Curriculum Vitae

Kerri Milita

Associate Professor, Department of Politics & Government
Illinois State University. Normal, IL 61790
www.kerrimilita.com
kmilita@ilstu.edu

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

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Yan, Jason, Kerri Milita, Yanna Krupnikov, and Sabina Tomkins. **2025**. "What Do You Learn about Hard News from Soft News Outlets – a Case Study from People Magazine Online." *Proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence: ICWSM.*

Milita, Kerri. **2025**. "Review of *Hearings on the Hill: the Politics of Informing Congress* by Pamela Ban, Ju Yeon Park, and Hye Young You." *Congress and the Presidency* September (4): 1-2.

Krupnikov, Yanna, Kerri Milita, John Barry Ryan, Victoria Smith and Hillary Style. **2023**. "Gendered Dynamics of Academic Networks." *International Studies Perspectives* 24 (2): 189-229.

Milita, Kerri. **2022**. "Review of *Representing the Disadvantaged: Group Interests and Legislator Reputation in Congress* by Katrina McNally." *Perspectives on Politics* 20 (3): 1097-9.

Milita, Kerri. **2022**. "Review of *Congressional Challengers: Candidate Quality in U.S. Elections to Congress* by Costas Panagopoulos." *Perspectives on Politics.*

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. **2018**. "Review of *The Resilient Voter: Stressful Polling Places & Voting Behavior*." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 82 (4): 790-2.

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

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.

Other Publications

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

Grants & Awards

Ignite Grant. Illinois State University. January **2026**. Project: Mental Health Self-Disclosure in the College Classroom. Status: Funded.

- Amount: $1,250

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.

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.

Working Papers

"The Warmth-Competence Trade-off? Mental Health Self-Disclosure in the College Classroom." *Under review.*

"Helicopter Parenting & the Decline of Political Ambition: Anxiety, Trust, & External Locus of Control." *Data collection and analysis.*

"Candidate Rhetoric as 'Quality' Political Information." *Data collection and analysis.*

Conference Presentations

"The Warmth-Competence Tradeoff? Self-Disclosure of Mental Health in the College Classroom." *Midwest Political Science Association.* Chicago, IL. April **2026**. (with Zachary Fone, Scott Liebertz, and Brandon Waite.)

"Refining Civic Concepts with LLMs: Case Studies on Wildlife Conservation, Political News and Climate Pessimism." *Natural Language Processing for Democracy* (NLP4Democracy). Montreal, Canada. October **2025**. (with Zexuan Li, Derek Van Berkel, Ariel Hasell, John Ryan, Grant Schoenebeck, and Sabina Tomkins.)

"How Do People Learn About Politics on Different News Outlets?" *Natural Language Processing for Democracy* (NLP4Democracy). Montreal, Canada. October **2025**. (with Jason Yan, Tong Lin, Yanna Krupnikov, and Sabina Tomkins)

"AnnotateThis: A Human-Centered System for Domain Experts to Annotate Complex Concepts - Case Studies in Environmental Conservation and Political Communication." *International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (IJCAI). Montreal, Canada. August **2025**. (with Zexuan Li, Derek Van Berkel, Ariel Hasell, John Ryan, Grant Schoenebeck, and Sabina Tomkins.)

"What Do You Learn about Hard News from Soft News Outlets – a Case Study from People Magazine Online." *International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* (ICWSM). Copenhagen, Denmark. June **2025**. (with Jason Yan, Tong Lin, Yanna Krupnikov, and Sabina Tomkins)

"Disclosing Faculty Mental Health Struggles in the College Classroom: the Effects on Student Perceptions of Class Expectations and Faculty Evaluations." *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April **2025**.

"Mental Health in the College Classroom." *Illinois State University Teaching and Learning Symposium*. Normal, IL. January **2025**.

"I've Seen That Before! Towards Understanding Hard News Exposure from Soft News Outlets." *International Conference on Computational Social Science* (IC2S2). Philadelphia, PA. July **2024**. (with Jason Yan, Tong Lin, Yanna Krupnikov, and Sabrina Tomkins)

"Addressing Mental Health in the College Classroom." *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April **2024**.

"I've Seen That Before! Towards Understanding Hard News Exposure from Soft News Outlets." *Midwest Speech and Language Days*. Ann Arbor, MI. April **2024**. (with Jason Yan, Tong Lin, Yanna Krupnikov, and Sabrina Tomkins)

"Ambiguous Position-Taking on International Conflict." *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April **2023**. (with Elizabeth Simas and Alecia Nepaul).

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

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

"Candidate Gender and Rhetorical Ambiguity." *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April **2020**. (with Elizabeth Simas and Alecia Nepaul).

"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-July 2024)
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)

Teaching Experience

Graduate

American Politics Seminar
Controversies in American Politics

Undergraduate

Direct Democracy	U.S. Congress	Legislative Systems
Public Policy	U.S. Political Parties	American Government
Policy Analysis	Campaign Politics	Interest Groups

Research Interests:

Direct democracy	Policy analysis	Web-scraping
Policy rhetoric	Congressional elections	Natural Language Processing (NLP)
Public policy	Candidate position-taking	Large Language Models (LLM)

Contact Information:

Kerri Milita
Email: kmilita@ilstu.edu
Web: www.kerrimilita.com