

Karyn Amira

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Positions and Employment:

Associate Chair, Political Science Department, College of Charleston, July 2024-present

Associate Professor, College of Charleston, March 2021-Present

Assistant Professor, College of Charleston, August 2015- March 2021

Instructor and Graduate Student, SUNY Stony Brook, September 2012-June 2015

Education:

Ph.D, Political Science, Stony Brook University, August 2015

M.A, Political Science, Stony Brook University, 2012

B.A., Political Science and Psychology, Union College, 2007

Grants, Awards and Honors:

\$8,667 (total) from College of Charleston Faculty Research and Development Fund: \$1,667 for Southern Accent as a Heuristic project with Gibbs Knotts, Chris Cooper and Claire Wofford and \$3,000 for Celebrityization of Candidates Project; \$4,000 for Donald Trump's Effect on the Perception of Conservatism Project

\$2,250 (total) from College of Charleston's Deans Discretionary Fund: \$750 for Ideology as a Social Identity Project and \$500 for Celebrityization of Congressional Candidates Project; \$1,000 for Donald Trump's Effect on Who is Considered 'Conservative' Project

SBU President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student 2014

Political Science Graduate Student Teaching Award 2014

Political Science Graduate Student Teaching Award (Honorable Mention) 2013

Research Interests:

Political Behavior and Public Opinion: Ideology, partisanship, perception, polarization, participation.

Political Psychology: Political identity, political cognition, emotions.

Media and Political Communication: Agenda setting, bias, advertising, framing, priming.

Institutions: Parties, Congress.

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

"Donald Trump's Effect on Who is Considered 'Conservative'. 2022. *American Politics Research*
[Article coverage on PsyPost](#)

"How the News Media Uses the Phrase 'Identity Politics'" with Alec Abraham. 2022.
PS: Political Science and Politics

"Allies or Adversaries? Donald Trump's Republican Support in Congress" with Jordan Ragusa, Lauren Johnson and Deon McCray. 2019. *Perspectives on Politics*
[Featured on the Niskanen Center's Science of Politics Podcast:](#)

“In-Group Love vs. Out-Group Hate: Which Is More Important to Partisans and When?”
with Jen Cole Wright and Daniela Tocchetto. 2019. *Political Behavior*
[Discussed in the New York Times](#)

“Does Negative Information Moderate Symbolic Ideology? An Experimental Test”. 2019.
Social Science Quarterly

“A Tale of Two Democrats: How Authoritarianism Shaped the Democratic Primary”.
With Julie Wronski, Alexa Bankert, April Johnson and Lindsey Levitan. 2018. *The Journal of Politics*
[Discussed in the NY Times](#)
[Article coverage at Heterodox Academy](#)
[Article coverage in the American Conservative](#)

“Do People Assimilate and Contrast the Ideological Location of Candidates? An Experimental
Test of the Projection Hypothesis”. 2018. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*

“The Southern Accent as a Heuristic in Campaigns and Elections” with Gibbs Knotts, Chris Cooper
and Claire Wofford. 2018. *American Politics Research*
[Article coverage at PsyPost](#)
[Article coverage by the Post and Courier](#)

“The Decision Not to Furl the Confederate Flag in My Classroom”. 2017. *Journal of Political Science
Education*.

Seltzer, Nicholas A., Johnson, April A. and Karyn A. Amira. “Revisiting Dynamic Social Impact Theory:
Extensions and Applications for Political Science.” 2013. *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*

Book Chapters:

Book Chapter: “The Republican Resistance: #NeverTrump Conservatives and the Future of the
Republican Party”. With April Johnson. Lexington Books. 2020.

Book Reviews:

Compromise in An Age of Party Polarization. 2021. *Perspectives on Politics*.

Works in Progress:

Ends vs. Means? Ideology and Support for Repeals in the Mass Public" with Nathaniel Birkhead, Jordan
Ragusa and Sam DeLong, *Revise and Resubmit at Legislative Studies Quarterly*

Perceptions of Conservatism in the Trump era: Replications and Extensions *Preparation for Review*

Unpublished Manuscripts:

“The Celebritization of Congressional Candidates” with Elizabeth Sheldon

“Priming, Cognitive Dissonance, Social Reciprocity and Voting: Using Classic Social Psychology to
Increase Voter Turnout in a Field Experiment” with Lindsey Levitan

Media Authorship and Attention:

Author, How media coverage of presidential primaries has failed voters and helped Trump. The Conversation. 2023.

<https://theconversation.com/how-media-coverage-of-presidential-primaries-fails-voters-and-has-helped-trump-222133>

2 the Point Charleston NBC Affiliate Station, SC Primary Results Panelist, February 25, 2024.

<https://www.counton2.com/2-the-point/2-the-point-february-25th-2024/>

Interview, Political Ads on Facebook and Instagram May Include A.I. What Meta Plans to Do About It, The State. 2023

<https://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article282436473.html>

Interview, "What Does Conservative Even Mean Anymore?" The Editorial Board. 2023

<https://www.editorialboard.com/what-does-conservative-even-mean-anymore/>

Author, "Reagan wouldn't recognize Trump-style 'conservatism'- a look at how the GOP has changed." The Conversation. 2023.

<https://theconversation.com/reagan-wouldnt-recognize-trump-style-conservatism-a-look-at-how-the-gop-has-changed-213971>

iOnGreenville story about whether the USA can unite after the 2020 election

<https://iongreenville.net/south-carolina-political-scientist-weigh-in-on-whats-next-for-america-politics/>

Live5 News Story on the demographic and political changes in the low country/Charleston area

<https://www.live5news.com/2020/11/02/researchers-expect-lowcountry-growth-lead-political-shift-state/>

Live5 News Story on Political Advertising:

<https://www.live5news.com/2020/10/30/report-suggests-political-media-spending-could-reach-billion/>

ABC News 4 Story on College Voting/Youth Vote

https://twitter.com/rachel_ellisTV/status/1316594814301990913

2020 Talks Public News Service Podcast on the South Carolina Primary

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/show/2020talks/id/13367033>

Post and Courier Mayoral Race Exit Polling Report (author)

https://www.postandcourier.com/news/exit-poll-overdevelopment-flooding-motivated-charleston-mayoral-voters-most/article_f6692c3c-000f-11ea-8eac-e3ad9accab2c.html

State House report on gender and representation in the South Carolina legislature

<https://www.statehousereport.com/2019/05/24/gop-women-budget-morals/>

Channel 2 news on the SC Republican primary:

<http://www.counon2.com/news/local-news/how-allegiance-with-president-trump-influenced-arringtonsanford-primary-election/1237261379>

Atlanta Journal Constitution: Will High School Activists Make a Difference in the Gun Debate?

<https://www.myajc.com/news/crime--law/will-high-school-activists-make-difference-gun-debate/7rgTRGawDKBZhhNceEivWI/>

Conference Participation:

South Carolina Political Science Association 2024

“Perceptions of Conservatism in the Trump era: Replications and Extensions”

Southern Political Science Association 2022

Section Organized: Campaigns and Elections

Southern Political Science Association 2019

“Does Negative Information Moderate Ideological Identity? An Experimental Test”

Southern Political Science Association 2018

“Does Negative Information Moderate Ideological Identity? An Experimental Test”

Discussant: In-Groups and Out-Groups

Midwest Political Science Association 2017

“Does Negative Information Moderate Ideological Identity? An Experimental Test”

Discussant: Candidate Evaluations

Midwest Political Science Association 2016

“Do People Assimilate and Contrast the Ideological Location of Candidates? An Experimental Test of the Projection Hypothesis”

Midwest Political Science Association 2015

“Left Shift: An Experimental Test: Does the Public Perceive Democrats to be More Extreme than Equally Ideological Republicans?”

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2014

“Priming, Cognitive Dissonance, Social Reciprocity and Voting: Using Classic Social Psychology to Increase Voter Turnout in a Field Experiment” with Lindsey Levitan

South West Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2014

“Broken Vows, Broken Democracy: The Political Consequences of Divorce” with April Johnson

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference 2013

“Social Welfare Attitudes, Racial Attitudes and Economic Locus of Control” with David Martin

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference 2012

“Revisiting Dynamic Social Impact Theory: Extensions and Applications for Political Science”

with Nick Seltzer and April Johnson

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2012

“The Decline in Microfinance Loans to Women: What is To Blame? A Look at Commercialization and Economic Indicators”

On Campus Presentations:

2023 CofC Civil Discourse Initiative Panel on Polarization

2022 Midterm Election Panel

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art: Technologies of the Everyday Panel 2021

Reflections on the 2020 Election and the Future of Democracy Panel

2020 Presidential Election Panel (Pre and Post-Election Panels)

Impeachment Panel 2019

Bonner Leadership Program Parties and Media in Elections Presentation

Spring 2019: Polarization and the State of Partisan Hostility in America

2018 Midterm Postmortem Panelist

2016 Election Postmortem Panelist

Guest Lecturer: Experimental Design for Dr. Gibbs Knotts’ POLI 205 Research and Politics class

Guest Lecturer: “Fake News” for Dr. Adam Dombey’s FYE 121 “History in the News” course

Guest Lecturer: “Media and Presidential Campaigns” for Dr. Claire Wofford’s POLI 101 Intro to American Politics course

Off Campus Presentations:

Populism and Donald Trump. David Slucki’s Global Rise in Populism course (Monash University, Zoom)

Teaching Experience:

POLI 101: Intro to American Politics

POLI 205: Doing Research in Politics (face-to-face and online format including summer courses)

POLI 367: Media and Politics (face-to-face and online format)

POLI 346: Political Psychology

POLI 344: Political Ideology and Public Opinion (Stony Brook University)

POLI 327: Political Parties

POLI 339: Special Topics: Exit Polling for Charleston Mayoral Election 2019

POLI 339: Special Topics: Democracy in Action: CofC Poll Worker and Election Administration 2024

POLI 402: Internship Course (online format)

POLI 405: Senior Capstone Seminar: Social Media and American Politics

POLI 405: Senior Capstone Seminar: The Politics of Identity

POLI 405: Senior Capstone Seminar: The 2016 Election in Hindsight

POLI 499: Bachelors Essay Advisor (UG): Lauren Johnson, Ellie Thompson, Stephanie Selker, Yuki

Yamasaki, William Meis, Alec Abraham, Erika Golden, Jillian Kabik

Master Thesis Advisor for Bridget Knutson 2020 (College of Charleston)

Master Thesis Reader for Daniel Miles 2022-2023 (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

South Carolina REACH ACT Founding Documents Module Creator: Constitution and Federalist Papers

New Teaching Assistant Orientation Panelist (Summer 2014)

Additional Teaching Interests:

Campaigns and Elections (UG/G)
Voting Behavior and Political Participation (UG/G)
Race in American Politics (UG/G)
Political Cognition and Decision Making (UG/G)
Great Research Controversies in Political Science (UG/G)

Service:

Reviewer for *Nature: Human Behavior*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Psychology*, *Electoral Behavior*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Party Politics*, *Politics and Gender*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Social Science Journal*, *Journal of Political Science Education*

Sabbatical Proposal Committee 2022-present
Distance Education Committee (Summer 2020- 2023 when committee disbanded)
Program Coordinator for NEW Leadership SC at Winthrop University 2019
Advisor to the Political Science Club (2018- present)
Assessment: Gen Ed Assessment Committee Dept of Political Science Assessor (2018-present)
College of Charleston IT Liaison Committee
Award Committee Member: Fisher Parker and HSS Travel Abroad Award
Award Committee Member: NEH Summer Stipend Award
Advisor for Academic Magnate High School Senior Research Thesis 2016, 2017
Mentoring Matters Program Faculty Mentor 2016, 2017

Professional Memberships:

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, Women Also Know Stuff