

Karyn Amira

Last updated January 2025

College of Charleston Political Science Department · 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424 · AmiraKA@CofC.edu

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

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:

Nate Birkhead, Jordan Ragusa, **Karyn Amira** and Sam DeLong. Ends vs Means: Ideology and Support for Repeals in the Mass Public. 2024. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*

Karyn Amira “Donald Trump’s Effect on Who is Considered ‘Conservative’. 2022.

American Politics Research [Article coverage on PsyPost](#)

Karyn Amira and Alec Abraham. “How the News Media Uses the Phrase ‘Identity Politics’”. 2022. *PS: Political Science and Politics*

Karyn Amira, Lauren Johnson, Deon McCray and Jordan Ragusa (Names in alphabetical order, I am second author). “Allies or Adversaries? Donald Trump’s Republican Support in Congress”. 2019. *Perspectives on Politics*

[Featured on the Niskanen Center’s Science of Politics Podcast:](#)

Karyn Amira, Jen Cole Wright and Daniela Tocchetto. “In-Group Love vs. Out-Group Hate: Which Is More Important to Partisans and When?” 2019. *Political Behavior*

[Discussed in the New York Times](#)

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

Julie Wronski, Alexa Bankert, **Karyn Amira**, April Johnson and Lindsey Levitan “A Tale of Two Democrats: How Authoritarianism Shaped the Democratic Primary”. 2018. *The Journal of Politics*

[Discussed in the NY Times](#)

[Article coverage at Heterodox Academy](#)

[Article coverage in the American Conservative](#)

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

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

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

Nicholas Seltzer, April Johnson and **Karyn 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”. April Johnson and **Karyn Amira** (work split). Lexington Books. 2020.

Book Reviews:

(Proposal) *Eroding Foundations: Norm Violations in American Politics.* Palgrave MacMillan. 2024.

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

Works in Progress:

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

What does “Conservatism” mean to Americans? A longitudinal content analysis. *Data Analysis Phrase*

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; \$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

Media Authorship and Attention:

Interview, As we near the November election, this Charleston play brings politics under the spotlight. Post and Courier. 2024 https://www.postandcourier.com/charleston_scene/2024-presidential-election-charleston-play/article_9ee7fe18-80d7-11ef-8ad8-2f0bfd9544a1.html

Interview, Live 5 News Charleston, VP Debate. 2024.
<https://www.live5news.com/video/2024/10/02/video-karyn-amira-discusses-tuesdays-vp-debate/>

Interview, A calmed debate with more policy. Australian Broadcasting Corporation. 2024.
<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/pm/a-calmer-debate-with-more-policy/104424698>

Interview, Inglis endorses Harris, calling Trump a 'clear and present danger'. The City Paper. 2024.
<https://charlestoncitypaper.com/2024/09/17/inglis-endorses-harris-calling-trump-a-clear-and-present-danger/>

Interview, Harris outperforms Trump in debate. Australian Broadcasting Corporation. 2024.
<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/pm/harris-outperforms-trump-in-debate/104340070>

Interview, College of Charleston professor shares what to expect during Harris-Trump debate. Count on News 2. NBC Affiliate. 2024. <https://www.counton2.com/news/national-news/college-of-charleston-professor-shares-what-to-expect-during-harris-trump-debate/>

Author, JD Vance's selection as Trump's running mate marks the end of Republican conservatism. The Conversation. 2024. *Note: Over 500,000 reads.*
<https://theconversation.com/jd-vances-selection-as-trumps-running-mate-marks-the-end-of-republican-conservatism-235054>

Interview, Trumpism was big winner in S.C primaries, analysts say. The Statehouse Report. 2024.
<https://www.statehousereport.com/2024/06/14/big-story-trumpism-was-big-winner-in-s-c-primaries-analysts-say/>

Interview, "Republican infighting trickles down into misleading mailers. Do voters notice?" The State Newspaper. 2024 (Ungated) <https://www.yahoo.com/news/republican-infighting-trickles-down-misleading-090000667.html>

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>

Panelist, 2 the Point Charleston NBC Affiliate Station, SC Primary Results Panel, 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>

Author, Post and Courier Mayoral Race Exit Polling Report

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

Interview, On gender and representation in the South Carolina legislature. Statehouse Report. 2019.

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

Channel 2 news on the SC Republican primary:

<http://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/how-allegiance-with-president-trump-influenced-arringtonsanford-primary-election/1237261379>

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

2018. <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:

2024 Election Postmortem Panel

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)

2019 Impeachment Panel

2019 Bonner Leadership Program Parties and Media in Elections Presentation
2019 Polarization and the State of Partisan Hostility in America
2018 Midterm Postmortem Panelist
2016 Election Postmortem Panelist

Guest Lecturer: Experimental Design, Dr. Gibbs Knotts' POLI 205 Research and Politics
Guest Lecturer: "Fake News", Dr. Adam Domby's FYE 121 "History in the News"
Guest Lecturer: "Media and Presidential Campaigns", Dr. Claire Wofford's POLI 101 Intro to American Politics
Guest Lecturer: "Mass Media and Presidential Campaigns", Dr. John Thomas POLI 111 Race, Equity and American Politics

Off Campus Presentations:

2024 Election: Historical Context and the Future, Charleston Center for Creative Retirement. Nov 2024.
2024 Election: Historical Context and the Future, Gage Hall Unitarian Church. Nov 2024.
2024 Election: Parties and Media, University School of the Low Country. Oct 2024.
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)
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: Democracy in Action: CofC Poll Worker and Election Administration 2024
POLI 339: Special Topics: Exit Polling for Charleston Mayoral Election 2019
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, Cami Greene.

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*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *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*

Curriculum Committee Chair, Political Science Dept (2024- present)

Assessment: Gen Ed Assessment Committee Dept of Political Science Assessor (2018-present)

Sabbatical Proposal Committee (2022- present)

Award Committee Chair, Political Science Department (2023-2024)

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- 2024)

College of Charleston IT Liaison Committee (2018)

Award Committee Member: Fisher Parker and HSS Travel Abroad Award (2016)

Award Committee Member: NEH Summer Stipend Award (2016)

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