

Matthew J. Geras

University of Illinois Springfield

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Academic Positions

- Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Illinois Springfield, August 2020 - present
 - OPEL Faculty Fellow, August 2023 - present

Education

- Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, Political Science, July 2020
 - Graduate Fellow, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center
 - Dissertation: The Role of State Political Parties in Congressional Elections
- M.A., University of Oklahoma, Political Science, December 2017
- B.S., Florida Southern College, Political Science, December 2014

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Geras, Matthew J. 2023. “[Do Party Rules Matter?: An Examination of State Party Bylaws and Congressional Nominations.](#)” *American Politics Research* 51(4): 525-542.
- McLaughlin, Peter T., Matthew J. Geras, and Sarina, Rhinehart. 2022. “[Supporting Veterans: Source Cues, Issue Ownership, and the Electoral Benefits of Candidate Veteran Status.](#)” *Political Behavior OnlineFirst*.
- Rhinehart, Sarina, Matthew J. Geras, and Jessica M. Hayden. 2022. “[Appointees Versus Elected Officials: The Implications of Institutional Design on Gender Representation in Political Leadership.](#)” *Journal of Women, Politics, & Policy* 43 (2): 152-168.
- Geras, Matthew J. 2021. “[Women Running the Party and Women Running for Congress: An Examination of State Party Diversity and Candidate Emergence in the 2018 Midterm Elections.](#)” *Party Politics* 27(5): 942-952.
- Rhinehart, Sarina, and Matthew J. Geras. 2020. “[Diversity and Power: Selection Method and its Impacts on State Executive Descriptive Representation.](#)” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 20(2): 213-233.
 - See our blog post on this article: [LSE USAPP](#).
- Geras, Matthew J., and Michael H. Crespin. 2019. “[Gaining Access and Constituent Correspondence in the U.S. House of Representatives.](#)” *Congress and The Presidency* 46(2): 253-279.
 - See our blog post on this article: [LegBranch.com Blog](#).
- Geras, Matthew J. 2018. “[The Implications of Apportionment on Quality Candidate Emergence and Electoral Competition.](#)” *Political Research Quarterly* 71(2): 467-481.

- Hayden, Jessica M., Matthew J. Geras, Michael H. Crespin, and Nathan Gerth. 2017. “Land, Wood, Water, & SPACE: Senator Robert S. Kerr, Congress, and Selling the Space Race to the American Public.” *Social Science Quarterly* 98(4): 1189-1203.

Book Chapters

- Geras, Matthew J. and Michael H. Crespin. 2018. “The Effect of Open and Closed Primaries on Voter Turnout.” In *Routledge Handbook of Primary Elections*, ed. Robert G. Boatright. Routledge.
- Anderson, R. Bruce and Zachary Baumann with Matthew J. Geras. 2017. “Florida: The South, Border State, or Wild Frontier?” In *New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics, 6th edition*. ed. Charles S. Bullock III and Mark J. Rozell. Rowman & Littlefield.

Other Publications

- Geras, Matthew, Steven Hanlon, Colleen McGee, and John Thomson. 2022. “2022 U.S. Senate Elections.” *The Capital Connection*
- Geras, Matthew. 2022. “The 2022 Midterm Elections and Illinois 13.” *The Capital Connection*
- Geras, Matthew J. 2022. “Representing the Disadvantaged: Group Interests and Legislator Reputation in US Congress. By Katrina F. McNally.” Cambridge University Press, 2021. 266 pp. *The Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 1-3.
- Geras, Matthew. 2022. “CPAA Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Matthew Geras, SPIA.” *The Capital Connection*
- Geras, Matthew. 2021. “Why Presidents Use Executive Action to Pursue their Policy Goals.” *The Capitol Connection*.
- Geras, Matthew. 2020. “Election Day 2020: More than a Presidential Election.” *The Capitol Connection*.
- Smith, Robert. 2020. “Robert W. Smith: Your Vote Makes a Difference.” The State Journal-Register. (February 13, 2021). (Contributed to this article with Robert Smith, Sean McCandless, Jason Piscia, and Magic Wade).

Selected Working Papers

- “Are the Parties Still Professional? Evidence from State Party Delegates” with Mark Brockway (Under Review)
- “Family Guy: An Analysis of Family Dynamics and Congressional Voting Behavior” with H. Benjamin Ashton, III, Sarina Rhinehart, and Charles J. Finocchiaro (*Invited to Revise & Resubmit*)
- “From Legislator to Party Leader: How Common is Elected Political Experience Among the Leaders of State Political Parties”

Recent Conference Presentations

- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois & Remote, 2023
 - “From Legislator to Party Leader: How Common is Elected Political Experience Among the Leaders of State Political Parties?”

- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois & Remote, 2022
 - “Are the Parties Still Professional? Evidence from State Party Delegates” with Mark Brockway
- Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Online, 2021
 - “Supporting Veterans: Source Cues, Issue Ownership, and the Electoral Benefits of Candidate Veteran Status” with Peter McLaughlin and Sarina Rhinehart
- Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2020
 - “Do Party Rules Matter?: An Examination of State Party Bylaws and Congressional Nominations”
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2019
 - “Engaging the Next Generation: An Exploration of State Party Membership and Youth Participation”
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, 2018
 - “Family Guy: An Analysis of Family Dynamics and Congressional Voting Behavior” with H. Benjamin Ashton, III, Sarina Rhinehart, and Charles J. Finocchiaro
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 2018
 - “Appointees Versus Elected Officials: The Implications of Institutional Design on Gender Representation in Political Leadership” (Previous Title: “Appointees Versus Elected Officials: The Significance of Method Selection on the Diversity of State Executive Leadership”) with Sarina Rhinehart and Jessica M. Hayden
 - “Electoral Rules and Gender Representation in the U.S. Congress” with Sarina Rhinehart and Jessica M. Hayden
- State Politics and Policy Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, 2017
 - “Appointees Versus Elected Officials: The Implications of Institutional Design on Gender Representation in Political Leadership” (Previous Title: “Appointees Versus Elected Officials: The Significance of Method Selection on the Diversity of State Executive Leadership”) with Sarina Rhinehart and Jessica M. Hayden
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 2017
 - “The Implications of Apportionment on Quality Candidate Emergence and Electoral Competition.”
- Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Lakeland, Florida, 2016
 - “The Implications of Apportionment on Quality Candidate Emergence and Electoral Competition.”
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2016
 - “Gaining Access and Constituent Correspondence in the U.S. House of Representatives.” with Mike Crespín

Teaching Experience

University of Illinois Springfield

- PSC 402: (BA, MA) Legislative Politics (Traditional & Online)
- PSC 406: (BA, MA) The American Presidency (Traditional & Online)
- PSC 407: (BA, MA) Campaigns and Elections (Traditional & Online)
- PSC 409: (BA, MA) Political Parties and Interest Groups (Traditional & Online)
- PSC 451: (BA, MA) Empirical Political Analysis (Online)
- PSC 502: (MA) Methods of Inquiry (Online)
- PSC 511: (MA) Seminar in American Politics (Online)
- PSC 517: (MA) Seminar on Congress (Online)

University of Oklahoma

- PSC 1113: American Federal Government
- PSC 3143: U.S. Congress

M.A. Closure Supervision at UIS

Theses

- Committee Member, Evin Tucker, The "Green" Party: Income and Partisan Voting Patterns in the United States (Summer 2023)
- Committee Member, Blair Egan, A Change in Public Opinion and a Changing Party Orthodoxy: The Republican Party and Authoritarianism (Fall 2022)
- Chair, Erica Hougen, The Effects of Super PAC Spending: An Analysis of US House Elections (Fall 2021)
- Chair, Joseph Solis-Mullen, The Failed Brumaire: A Comparative Study in Authoritarian Populism (Spring 2021)

Comprehensive Exam

- Chair, Krista Zottola, Internet Voting (Summer 2023)
- Committee Member, Austin Green, Women and Foreign Policy (Spring 2023)
- Committee Member, Peter Rykowski, Local Preemption of State Policy (Spring 2023)
- Chair, Alex McInturff, Public Opinion of the Death Penalty (Spring 2023)
- Chair, Hannah Mitchell, The Under-representation of Women in American Politics (Spring 2023)
- Chair, Jason Cunningham, Polarization in American Politics and Abroad (Spring 2023)
- Chair, Jacob Friedman, Asymmetric Polarization in American Politics (Spring 2023)
- Chair, Emily Knutson, Causes and Consequences of Political Polarization (Fall 2022)

- Chair, Steve Hanlon, Electoral College and Systems of Voting (Fall 2022)
- Committee Member, Amy Aldy, Causes and Consequences of Political Polarization (Fall 2022)
- Committee Member, Otis Hallbright, Democratization in Comparative Politics (Fall 2022)
- Committee Member, Andrew Castillo, Role of Money in U.S. Politics (Fall 2022)
- Committee Member, Megan Thompson, Court Curbing and U.S. Judicial Politics (Fall 2022)
- Chair, Caitlin Anderson, Electoral Reforms and their Effects (Fall 2021)
- Chair, Amy Palo, The Influence of Misinformation on US Elections (Fall 2021)
- Committee Member, Jacob Brown, Disputed Elections, Democracy, and Voting (Fall 2021)
- Committee Member, Deja Lockett, Public Schools, Performance, and Equity (Summer 2021)
- Committee Member, Elizabeth Blickhan, Representation of Women (Spring 2021)
- Committee Member, Michelle Shaver, Higher Education and Public Policy (Spring 2021)

Projects in Practical Politics

- Committee Member, Eiman Hamad, Course Design: Intro to American Government (Spring 2022)
- Chair, David McLaughlin, Course Design: Political Campaign Methods (Summer 2021)

Media, Invited Talks, and Guest Lectures

- Panelist, The Election is Over. Now What?, UIS, November 2022
- Guest, The Progressive American Podcast (with UIS student), invited to discuss 2022 Midterm Elections, September 2022
- Panelist, [“Reflections on the Inauguration: Student, Faculty, and Alumni Panel”](#), Recorded for Illinois NPR, January 2021
- Panelist, What Does It All Mean? Post-Election Panel, Women’s Center and American Association of University Women, November 2020
- Panelist, Election 101: What Do You Need to Know, UIS, November 2020
- Guest, Kudzu Vine Radio, invited to discuss Oklahoma politics, August 2020
- Guest Speaker, PSC 501: Introduction to the Graduate Study of Politics at University of Illinois Springfield, August 2020, August 2021, October 2022

Awards and Grants

- University of Illinois Springfield, Extra Meritorious, 2021
- University of Oklahoma, John W. Wood Award, 2020
- SPSA, Prestage-Cook Travel Award, 2020
- University of Oklahoma, Nancy L. Mergler Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2019

- University of Oklahoma, Robberson Travel Grant, 2019
- APSA Travel Grant, 2018, 2019
- University of Oklahoma, John Halvor Leek Memorial Scholarship, 2016, 2018, 2019
- University of Oklahoma, Graduate Senate Travel Grant, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
- Thomas M. Carsey State Politics and Policy Research Grant, 2017
- University of Oklahoma, Richard C. Kearney Endowed Fellowship, 2017
- University of Oklahoma, V. Stanley Vardys Award, 2017
- University of Oklahoma, College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant, Spring 2017
- University of Oklahoma, Provost's Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Service to the Profession

- Member, Editorial Board *Public Integrity*, September 2021-current
- Manuscript Reviewer:
 - American Politics Research; Election Law Journal; Journal of Women, Politics & Policy; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Political Behavior; Political Research Quarterly; Politics & Gender; Public Integrity
- Panel Chair:
 - APSA 2019
- MPSA Mentoring Reception 2023

Service to the University of Illinois Springfield

- Member, Sustainability Committee, Fall 2023-current
- Member, Academic Technology Committee, Fall 2022-current
- Member, School of Politics and International Affairs Personnel Committee, Fall 2020-current
- Member, School of Public Management and Policy, PA Search Committee, Spring 2023
- Member, Academic Integrity Council, Fall 2021-Summer 2023
- Member, College of Public Affairs and Administration Curriculum/Executive Committee, Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- Member, School of Politics and International Affairs, PDDFD Search Committee, Spring 2022
- Member, School of Public Management and Policy, HMS Search Committee, Spring 2022
- Member, 2022 Merit Scholarship Committee, Spring 2022
- Member, School of Politics and International Affairs Search Committee. Fall 2021
- Member, School of Politics and International Affairs Search Committee, Spring/Summer 2021

- Judge, Student Technology, Arts, and Research Symposium, Spring 2021

Seminars, Special Training, and Professional Experience

- Election exit pollster, University of Oklahoma Community Engagement Experiments Lab, 2016, 2018
- ICPSR, University of Michigan, 2016
- Congressional Intern, Office of Representative Illeana Ros-Lehtinen, Fall 2012