

Alison Higgins Merrill

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Employment

Susquehanna University, Assistant Professor. August 2018 - present

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Texas A&M University, 2018.

Fields: American Politics, Political Methodology

Committee: Joseph Daniel Ura (Chair), Paul M. Kellstedt, Scott J. Cook, Matthew E.K. Hall
(University of Notre Dame) and Robert K. Goidel

Dissertation: The Dynamics of Issue Attention on the United States Supreme Court

B.A. Political Science, Virginia Tech, 2011

Additional Training

2017. Empirical Implications of Theoretical Modeling (EITM) Summer Institute. University of California, Berkeley. June 26 - July 14, 2017.

2015. ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research (Introduction to Applied Bayesian Modeling, Advanced Bayesian Models, Scaling and Dimensional Analysis). June 22 - August 14, 2015.

Publications

Haglin, Kathryn M., Soren Jordan, Alison Higgins Merrill, and Joseph Daniel Ura. 2020. "Ideology and Public Support for the Supreme Court." Forthcoming *Political Research Quarterly*

Merrill, Alison Higgins, Nicholas D. Conway, and Joseph Daniel Ura. 2017. "Confidence and Constraint: Public Opinion, Judicial Independence and the Roberts Court." *Washington University Journal of Law and Policy*. 54(1):

Ura, Joseph Daniel and Alison Higgins Merrill. 2017. "The Supreme Court and Public Opinion." In *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Judicial Behavior*, eds. Lee Epstein and Stefanie A. Lindquist. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Under Review

Hall, Matthew E.K. and Alison Higgins Merrill. "Prestige, Duty, or Fear? Why U.S. Supreme Court Justices Follow Public Opinion"

In Progress

- Merrill, Alison Higgins. "Selecting on the Economy? Economic Issues, Public Opinion and the Supreme Court."
- Merrill, Alison Higgins and Samanth Zuhlke. "Know Thy Neighbor: Ideological Distance and Strategic Decision-Making on the U.S. Supreme Court."
- Merrill, Alison Higgins, Nicholas D. Conway, and Morgan E. Winkler. "SCOTUS Interruptus: Speech Patterns and Opinion Authorship of Female U.S. Supreme Court Justices."
- Merrill, Alison Higgins. "Dynamic Issue Attention and Agenda Setting on the U.S. Supreme Court."
- Nicholas D. Conway, Alison Higgins Merrill and Joseph Daniel Ura. "Competing Public Agency: Public Opinion, Separation of Powers, and Judicial Review."
- Ura, Joseph Daniel and Alison Higgins Merrill. "Signals or Noise? The Influence of Judicial Ideology and Public Opinion on Supreme Court Reversals and Affirmances."

Conference Proceedings

Presentations

- Merrill, Alison Higgins, Nicholas D. Conway, and Morgan Winkler Adams. "SCOTUS Interruptus: Speech Patterns and Opinion Authorship of Female U.S. Supreme Court Justices." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2019.
- Hall, Matthew E.K. and Alison Higgins Merrill. "Prestige, Duty, or Fear? Why U.S. Supreme Court Justices Follow Public Opinion." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, January 2019.
- Merrill, Alison Higgins, Nicholas D. Conway, and Morgan Winkler Adams. "SCOTUS Interruptus: Speech Patterns and Opinion Authorship of Female U.S. Supreme Court Justices." Poster presented at the Text As Data Conference, October 2018.
- Merrill, Alison Higgins. "Know Thy Neighbor: Ideological Distance and Strategic Decision-Making on the U.S. Supreme Court." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. August 2018.
- Merrill, Alison Higgins. "Dynamic Issue Attention on the United States Supreme Court." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association and Texas A&M School of Law, Law and Social Sciences Workshop. April 2018.
- Merrill, Alison Higgins, Nicholas D. Conway, and Morgan Winkler. "Speech Patterns and Opinion Authorship of Female Justices on the United States Supreme Court." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 2018.
- Merrill, Alison Higgins and Liana C. Gonzales. "Speech Patterns and Opinion Authorship of Female Justices on the United States Supreme Court." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. September, 2017.
- Merrill, Alison Higgins. "Know Thy Neighbor: Ideological Distance and Strategic Decision-Making on the U.S. Supreme Court." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 2017.
- Haglin, Kathryn M., Alison Higgins Merrill, Soren Jordan, and Joseph Daniel Ura. "Partisan Asymmetries in Evaluations of the Supreme Court." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 2017.

- Merrill, Alison Higgins. "Selecting on the Economy? Economic Issues, Public Opinion and the Supreme Court." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. September 2016.
- Conway, Nicholas D., Alison Higgins and Joseph Daniel Ura. "Judicial Self-Restraint: Public Opinion and Judicial Review in the Separation of Powers." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 2016.
- Higgins, Alison and Paul M. Kellstedt. "Bankers or Bankers? Exploring Gender Differences in Approval Dynamics During the Obama Presidency." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. January 2016.
- Higgins, Alison and Paul M. Kellstedt. "Forecasts or Memories? Explaining Gender Differences in Consumer Sentiment." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 2015.
- Ura, Joseph Daniel and Alison Higgins. "Signals or Noise? The Influence of Judicial Ideology and Public Opinion on Supreme Court Reversals and Affirmances." Paper presented at the mini conference on Judicial Behavior at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. January 2015."
- Higgins, Alison and Joseph Daniel Ura. "Floating or Following? Assessing Competing Claims about the Influence of Public Opinion on Supreme Court Decisions." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. August 2014.

Discussant and Chair

- Discussant, "Influences on Judicial Behavior" at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2019.
- Chair and Discussant, "Judicial Decision-Making" at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, August 2018.
- Discussant, "Methodological Challenges" at the NSF Conference on Facilitating Studies of Judicial Behavior on Constitutional Courts from a Comparative Perspective. Texas A&M School of Law, May 11-12, 2018.

Teaching Experience

Susquehanna University

- POLI 411: Constitutional Law – Institutional Powers and Constraints
- POLI 412: Constitutional Law – Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
- POLI 215: Law & Politics
- POLI 205: Research Methods
- POLI 501: Senior Capstone
- POLI 111: American Politics

Texas A&M University

Course Instructor

- POLS 357: National Judicial Politics
- POLS 206: American Government & Politics

Teaching Assistant

POLS 602: Quantitative Political Analysis I - Regression (with Paul M. Kellstedt)

POLS 603: Quantitative Political Analysis II - Maximum Likelihood Estimation (with Scott J. Cook)

POLS 209: Introduction to Political Research (with Paul M. Kellstedt and Kim Quaile Hill)

ICPSR

Teaching Assistant

Time Series Analysis II: Advanced Topics (with Paul M. Kellstedt and Mark Pickup)

Professional Activities & Service

Reviewer

Journal of Law & Courts

Journal of Politics

Political Research Quarterly

Political Behavior

Law & Politics Book Review

Service

Director, Arlin Adams Center for Law and Society, Susquehanna University, July 2019 - present

Inclusive Teaching and High Impact Practices Working Group, Susquehanna University, June 2019 - present
(selected by University President and Provost)

Legal Studies Major and Minor Coordinator, Susquehanna University, August 2018 - present

Department Representative, Graduate and Professional Student Council, Texas A&M University, Spring 2015 - Spring 2018.

Graduate Student President, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University, Summer 2016 - Spring 2018.

Coach, Texas A&M Undergraduate Moot Court Team, Fall 2016 - Spring 2018.

Honors and Awards

Recipient, Faculty Development Mini-Grant, Susquehanna University, Summer 2019

Recipient, Center for Teaching and Learning Travel Grant, Susquehanna University, Summer 2019

Recipient, Graduate Student Travel Award for the 2017 Conference for the Society of Political Methodology, National Science Foundation, 2017 (declined).

Recipient, Summertime for Advancement in Research (STAR) Award, Texas A&M University, 2017.

Recipient, College of Liberal Arts Professional Development Grant, Texas A&M University, 2015.

Recipient, College of Liberal Arts Professional Development Grant, Texas A&M University, 2014 (declined).

Memberships

American Political Science Association, Member, 2012-present.

Law and Courts section

Political Methodology section

Elections, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior section

Midwest Political Science Association, Member, 2012-present.

Southern Political Science Association, Member, 2014-present.

Skills & Development

Workshops

2019. ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research (Advanced Dynamics in Panel Data taught by Andrew Q. Phillips and Mark Pickup), July 2 - 4, 2019, Vancouver, BC.

2015. Workshop in Empirical Modeling of Theory. Texas A&M University, taught by Rob Franzese. August 21 - 23, 2015.

2014. Causal Inference. Texas A&M University, Winter Institute in Methods, taught by Teppei Yamamoto and Chad Hazlett. January 8 - 10, 2014.

Research Certification

IRB Human Subjects Training Certification.

Software & Programming

Intermediate: \LaTeX , STATA, R, *SPSS*, Excel

Beginner: WinRATS, JAGS, WinBUGS

References

Available upon Request