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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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College of William and Mary, Assistant Professor of Government (2012- )  
College of William and Mary, Co-Director of the Social Science Research Methods Center (2014- ) and  
Director of the Social Networks and Political Psychology Lab (2013-)

## EDUCATION

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Doctor of Philosophy    Political Science, University of California, San Diego, 2012

Master of Arts            Political Science, University of California, San Diego, 2009, *with distinction*

Bachelor of Arts        Political Science, minor in Biology, University of Richmond, 2007, *honors and Summa Cum Laude*

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Articles*

1. "Negative Affectivity, Political Contention, and Turnout: A Genopolitics Field Experiment," with Christopher Dawes, Peter J. Loewen, and Costas Panagopoulos, forthcoming in *Political Psychology*
2. "Social Endorsement Cues and Political Participation," with Robert M. Bond, Christopher J. Fariss, James H. Fowler, Jason J. Jones, and Cameron Marlow, forthcoming in *Political Communication*
3. "The Differential Effects of Stress on Voter Turnout," with Hans J.G. Hassell, *Political Psychology* 38(3): 533-550 (June 2017)
4. "Political Chameleons: An Exploration of Conformity in Political Discussions," with Taylor N. Carlson, *Political Behavior* 38(4): 817-859 (December 2016)
5. "From Posting to Voting: The Effects of Political Competition on Online Political Engagement," with Robert M. Bond, Lorenzo Coviello, Christopher J. Fariss, James H. Fowler, and Jason J. Jones, *Political Science Research and Methods* 4(2): 361-378 (May 2016)
6. "Genes, Psychological Traits, and Civic Engagement," with Christopher Dawes, Peter Loewen, Matt McGue, and William G. Iacono. *Philosophical Transactions B* (December 2015)
7. "A Natural Experiment in Proposal Power and Electoral Success," with Peter J. Loewen, Royce Koop, and James H. Fowler, *American Journal of Political Science* 58(1): 189-196 (January 2014)
8. "Yahtzee: An Anonymized Group Level Matching Procedure," with Robert M. Bond, Christopher J. Fariss, James H. Fowler, Jason J. Jones, Adam D. I. Kramer, and Cameron Marlow, *PLoS ONE* 8(2): e55760 (February 2013)
9. "Inferring Tie Strength from Online Directed Behavior," with Robert M. Bond, Christopher J. Fariss, James H. Fowler, Jason J. Jones, and Cameron Marlow, *PLoS ONE* 8(1): e52168 (January 2013)

10. “A 61-Million-Person Experiment in Social Influence and Political Mobilization,” with Robert M. Bond, Christopher J. Fariss, James H. Fowler, Jason J. Jones, Adam D. I. Kramer, and Cameron Marlow, *Nature* 489: 295-298 (13 September 2012)
11. “Integrating Social Science and Genetics: News from the Political Front,” with Peter Hatemi, Christopher Dawes, Brad Verhulst, and Amanda Frost Keller, *Biodemography and Social Biology* 57(1): 67-87 (May 2011)
12. “The Social Origins of Adult Political Behavior,” with Robert M. Bond and Justin Levitt, *American Politics Research* 39(2): 239-263 (March 2011)
13. “Correlated Genotypes in Friendship Networks,” with James H. Fowler and Nicholas Christakis, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 108(5): 1993-1997 (1 February 2011)
14. “Friendships Moderate an Association Between a Dopamine Gene Variant and Political Ideology,” with Christopher T. Dawes, Nicholas A. Christakis, and James H. Fowler, *Journal of Politics* 72(4): 1189-1198 (October 2010)
15. “The Heritability of Partisan Attachment,” with James H. Fowler and Christopher T. Dawes, *Political Research Quarterly* 62(3): 601–613 (September 2009)

### **Book Chapters**

16. “Network Experiments through Academic-Industry Collaboration,” with Robert M. Bond, Chris J. Fariss, and Jason J. Jones. Eds. Yong Yeol Ahn and Sune Lehmann. *Spreading Dynamics in Social Systems: Spring Nature Press (accepted for publication)*
17. “Moving Beyond Sentiment Analysis: Social Media and Emotions in Political Communication.” Eds. Brooke Foucault-Welles and Sandra Gonzalez Bailon. *The Oxford Handbook of Networked Communication*: Oxford University Press (2017)
18. “Games, Genes, and Political Participation,” with James H. Fowler, Peter John Loewen, and Christopher T. Dawes. Eds. Rose McDermott and Pete Hatemi. *Man is by Nature a Political Animal*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (September 2011)

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

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### **Working Papers**

1. “Political Psychophysiology: A Primer for Interested Researchers and Informed Consumers,” with Nick Anspach, Kevin Arceneaux, Chelsea Coe, Taylor Carlson, Edward Hernandez, Matthew Hibbing, John Peterson, and John Stuart (*Under review*)
2. “Exploring the Psychophysiological Underpinnings of Political Discussion,” with Taylor N. Carlson
3. “Individual Differences Explain Political Homogeneity in Social Networks,” with Taylor N. Carlson and Charles T. McClean
4. “The Social and Psychological Repercussions of Choosing Knowledgeable Political Informants: Evidence from Three Experiments,” with Taylor N. Carlson
5. “Opting Out of Political Discussions: Evidence of MicroProcesses of Polarization,” with Taylor N. Carlson
6. “Investigating the Accuracy of Using Names as Political Heuristics,” with Taylor N. Carlson

**Book**

*Frenemies: How Social Media Polarizes America* (Manuscript under review at Cambridge University Press)

In the context of the increasing level of partisan polarization among American political elites, the radical change brought about by social media to the way that people express their political identities, access information, and communicate with each other about politics has fostered people's increasingly negative feelings toward those who identify with the opposing party. I first develop a novel theoretical perspective, the END Framework, for the study of political interaction on social media. My argument is built on an assessment of the key differentiating features of social media communication compared to the offline political behaviors that are most similar: political *expression*, *news exposure*, and *discussion*. The vast literature on political communication outside the realm of social media is heavily biased toward studying those doing the "talking" in a political conversation. On social media, consuming the content generated by others ("listening") takes on new importance. Features of the Facebook News Feed create an optimal ecosystem for the mechanisms known to foster pejorative judgments of and social distancing from our political out-group: the activation of social identity, interaction in largely homogenous social networks, and exposure to polarizing and inflammatory political content.

In the second half of the book, I systematically test a set of hypotheses related to the recognition, categorization, differentiation, and negative evaluation of the political out-group. Facebook users recognize a wide variety of content as being about politics. They make inferences about the political views of their social connections, based on both the political and apolitical content their Facebook friends post. Users attribute unwarranted ideological coherence and extremity to partisans on the other side of the aisle. Features embedded within the Facebook site further exacerbate these cognitive biases, leading people to believe that their own opinions are in the majority. This perpetuates false polarization—the perception of larger differences between the political parties than exist in reality. Facebook users, compared to those who do not use the site, are more judgmental about the political competence of the people with whom they disagree, and they recognize more social differences between members of the two political parties. They also preferentially select co-partisans as friends and distance themselves from their disagreeable social connections.

**INVITED TALKS**

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1. "Frenemies: How Social Media Polarizes America" (*Note: Titled "Newspaper to News Feed: How the Social Communication of Politics Affectively Polarizes the American Public" in earlier presentations*)
    - a. University of Virginia, Social Psychology Lunch Series, March 2018
    - b. Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po, Paris Workshop on Analytical Politics, May 2017
    - c. University of Pennsylvania, American Politics Workshop, January 2017
    - d. Political Psychology APSA Pre-Conference Meeting, September 2016
    - e. Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Experimental Approaches to the Study of Democratic Politics colloquium, May 2016
    - f. William & Mary, Department of Computer Science, April 2016
    - g. University of Arizona, February 2016
    - h. New College of Florida, February 2016
    - i. University of Virginia, American Politics Workshop, November 2014

2. “Exploring the Psychophysiological Underpinnings of Political Discussion,” at the Exploring New Frontiers, Forging New Synergies: Bolstering the Links between Bio-Politics and Political Psychology conference, UC Merced, June 2016
3. “The Value of Experimental Design in Social Media Research,” invited speaker at City University of Hong Kong Workshop on Computational Approaches to Big Data in the Social Sciences and Humanities, June 2016
4. “Explaining Disengagement from Contentious Political Interaction: The Moderating Role of Individual Differences”
  - a. Christopher Wren Association, Town & Gown Noon Lecture Series, October 2015
  - b. College of William & Mary Government Department Colloquium, February 2014
  - c. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 2014
5. “Political Discussion on Social Media: Civil Discourse or Uncivilized Behavior?”
  - a. Middle Plantation Club, November 2015
  - b. Kingsmill Democrats and Independents Dinner Association, February 2014
  - c. The Forum Adult Learners Association (Tucson, AZ), July 2014
6. “Integrating Psychology into Our Understanding of Political Behavior,” Christopher Wren Association, Town & Gown Noon Lecture Series, November 2013
7. “Social Data in Academic Research,” invited panelist at Big Boulder 2013, sponsored by Gnip, June 2013
8. “Innate, Individual Differences in Emotional Response to Political Contention,” Synthesizing the Evolutionary and Social Science Approaches to Human Cooperation: A NESCent Catalysis Meeting (April 2013)
9. “[Studying] Contentious Politics in the Era of Social Media”
  - a. College of William & Mary Psychology Department Colloquium, November 2012
  - b. College of William & Mary Monroe Scholars Faculty Lecture Series, September 2012
  - c. College of William & Mary Young Democrats, October 2012
  - d. College of William & Mary Family Weekend Faculty Lecture, September 2012
  - e. James City County Democratic Party, August 2012
10. “Genes, Anxiety, and Turnout: A Field Experiment”
  - a. Penn State Quantitative Social Science Initiative New Faces in Political Methodology IV Conference, April 2011

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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1. “Newspaper to News Feed: How the Social Communication of Politics Affectively Polarizes the American Public,” International Society for Political Psychology Annual Conference, June 2017
2. “The Social and Psychological Repercussions of Choosing Knowledgeable Political Informants: Evidence from Three Experiments,”
  - a. American Political Science Association, September 2017 (Poster Presentation)
  - b. International Society for Political Psychology Annual Conference, June 2017
3. “Does Social Tie Strength Moderate Affective Polarization on Facebook?” Political Networks Conference, June 2017

4. "Opting Out of Political Discussions: Evidence of MicroProcesses of Polarization," with Taylor N. Carlson, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2016
5. "The Polarizing Effects of Exposure to Political Content on the Facebook News Feed," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2016
6. "Individual Differences Explain Political Homogeneity in Social Networks," with Taylor N. Carlson and Charles T. McClean, Political Networks Conference, June 2016
7. "Exploring the Psychophysiological Underpinnings of Political Discussion," with Taylor Feenstra
  - a. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2015
8. "A Theory of Informative Exchange: How Political Interactions on Social Media Foster Affective Polarization"
  - a. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2015
9. "How do Americans Experience Political Discussion? A Text Analysis Approach," with Taylor Feenstra
  - a. International Society for Political Psychology, July 2015
10. "Rightwing Nut Jobs and Tree-Hugging Hippies: Evidence of Partisan Stereotyping in America," with Taylor Feenstra
  - a. International Society for Political Psychology, July 2015
  - b. World Association for Public Opinion Research, June 2015
11. "Investigating the Accuracy of Using Names as Political Heuristics"
  - a. Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2015
12. "Political Chameleons: An Exploration of Conformity in Political Discussions" with Taylor N. Feenstra
  - a. International Society for Political Psychology, July 2014
  - b. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2014
13. Authors Meet Critics Roundtable on *Predisposed: Liberals, Conservatives, and the Biology of Political Differences*, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2014
14. "Avoiding Politics: The Effects of Social Anxiety on Political Discussion," with Hans J.G. Hassell, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2013
15. "How 'Voters', 'Voting', and Social Influence Affect Turnout," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2013
16. "[Inducing] Emotional Discussion about Politics," Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2013
17. "Filling in the Gaps: What Can Social Media Add to Our Understanding of the Dynamics of Public Opinion About Health Care Reform?" Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2013
18. "Pour Your Heart Out: How Political Competition Influences Political Engagement"
  - a. Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2012
  - b. Southwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2012
  - c. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2011
19. "The Effects of Economic Hard Times on Attitudes Toward Immigration: Evidence from an Online Social Network," Southwestern Political Science Association Meeting, April 2012
20. "Genes, Anxiety, and Turnout: A Field Experiment"
  - a. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2011
  - b. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, March 2011
21. "Measuring Political Discussion in a Large Scale Network"

- a. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2011
- b. Political Networks Conference, June 2011
- 22. "A Massive Scale Experiment in Social Influence and Political Mobilization"
  - a. Political Networks Conference, June 2011
  - b. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, March 2011
- 23. "The Effects of Exposure to Contention on Voting: The Moderating Role of Individual Differences," Integrating Genetics and the Social Sciences, June 2011
- 24. "A New Approach to Studying the Influence of Electoral Competitiveness on Voter Turnout," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2010
- 25. "Neighborhood Contextual Influences and Individual Differences," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2010
- 26. "Linking Genes and Contextual Diversity: An Initial Exploration of Gene x Environment Interactions," Integrating Genetics and the Social Sciences, June 2010
- 27. "Partisan Heterogeneity and 5HTT Interact to Depress Voter Turnout"
  - a. Midwestern Political Science Association, April 2010
  - b. European Consortium for Political Research Joint Sessions Workshop, March 2010
- 28. "The Social Origins of Adult Political Behavior," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2009
- 29. "A Genetic Basis for Homophily in Social Networks," Behavioral Genetics Association Annual Meeting, June 2009
- 30. "The Influence of School and Peer Networks on Social Integration and Political Trust"
  - a. Political Networks Conference, June 2009
  - b. Sunbelt Social Networks conference, March 2009
- 31. "Friendships Moderate an Association Between a Dopamine Gene Variant and Political Ideology," Poster Presentation, Networks in Political Science conference, June 2008
- 32. "The Heritability of Partisan Attachment," poster presentation at the Behavioral Genetics Association Annual Meeting, June 2008

## HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Margaret Glauber Faculty Fellow, 2016-2017

Reveley Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellow, 2016-2019

College of William and Mary Thirteen Club Annual Faculty Award, 2013

APSA Political Psychology Distinguished Junior Scholars Award, 2012

TA Excellence Award, Department of Political Science, 2009-2010

*Graduate Fellowships:* Pi Sigma Alpha Howard Penniman Graduate Fellowship (2007-2008), Omicron Delta Kappa Graduate Fellowship (2007-2008), Worth and Dot Howard Foundation Graduate Scholarship (2007-2011), Delta Gamma Graduate Fellowship (2007-2008), UCSD Edmund G. Brown Sr. Fellowship (2007-2008)

*Collegiate and Alumni Awards:* Distinguished Recent Graduate Award (2017), University Mace Award (top graduating student in senior class – 2007), Spencer D. Albright Book Award (graduate with highest GPA in UR Political Science Department – 2007), Westhampton College Distinguished Leadership Award (2007), May Evans Scholarship (top junior woman in UR Political Science Department – 2006), Omicron Delta Kappa Regional Leader of the Year - Region I (2007)

*Honor Societies:* Phi Beta Kappa (2007), Omicron Delta Kappa (2006), Mortar Board (2006), Pi Sigma Alpha (2006), Golden Key (2004), Phi Eta Sigma (2004)  
*College Scholarships:* Oldham Scholar (University of Richmond top merit scholarship, 2003-2007), Worth and Dot Howard Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship (2003-2007), National Merit Foundation Scholarship (2003-2004)

## RESEARCH GRANTS

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National Science Foundation, "Understanding the Mechanisms for Disengagement from Contentious Political Interaction," 2014-2017 (\$149,975) SES-1423788  
Reves Center Faculty International Conference Travel Grant, 2014 (\$500)  
WISE Initiative Travel Grant, 2014 (\$1,000)  
Suzann Wilson Matthews Summer Research Award, College of William & Mary, 2014 (\$5,000)  
Suzann Wilson Matthews Summer Research Award, College of William & Mary, 2013 (\$5,000)  
Schroeder Center for Health Policy Research, College of William & Mary, Faculty Affiliate, 2012-2014  
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, "Doctoral Dissertation Research in Political Science: Political Competition, Anxiety and Voting – The Moderating Role of Individual Differences" (with James Fowler), 2011-2012 (\$12,000) SES-1123226  
National Science Foundation, "Gene-Environment Interactions with the Political Context" (with James Fowler), 2008-2009 (\$30,000) SES-0843907  
University of Richmond, College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant, 2006-2007 (\$400)  
University of Richmond, College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, 2005 (\$4,000)  
University of Richmond, College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Grant, 2005 (\$800)

## PROFESSIONAL AND METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

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University Teaching Project, College of William & Mary (2013-2014)  
Facial Action Coding System (FACS) Workshop, led by Erika Rosenberg; FACS-certification test passed 07/2013  
Genome Wide Analysis Workshop for Social Scientists, Short Course, University of Colorado Population Center, 2011  
Behavioral Genetics for Political Scientists, NSF-funded workshop at the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, 2010  
International Workshop on Statistical Genetics and Methodology of Twin and Family Studies: Beginning Course, Certificate of Completion, 2010  
ESRI Training Workshop in Geographic Information Systems Technology, 2009  
International Workshop on Statistical Genetics and Methodology of Twin and Family Studies: Advanced Course, Certificate of Completion, 2009  
Networks in Political Science Workshop on Social Network Theory and Methods, (2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014)  
Center for Teaching Development, Preparing Professional Faculty Program, 2010

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### Discipline

Conference and Organized Section Service  
Program Co-Chair, Political Networks Meeting (2018)  
Fellowship Committee, Political Networks Meeting (Member 2012-2013; Chair 2014)

Biology, Genetics, and Neuroscience Section Chair, International Society for Political Psychology (2015)  
Panel Discussant and/or Chair: APSA annual meeting 2010-2016 (2012 meeting cancelled); MPSA annual meeting 2013, 2015; SWPSA annual meeting 2012

Journal Service

Associate Editor, *Journal of Experimental Political Science* (2017 - )  
Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Politics Research*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Social & Political Psychology*, *Physiology and Behavior*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Social Networks*, *Social Science Quarterly*

**College and Department**

Data Science Initiative Steering Committee (2017 - )  
First Year Student Academic Advising, College of William & Mary (most years)  
Middle East Politics Search Committee, Government Department (2017)  
Evaluation Committee, Government Department (2013-2017)  
Visiting Assistant Professor in American Politics Search Committee, Government Department (2014)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**College of William & Mary**

Introduction to American Government and Politics (GOVT 201)  
Political Behavior (GOVT 374)  
Polarization and the Electorate (GOVT 391 – W&M DC Summer Institute program)  
Changing Media, Changing Politics (GOVT 391)  
Social and Psychological Influences on Political Behavior (GOVT 401)  
Political Communication in an Evolving Information Environment (GOVT 491)  
R Workshops (F12, S14, F14, S16)

**REFERENCES**

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Available upon request