

# Michael Auslen

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## Appointments

*University of Texas at Austin*

Assistant Professor, Department of Government, 2025–

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Government, 2024–2025

## Education

*Columbia University*

Ph.D., Political Science, 2024

*Dissertation: “Essays on Media and Public Opinion in State and Local Politics”*

— *Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize, APSA State Politics and Policy Section*

*Committee: Justin Phillips (chair), Shigeo Hirano, Robert Shapiro, Eunji Kim, and Patricia Kirkland*

*Fields: American Politics, Quantitative Methods*

M.Phil., Political Science, 2022    M.A., Political Science, 2020

*Harvard University*

M.P.P., John F. Kennedy School of Government, 2019

*Indiana University*

B.A. with Highest Distinction, Journalism (with honors) and Political Science, 2014

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

3. Gamm, Gerald, Justin H. Phillips, Matthew Carr, and Michael Auslen. 2024. “[The Culture War and Partisan Polarization: State Political Parties, 1960–2018.](#)” *Studies in American Political Development* 38(2):117-37.

— Featured in [The New York Times](#).

2. Auslen, Michael. 2024. “[Improving Subnational Opinion Estimation from Cluster-Sampled Polls.](#)” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 24(4): 447-67.

— 2022 Best Graduate Student Poster, State Politics and Policy Conference.

1. Auslen, Michael, and Justin H. Phillips. 2024. “[Divided by Income? Policy Preferences of the Rich and Poor Within the Democratic and Republican Parties.](#)” *Political Behavior* 46:2473-95.

## Working Papers

Auslen, Michael. “[Local News and Policy Responsiveness in the States.](#)”

Auslen, Michael. “[Public Goods and the Press: Policy Effects of Disparities in Local Political News.](#)”

Goplerud, Max, and Michael Auslen. “[Multivariate MRP.](#)”

Auslen, Michael, Shigeo Hirano, and James M. Snyder, Jr. “[Newspapers, News Deserts and Political Behavior in Local Elections.](#)”

Auslen, Michael. "Issue Opinions in the States."

Auslen, Michael, Gerald Gamm, and Justin H. Phillips. "Mass Origins of Party Position-Taking."

## Other Writing

### *Book Review*

1. Auslen, Michael. 2025+. "Book review: [The House that Fox News Built? Representation, Political Accountability, and the Rise of Partisan News.](#)" *Party Politics*.

### *Policy Report*

1. Auslen, Michael. 2019. "Mail Voting and Minority Turnout: Evidence from Ohio." National Vote at Home Institute.

## Research Grants

- 2023 Dissertation Development Grant, Columbia University Department of Political Science (\$3,000)
- 2022 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, American Political Science Association (\$13,970)
- 2018 Policy Analysis Exercise Grant, Harvard Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Policy (\$400)

## Fellowships & Awards

- 2025 Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize, APSA State Politics and Policy Section
- 2024, 2023, 2022 Tom Carsey Scholar, State Politics and Policy Conference
- 2023 NSF Conference Travel Funding, Society for Political Methodology
- 2022 Best Graduate Student Poster, State Politics and Policy Conference
- 2019 Distinction Policy Analysis Exercise [master's thesis], Harvard Kennedy School
- 2017–2019 William A. Starr Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School (full scholarship)
- 2014 Elvis J. Stahr Distinguished Senior Award, Indiana University
- 2014 David L. Adams Award, Indiana University Student Media
- 2013 Robert D.G. Lewis First Amendment Award, Society of Professional Journalists
- 2013 Wendell L. Willkie Scholarship, Indiana University Department of Political Science
- 2010–2014 Ernie Pyle Scholar, Indiana University School of Journalism
- 2010–2014 Herman B Wells Scholar, Indiana University (full scholarship)

## Teaching

### *University of Texas at Austin*

- Media and American Democracy [U] (Fall 2025, Spring 2025)
- Honors Thesis Writing Seminar I & II [U] (Spring 2026, Fall 2025)

### *Columbia University*

- The American Congress [U; TA for Gregory Wawro] (Spring 2024, Fall 2020)
- Research Design: Data Analysis [U; TA for Shigeo Hirano] (Fall 2022)
- State Politics [U; TA for Justin Phillips] (Spring 2022, Spring 2021)
- Introduction to American Politics [U; TA for Oliver McClellan] (Fall 2021)

*Harvard Kennedy School*

Political Institutions and Public Policy [U; CA for Matthew Baum] (Spring 2019)

Markets and Market Failure [U; CA for Pinar Dogan] (Fall 2018)

MPP Math Review [U; CA for Ellen Whitesides] (Summer 2018)

## **Presentations**

*Invited Talks*

2025 University of Texas at Austin, American Politics Speaker Series

2023 University of Pittsburgh, Center for American Politics and Society

*Conferences and Workshops*

2026 TexMeth; MPSA; State Politics and Policy; American Political Institutions in a Changing Media Environment (Stanford)

2025 Texas American Political Behavior Conference; EPSA; State Politics and Policy; Texas Junior Methods Workshop; MPSA

2024 APSA; State Politics and Policy; MPSA

2023 APSA; Local Political Economy Pre-Conference; PolMeth; State Politics and Policy; MPSA

2022 State Politics and Policy

2021 APSA; MPSA

## **Service**

*Discipline*

2026 Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize committee, APSA State Politics and Policy Section

*University of Texas at Austin*

2025–present Department of Government Honors Program Director

2025 Grant Reviewer, Office of the Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors

2025 Archer Fellowship Program Selection Committee

*Columbia University*

2022–2023 Co-Graduate Student Coordinator, Columbia American Politics Speaker Series

2020–2022 Co-Organizer, Columbia American Politics Graduate Student Workshop

*Reviewer*

Journals: *Political Behavior*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *State and Local Government Review*.

Book Publishers: Palgrave Macmillan.

## **Advising**

*Dissertation Committees*

Daniel Little (PhD in progress, UT-Austin)

Jenna Salzman (PhD in progress, UT-Austin)

## **Non-Academic Employment**

*Tampa Bay Times/Miami Herald*

Staff Writer—State Capitol Bureau Reporter, 2015–2017

*The Indianapolis Star*

Pulliam Journalism Fellowship—Politics & Education Reporter, 2014

## **Skills**

Technical: R, Python, Stan, Stata, SQL.      Language: Spanish (intermediate).

Last updated March 2026