with the Summer Institute and Spring Semester Senior seminar course. In this role, I coordinated and promoted a Spring guest speaker workshop series on Social Justice including research on recidivism rates, Black Lives Matter, and the intersection of Hip-Hop and Social Justice. I also helped to coordinate the Zoukis Summer Research Institute including gathering data alongside undergraduate students, scheduling speakers, and planning the week-long intensive course into criminal justice reform.

### **Department of Political Science Graduate Research Assistant**

**2013-2018**

Data entry, coding, and editorial work on papers for various professors in the Department of Political Science

### **Georgia State University Honors College Undergraduate Research Assistant**

**2011-2013**

Data entry, coding, and research paper development for honors thesis and future graduate working paper on the relationship between readability and opinion citation rates with Dr. Michael P. Fix. This project was funded by the Honor's College's University Assistantship Program (UAP).

## **NATIONAL SERVICE ROLES**

Member of the APSA Status Committee on Graduate Students in the Profession 2016-2018

Student Blog Contributor to the Midwest Political Science Association 2016-2018

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE ROLES**

Graduate Student Representative of the GSU Student Center Advisory Board 2018-2020

Member of the University Tech Fee Allocation Committee 2019-2020

Office of the Associate Provost of Graduate Studies New Student Orientation Break-Out Session Leader 2018

Developing Professional Relationships with Faculty Information Session

Office of the Associate Provost of Graduate Students Campus Graduate Group Leader 2017-2018

Office of the Associate Provost of Graduate Studies New Student Orientation Break-Out Session Leader 2017

Living in Atlanta Information Session

Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Tech Fee Allocation Committee 2018-2019

Member of the Graduate Student COAS Strategic Planning Committee for 2017

Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee 2017-2018

Member of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee 2016-2017

### **DEPARTMENT SERVICE ROLES**

Political Science Graduate Student Association (GSA) President 2015-2017

Member of Best Paper Award Panel for the Zoukis Research Collaborative 2016

Pi Sigma Alpha Nu Phi Chapter Vice President of Graduate Services 2014-2017

### **WORKING PAPERS**

*"How Do Judges Save Time: State Courts and the Opinion Writing Process"*

Dissertation

Committee Co-Chairs: Michael P. Fix and Robert Howard

Member: Amy Steigerwalt

*"Partisan Cues and the Supreme Court: Public Perceptions and Motivated Reasoning"*

Master Non-Thesis

Committee Chair: Michael P. Fix

Members: Toby Bolsen, and Amy Steigerwalt

*"Locked in a Box: The Effect of Solitary Confinement on Public Perceptions of Criminal Justice Reform"*

Co-author with Toby Bolsen and Kristina LaPlant (Under Review)

*"Measuring Personality in Political Science: An inquiry into Survey Measurement in Political Science"*

Co-author with Elizabeth O'Callaghan and Liam Hayes

*"Does Obfuscation Breed Obscurity? The Relationship between Readability and Citation Rates"*

Co-author with Michael P. Fix (Under Review)

*"Judicial Independence in a Comparative Context: Institutional Necessity or Democratic Precursor"*

Co-author with Adnan Rasool

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Southern Political Science Association**

January 2018 – New Orleans, Louisiana

*“The Power of Speech: How Does Rhetoric Shape Institutional Actors?”***Georgia Political Science Association**

November 2017 – Savannah, Georgia

*“Locked in a Box: The Effect of Solitary Confinement on Public Perceptions of Criminal Justice Reform”***American Political Science Association**

September 2017 – San Francisco, California

*“Measuring Personality in Political Science: An Inquiry into Survey Measurement in Political Science”***Midwest Political Science Association**

April 2017 – Chicago, Illinois

*“Measuring Personality in Political Science: An Inquiry into Survey Measurement in Political Science”***Georgia State University Graduate Student Association Conference**

March 2017 – Atlanta, Georgia

*“Measuring Personality in Political Science: An Inquiry into Survey Measurement in Political Science”***Southern Political Science Association**

January 2017 – New Orleans, Louisiana

*“Judicial Independence: Institutional Necessity or Democratic Precursor?”***Midwest Political Science Association**

April 2016 – Chicago, Illinois

*“Does Obfuscation Breed Obscurity? The Relationship between Readability and Citation Rates”**“Partisan Cues and the Supreme Court: Public Perceptions and Motivated Reasoning”**“Judicial Independence: Institutional Necessity or Democratic Precursor?”***Georgia State University Graduate Student Association Conference**

March 2016 – Atlanta, Georgia

*“Does Obfuscation Breed Obscurity? The Relationship between Readability and Citation Rates”***Midwest Political Science Association**

March 2014 – Chicago, Illinois

*“Does Obfuscation Breed Obscurity? The Relationship between Readability and Citation Rates”***Georgia State University Graduate Student Association Conference**

March 2014 – Atlanta, Georgia

*“Does Obfuscation Breed Obscurity? The Relationship between Readability and Citation Rates”***NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association (APSA)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA)

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Fraternity

Graduate Student Alliance of Georgia State University (GSA)  
Department of Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)

## **REFERENCES**

Michael P. Fix, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
Georgia State University  
[mfix@gsu.edu](mailto:mfix@gsu.edu)

Robert M. Howard, JD, Ph.D.  
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Lisa P. Armistead, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Graduate Studies  
Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychology  
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