

SHAYLA F. OLSON

🌐 www.shaylafolson.com ✉ sfolson@umich.edu

EDUCATION

University of Michigan 2020 - Current
Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science and Scientific Computing
M.A. Student, Statistics

Dissertation: *Sacred Commitments, Racial Convictions: Religion, Identity, and Racial Attitudes in American Politics*

Committee: Vincent Hutchings (co-chair), Ted Brader (co-chair), Christopher Fariss, Nazita Lajevardi (Michigan State), Kevin Quinn (Emory), Melissa Borja (UM American Culture)

Michigan State University 2020
M.A. Political Science
Graduate Certificate, Computational Modeling 2020
(Department of Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering)

Indiana State University 2017
B.A. Political Science, Honors, *magna cum laude*

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Santa Fe Institute 2022
Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science

PUBLICATIONS

Olson, Shayla F. and Enrique Quezada-Llanes. 2024. "How Sermons Became More Political in the Trump Era." In Paul A. Djupe and A.E. Sokhey (Eds), *Trump, White Evangelical Christians, and American Politics: Change and Continuity*.

Djupe, Paul A., Claire C. Gilliland, and Shayla F. Olson. 2023. "Are Online Congregations Representative? Exploring Resource and Political Differences." *Review of Religious Research*.

Olson, Shayla F. 2023. "Racialized Responses to COVID-19." In Paul A. Djupe and Amanda Friesen (Eds.), *An Epidemic on My People: Religion in the Age of Covid-19*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Allen, Levi G. and Shayla F. Olson. 2022. "Racial Attitudes and Political Preferences Among Black and White Evangelicals" *Politics & Religion*, 15(4), 631-648.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Religion is a Racial Appeal (and Vice Versa)." Job market paper.

"The Frequency and Context of Discussion about Racism from U.S. Clergy." [Related blog post](#).

"Abortion or Race?: Experimental Evidence on White Evangelicals' Preferences." with Levi Allen and Eric McDaniel. [Pre-analysis plan here](#).

"Social Desirability of Religion Measures." with Yanna Krupnikov. [Pre-analysis plan here](#).

"Racialization of the News through Interpersonal Communication." with Taylor Carlson and Nazita Lajevardi. [Pre-analysis plan here](#).

“Likert v. Pairwise Elicitation of Perceptions of Faces, with Applications to the Study of Discrimination.” with Marisa A. Abrajano, Christopher S. Elmendorf, and Kevin M. Quinn. [Pre-analysis plan here](#).

“Understanding Perceptions of Racial and Ethnic Appearance.” with Marisa A. Abrajano, Christopher S. Elmendorf, and Kevin M. Quinn. [Pre-analysis plan here](#).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

External

Rapoport Family Foundation Dissertation Research Grant. \$15,000.	2024
APSA Religion & Politics Small Grants Award. \$2,500.	2021
Prestage-Cook Travel Award (Southern Political Science Association)	2020

University of Michigan

Gerald R. Ford Fellowship	2024-2025
Garth Taylor Dissertation Fellowship in Public Opinion (Center for Political Studies) \$10,000.	2023
Hanes Walton, Jr. Endowment for Graduate Study in Racial and Ethnic Politics (Center for Political Studies) \$6,000.	2023
Rackham Student Research Grant. \$1,500.	2022
DGS Research Grant. \$1,000.	2021

Michigan State University

Summer Research Assistant, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research.	2019, 2020
MSU Minority Politics Workshop Award.	Spring 2020
Departmental Summer Research Award. \$2,250.	Summer 2019
Research Scholars Award, College of Social Science. \$2,214.	Summer 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor - Graduate Level

ICPSR Summer Program - Data Science & Text Analysis	2023
Statistical Methods for Political Research II	WN 2023
Statistical Methods for Political Research I	FA 2022

Graduate Student Instructor - Undergraduate Level

Computational Social Science (Complex Systems)	WN 2022
Computational Social Science (Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences)	FA 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Professor Kevin Quinn.	2022-Current
Research Assistant, Professor Ted Brader.	2021, 2023-Current
Research Assistant, Professors Vincent Hutchings and Robert Mickey.	2021, 2022
Research Assistant, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (MSU).	2019, 2020
Research Assistant, Professor Eric Juenke (MSU).	2018, 2019
Research Assistant, Professor Carly Schmitt (ISU).	2017
Research Assistant, Professor David Kilroy (Dublin, Ireland).	2017
Student Researcher, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (Dublin, Ireland).	2017

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“Religion and Politics in America: Is There a Better Way? Christian Scholarly Perspectives” with Kenneth Lowande, Michigan Christian Study Center	2024
--	------

Conference and Workshop Presentations

Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium	2019, 2022, 2024
MPSA Annual Conference.	2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting	2023
APSA Annual Meeting	2022, Planned 2024
University of Michigan/Michigan State Workshop on Race and Ethnicity.	2019, 2023 APSA
Religion & Politics Early Career Workshop	2021
Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture.	2022
Political Institutions and Elite Behavior: Experimental Approaches (SPSA).	2020

PUBLIC WRITING

Olson, Shayla F. 2024. "How Do White Churches Talk about Racism?" Center for Political Studies (CPS) Blog. January 4, 2024.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Service to Discipline

Communications Coordinator, APSA Religion & Politics Section	2021-2023
Reviewer: <i>Politics & Religion</i> , <i>Political Behavior</i> , <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> , <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i>	

Organizer

American Religion Workshop, University of Michigan	2023-2024
Interdisciplinary Workshop on American Politics, University of Michigan	2021-2022
APSA Religion & Politics Early Career Workshop	2021
Graduate Student Religion & Politics Group	Summer 2020

Discussant

MPSA Annual Meeting	2023
APSA Religion & Politics Early Career Workshop	2021
Interdisciplinary Workshop on American Politics	2020
Annual Meeting of the Michigan Political Science Association.	2018

Departmental Service

Co-President, Graduate Association of Political Scientists, Michigan	2022-2023
First-Year Representative, Graduate Student Association, MSU	2018-2019

DATASETS

Olson, Shayla F. 2019. State Networks Database v.1.1. East Lansing, MI: Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR).

- Featured here: Olson, Shayla F. "Midwest Relations." *Michigan Policy Wonk Blog*. 2019.
- Featured here: Olson, Shayla F. "What Is the Tie that Binds? Facebook, of Course." *Michigan Policy Wonk Blog*. 2020.

SKILLS

R, Python, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics, Git, Jupyter