

Kerri Milita

Associate Professor, Department of Politics & Government
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Academic Employment

Associate Professor, Illinois State University (August 2020-current)

Assistant Professor, Illinois State University (August 2014-May 2020)

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Florida State University, May 2014

M.A., Political Analysis & Policy, University of Central Florida, May 2009

B.A., Political Science, University of Central Florida, December 2006

Journal Articles

Krupnikov, Yanna, Kerri Milita, John Barry Ryan, Victoria Smith and Hillary Style. *Forthcoming*. "Disseminating Research: Speaker Patterns in Political Science Departments." *International Studies Perspectives*.

Simas, Elizabeth, Kerri Milita, & John Barry Ryan. 2021. "Ambiguous Rhetoric & Legislative Accountability." *The Journal of Politics* 83 (4): 1695-705.

Milita, Kerri, Jaclyn Bunch, & Sara Yeganeh. 2020. "It Could Happen to You: How Risk Exposure Shapes Policy Attitudes." *The Journal of Public Policy* 40 (4): 535-52.

Soroka, Stuart, Yanna Krupnikov, Kerri Milita, John Barry Ryan, & Patrick Kraft. 2020. "Social Media and the Changing Information Environment: Sentiment Differences in Read Versus Re-Circulated News Content." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84 (1): 195-215.

Krupnikov, Yanna, Kerri Milita, Elizabeth Connors, & John Barry Ryan. 2020. "How Gender Affects the Efficacy of Discussion as an Information Shortcut." *Political Science Research & Methods* 8 (2): 268-84.

Milita, Kerri, & John Barry Ryan. 2019. "Battleground States & Local Coverage of American Presidential Campaigns." *Political Research Quarterly* 72 (1): 104-16.

Piston, Spencer, Yanna Krupnikov, John Barry Ryan, & Kerri Milita. 2018. "Clear as Black & White: the Effects of Ambiguous Rhetoric Depend on Candidate Race." *The Journal of Politics* 80 (2): 662-74.

Bunch, Jaclyn, Scott Liebertz, & Kerri Milita. 2018. "Outcomes & Outputs: Long-term Effects of TANF on Poverty & Caseload Enrollment." *Public Policy & Administration* 33 (3): 290-310.

Milita, Kerri, Elizabeth Simas, John Barry Ryan, & Yanna Krupnikov. 2017. "Rhetorical Strategies in Congressional Elections." *Electoral Studies* 46 (April): 48-63.

Milita, Kerri, & Jaclyn Bunch. 2017. "Helicopter Parenting & the Policy Attitudes of College Students." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50 (2): 359-66.

Milita, Kerri. 2017. "Beyond Roll-Off: Individual Level Abstention on Ballot Measure Voting." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, & Parties* 27 (4): 448-65.

Milita, Kerri. 2015. "Election Laws & Agenda Setting: How Election Law Restrictiveness Shapes the Complexity of State Ballot Measures." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 15 (2): 119-46.

Milita, Kerri, John Barry Ryan, & Elizabeth N. Simas. 2014 "Nowhere to Run, Nothing to Hide, or Nothing to Lose? Candidate Position-Taking in U.S. House Elections." *Political Behavior* 36 (2): 427-49.

Schraufnagel, Scot, & Kerri Milita. 2010. "Testing the Effects of Ballot Access Reform on Non-Major Party Electoral Fortunes: the Case of Florida's Revision 11." *American Review of Politics* 31 (1): 25-39.

Schraufnagel, Scot, & Kerri Milita. 2010. "The Partisan Duopoly in US House Elections: an Analysis of Minor Party Failure, 1976-2006." *Representation* 46 (2): 249-61.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Milita, Kerri, & Jaclyn Bunch. 2017. "Legislative Scandals in the United States." In *Corruption, Accountability, & Discretion*, eds. Nancy Lind & Cara Rabe-Hemp. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing.

Other Publications

Milita, Kerri. 2022 "Review of *Representing the Disadvantaged: Group Interests and Legislator Reputation in Congress* by Katrina McNally and *Congressional Challengers: Candidate Quality in U.S. Elections to Congress* by Costas Panagopoulos." *Perspectives on Politics* 20 (3).

Milita, Kerri. 2018. "Review of *The Resilient Voter: Stressful Polling Places & Voting Behavior*." *Public Opinion Quarterly* (October).

Milita, Kerri. 2015. "Restrictive ballot access laws reduce the technical complexity of initiatives & make them more likely to pass." USAPP. London School of Economics. Available at: <http://bit.ly/1ILtF7T>

Working Papers

Milita, Kerri, & Jaclyn Bunch. "Helicopter Parenting & the Decline of Political Ambition: Anxiety, Trust, & External Locus of Control." *Preparing for submission*.

Milita, Kerri. "Restricting the Initiative: the Role of State Legislative Threat Perception." *Preparing for submission*.

Milita, Kerri, Elizabeth Simas, & Alecia Nepaul. "(Not So) Great Expectations: Why Women Candidates Benefit from Ambiguity" *Data analysis*.

Milita, Kerri. "Does Direct Democracy Hinder Descriptive Representation in U.S. Congressional Elections?" *Data analysis*.

Milita, Kerri. "When Legislatures Pass the Buck: Explaining the Frequency and Type of Legislative-Referred Amendments." *Data analysis*.

Grants & Awards

American Political Science Association. Special Projects Grant. February 2020. Project: Evaluating the Impact of Women Also Know Stuff. Status: *Funded*.

- Amount: \$25,000

Democracy Fund. August 2019. Project: Inequities in Political Science. Status: *Funded*.

- Amount: \$50,000

Research Initiative Award. Illinois State University. April 2019. [Note: University-wide award given to junior faculty with promising research agendas.]

National Science Foundation (NSF). Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research. July 2018. Project: Exploring the Effects of “Women Also Know Stuff”. Status: *Funded*.

- Amount: \$269,602

Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS), National Science Foundation. November 2017. Project: Candidate Rhetoric & Legislative Accountability. Status: *Funded*.

- Amount: \$15,000

Pre-Tenure Faculty Initiative Grant. Illinois State University. September 2018. Status: *Funded*.

- Amount: \$3,500

Hibbert R. Roberts Teaching Excellence Award. Illinois State University. April 2018. [Note: Requires four years in-house teaching for initial eligibility.]

Faculty Start-up Grant. August 2016. Illinois State University. Status: *Funded*.

- Amount: \$1,000

New Faculty Initiative Grant. June 2015. Illinois State University. Status: *Funded*.

- Amount: \$3,500

Invited Talks

“Minding the Gap(s): Inequalities in Political Science.” University of Chicago. Department of Political Science. February 2019.

“Direct Democracy in the US.” Stony Brook University. Department of Political Science. Graduate class on Elections. November 2018.

“Web-scraping & Text Analysis: a Very Gentle Introduction.” Graduate Seminar: Advanced Quantitative Methods. Illinois State University. Department of Politics & Government. Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016.

“Media & the Modern Candidate.” *Super Tuesdays*. Illinois State University. College of Arts & Science. October 2016.

“When You Say Nothing at All: How Candidates Win Elections by Shunning Issues.” *Main Street College*. Illinois State University. College of Arts & Sciences (Sponsored by Dean Greg Simpson). September 2016.

Conference Presentations

“The Differential Benefits of Ambiguity: How Rhetoric on Gendered Issues Affects Public Evaluation of Candidates.” Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 2023.

“Do Women Candidates Benefit from Ambiguous Position-Taking?” Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 2022. (with Elizabeth Simas and Alecia Nepal).

“(Not So) Great Expectations: Why Women Candidates Benefit from Ambiguity.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2021. (with Elizabeth Simas and Alecia Nepal).

- “Candidate Gender and Rhetorical Ambiguity.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2020. (with Elizabeth Simas and Alecia Nepal).
- “Individual and Election-level Influences on Protest Voting.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2020. (with Rhiannon Stringer)
- “Amplifying Underrepresented Voices in Political Science.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Research Roundtable. Chicago, IL. April 2019.
- “Initiatives Without Engagement.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Research Roundtable. Chicago, IL. April 2019.
- “How Risk Orientation Shapes Support for Graduate Student Unionization.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2019. (with Wei Hua)
- “Political Ambition in College Students.” *Southern Political Science Association*. Austin, TX. January 2019. (with Jaclyn Bunch)
- “Candidate Rhetoric & Legislative Accountability.” *American Political Science Association*. Boston, MA. September 2018. (with Elizabeth Simas & John Barry Ryan).
- “It Could Happen to You: Risk Orientation & Attitudes Toward Welfare Spending.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2018.
- “Helicopter Parenting & the Decline of Political Ambition: Anxiety, Trust, & External Locus of Control” *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. January 2018. (with Jaclyn Bunch)
- “Helicopter Parenting and Political Ambition.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2017.
- “Helicopter Parenting and Nascent Political Ambition.” *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. January 2017. (with Jaclyn Bunch)
- “Sorry/Not Sorry: How Voters Respond to Questionable Candidate Statements.” *Midwestern Psychological Association*. Chicago, IL. May 2016.
- “Gender Differences in the Quality of Political Discussion.” *Behavioral Models of Politics Conference*. Pittsburg, PA. May 2016. (with Yanna Krupnikov and John Barry Ryan).
- “Children of the ‘Copter: How Helicopter Parenting Shapes the Policy Attitudes of College Students.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2016. (with Jaclyn Bunch)
- “The Modern Gatekeepers in Mass Media.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2016. (with John Barry Ryan, Yanna Krupnikov, and Patrick Kraft)
- “Too Close for [Dis]Comfort? An Experimental Study of Perceived Institutional Legitimacy.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2016. (with Meghan Leonard and Carl Palmer)
- “The Effects of Ambiguous Candidates and Social Networks on Casting Correct Votes.” *International Society of Political Psychology*. San Diego, CA. July 2015. (with Yanna Krupnikov and John Barry Ryan)
- “Gender Differences in the Quality of Political Discussion.” *Political Networks*. Portland, OR. June 2015. (with Yanna Krupnikov and John Barry Ryan)

“Children of the ‘copter: How Helicopter Parenting Shapes College Students’ Policy Attitudes.” *Midwestern Psychological Association*. Chicago, IL. May 2015.

“The Determinants of Election Law Restrictiveness.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Proposed. Chicago, IL. April 2015.

“It Could Happen to You: How Risk Exposure Shapes Policy Attitudes.” *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. January 2015. (with Jaclyn Bunch)

“News Coverage of Campaign Issue Positions: Causes & Consequences.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2014. (with John Barry Ryan)

“Restricting Initiative: the Role of Legislative Threat Perception.” *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. January 2014.

“Predicting Media Coverage of Campaigns.” *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. January 2014. (with John Barry Ryan)

“Voter Perceptions of Candidate Ambiguity.” *American Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. September 2013. (with John Barry Ryan & Yanna Krupnikov)

“Candidate Position-Taking & Electoral Performance.” *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2012. (with John Barry Ryan & Beth Simas)

“Nowhere to Run, Nothing to Hide, or Nothing to Lose? Candidate Position-Taking in U.S. House Elections.” *American Political Science Association*. Seattle, WA. September 2011. (with John Barry Ryan & Beth Simas)

“Electoral Barriers & Participatory Bias in Direct Legislation.” *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. January 2011.

“Taking the Initiative: Exploring the Influence of Citizen Legislating on Substantive & Procedural Governance in the American States.” *Florida Political Science Association*. Orlando, FL. April 2009.

“The Partisan Duopoly in U.S. House Elections: An Analysis of Minor Party Failure, 1976-2006.” *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. January 2009.

Service to the Profession

WomenAlsoKnowStuff Executive Committee Member (June 2017-present)

Webmaster/Website lead: manage website/database.

Referee: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Communication*, *Publius: the Journal of Federalism*, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Political Studies*, *Research & Politics*, *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion*, & *Parties*, *Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences*

APSA Best Paper Award Committee, State Politics & Policy Section (2016)

MPSA Graduate Student Travel Award Committee (2016)

Section Head: MPSA, Section 46, State Politics & Intergovernmental Relations (2022; 2021; 2015)

Service to the Department/University

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Department Engagement (Fall 2022-current)

Chair Five-Year Review Evaluation Committee (Spring 2022)

Brownbag Coordinator. Illinois State University. (Fall 2019- Spring 2022)

Coordinate research presentations in the Department of Politics & Gov't.

Stevenson Center Research Committee (Spring 2019-current)

Committee to develop opportunities for student research and student-faculty collaborations at Illinois State University.

Civic Engagement Minor Committee (Fall 2021-current)

Reviewed course proposals for inclusion into Civic Engagement minor curriculum.

Met with committee throughout the semester to review syllabi and course artifacts.

Dissertation Committee Member (Stony Brook University), Samuel Jens (2022-2022).

MA Thesis Chair (Illinois State University): Rhiannon Stringer (Summer 2019-Spring 2020), Wei Hua (Summer 2018-Spring 2019).

Editor, *Critique: a Student Journal of Politics*, Illinois State University (Fall 2016-Fall 2018)

Institutional Review Board, Department Representative, Illinois State University (Fall 2017-Fall 2018)

Review faculty IRB proposals, offer methodological expertise, & recommend a review type to the IRB Executive Committee (full, expedited, or exempt).

Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Politics & Government, Illinois State University (Spring 2017-Spring 2019)

Review student applications to Political Science MA program. Make final admission decisions & allocate funding to graduate assistants.

Faculty Advisor, Critical Politics Society, Illinois State University (Fall 2017-Fall 2018)

Organize weekly meetings of student organization whose goal is to provide a forum for non-partisan discussion of contemporary political issues. Propose weekly discussion & debate topics. Moderate weekly student debate.

Moderator, College Democrats vs. Turning Point Debate, Illinois State University (Fall 2017)

Worked with Office of the President to organize the College Democrats vs. Turning Point Debate. Structured debate protocol, set rules for debate, & created debate questions. Moderated the 2017 debate.

Member, Department Faculty Status Committee, Illinois State University (Fall 2020-Summer 2022; Fall 2015-August 2017)

MA Thesis Committee Member (Illinois State University), Nick Canfield (2016-2017), Steven Richardson (2015-2016)

Department Chair Search Committee, Illinois State University (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)

Enrollment Committee, Department of Politics & Government, Illinois State University (Spring 2015-Fall 2016)

Studied ways to increase the number of political science majors. Conducted a survey of majors & non-majors. Made recommendations on how to increase enrollment.

Teaching Experience

Graduate

American Politics Seminar

Undergraduate

Direct Democracy

Public Policy

Policy Analysis

U.S. Congress

U.S. Political Parties

Campaign Politics

Legislative Systems

American Government

Interest Groups

Research Interests:

Direct democracy

Policy rhetoric

Public policy

Policy analysis

Welfare policy

Candidate position-taking

Congressional elections

Text analysis

Web-scraping

Contact Information:

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