

LAUREN RATLIFF SANTORO

The University of Texas at Arlington

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2026–Present *Assistant Professor of Political Science*, The University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, TX
- 2017–2026 *Assistant Professor of Political Science*, The University of Texas at Dallas
Richardson, TX

EDUCATION

- 2017 **Ph.D. in Political Science**, The Ohio State University
Fields: American Politics (Major), Methodology (Minor)
- 2013 **M.A. in Political Science**, The Ohio State University
- 2010 **B.A. in Government (Honors) and English**, The University of Texas at Austin

BOOK PROJECT

- 2026 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff**. “The A-B-Cs of Social Influence: A Framework for Studying the Effects of the Social Environment on Political Behavior.” Manuscript revise and resubmit with Cambridge University Press, Elements in Political Psychology.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff** and Matthew P. Hitt. “Snacks, Meals, or Buffets? (Dis)Aggregating Social Influence Across Social Environments.” Accepted at *Network Science*.
- 2025 Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Dino P. Christenson, **Lauren Ratliff Santoro**, and Elizabeth Steffensmeier. “Cutting in Line: How Powerful Organized Interests Hasten and Delay Executive Branch Nominations.” *The Journal of Politics* 87(1). <https://doi.org/10.1086/736336>.
- 2024 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff** and Anand E. Sokhey. “The Disagreement we Overlook: Examining Core and Acquaintance Networks in a Presidential Primary.” *Research & Politics* 11(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680241293121>.
- 2023 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff** and Emily Sydnor. “Blind Trust, Blind Skepticism: Liberals’ & Conservatives’ Response to Academic Research.” *American Politics Research* 52(1): 52–66. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X231206136>.
- 2023 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff**, Todd Makse, and Anand E. Sokhey. “Linking Primary Voters Mindsets to General Election Enthusiasm.” *Political Behavior*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-023-09891-w>.
- 2022 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff**. “Do Political Beliefs Drive Environment Selection?” *American Politics Research* 51(1): 108–124. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X221112394>.
- 2022 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff** and Jonas B. Bunte. “What Did You Get? Peers, Information, and Student Exam Performance.” *Research in Higher Education* 64: 423–450. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-022-09711-w>.

- 2021 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff**, Elias Assaf, Robert M. Bond, Skyler J. Cranmer, Eloise E. Kaizar, and David J. Sivakoff. "Exploring the direct and indirect effects of elite influence on public opinion." *PLoS ONE* 16(11): e0257335. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0257335>.
- 2021 Assaf, Elias, Robert M. Bond, Skyler J. Cranmer, Eloise E. Kaizar, **Lauren Ratliff Santoro**, Susumu Shikano, and David J. Sivakoff. "Understanding the Relationship Between Official and Social Information About Infectious Disease: Experimental Analysis." *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 23(11): e25287. <https://www.jmir.org/2021/11/e25287>.
- 2018 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff**, and Paul Allen Beck. "Social Networks and Vote Choice." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Networks*, 383–406. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

WORKING PAPERS

- 2026 Pietryka, Matthew T., **Lauren Ratliff Santoro**, and Anand E. Sokhey. "Partisan Tolerance: The Democratic Importance of Casual Interpersonal Interaction." Under review.
- 2026 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff** and John Eaton. "Disagreement and Diversity: Political Difference Across Social Environments." Under review.
- 2026 Bram, Curtis, Emily Sydnor and **Lauren Ratliff Santoro**. "Choosing Centrism: Can Selecting Unbiased News Sources Reduce Partisan Polarization?"
- 2026 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff**. "The Calculus of Connection: The Role of Political Homophily in Relationship Formation."
- 2026 **Santoro, Lauren Ratliff**. "Who Gets News from Chatbots? Early Adopters of AI Chatbots as a News Source in the United States." Manuscript in preparation; letter of inquiry under review at *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*.
- 2025 Sydnor, Emily and **Lauren Ratliff Santoro**. "Cutting Ties? The Network Effects of Uncivil and Intolerant Discourse."

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

- The Institute for Humane Studies** (\$5,000) December 2024
"The A-B-C Framework of Social Influence: Analyzing Political Diversity Across Social Environments"
- APSA Centennial Center Research Grant** (\$2,480) July 2021
"Blind Trust, Blind Skepticism: Liberals' & Conservatives' Response to Academic Research" with Emily Sydnor
- National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant** (\$28,644) 2016
"The Social Roots of Political Decision-Making"
- William J. Bryan Prize for Best Paper in American Politics** 2016
"Social Influence Over Time: Depicting the Process and Testing the Mechanism"
Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association and awarded by the Department of Political Science at the Ohio State University
- Decision Science Collaborative Research Grant** (\$3,000) 2015
The Ohio State University
- Democracy Studies Program Research Grant** (\$7,500) 2015
College of Arts and Sciences, John Glenn College of Public Affairs, and the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University
- Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Grant** (\$1,200) 2014
Coca-Cola Foundation administered by the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the Ohio State University

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

American Political Science Association	2022–2026, 2020, 2016–2018, 2012 (cancelled)
Midwest Political Science Association	2025–2026, 2021, 2020 (cancelled), 2013–2018
Political Networks	2025, 2024, 2012–2019
Southern Political Science Association	2025, 2023, 2020, 2017
Texas American Behavior Conference (TABC)	2025

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, The University of Texas at Arlington

- Civic Engagement, Civil Society, and Community Fall 2026
- State and Local Government Fall 2026

Instructor of Record, The University of Texas at Dallas

- Social Network Analysis (graduate) Spring 2025, Spring 2021
- Fake News Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2018
- Political Psychology Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017
- Political Psychology (graduate) Spring 2023, Spring 2020
- State and Local Government Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2018, Spring 2018

Graduate Instructor, The Ohio State University

- Introduction to American Politics (online) Spring & Summer 2014–Spring & Summer 2017

TECHNICAL SKILLS

R; STATA; LaTeX; Qualtrics

PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE

APSA Political Networks Section:

- *Coordinator of the Political Networks Online Colloquium* (2026–Present)
- *SPSA Section Chair for 2027 Annual Meeting* (2026–Present)
- *Program Committee Member for 2025 Annual Political Networks Meeting* (Feb. 2025–Aug. 2025)
- *APSA Section Chair for 2025 Annual Meeting* (June 2024–Sept. 2025)
- *MPSA Program Chair for 2024 Annual Meeting* (Aug. 2023–Apr. 2024)
- *Chair of Host Search Committee for the 2024 Political Networks Conference* (Aug. 2022–Apr. 2024)
- *Fellowship Committee Member* (2018–2022)
- *Archivist* (May 2013–Aug. 2022)

Reviewer: *International Journal of Communication; Journal of Politics; Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory; Network Science; Political Analysis; State Politics and Policy Quarterly*

Memberships: American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; Pi Sigma Alpha

UT-DALLAS SERVICE

Working Paper Series, <i>Faculty Coordinator</i>	Aug. 2021–Aug. 2022
EPPS Job Market Preparation Workshop, <i>Faculty Coordinator</i>	June 2019–June 2021
Search Committee for Comparative Courts Hire, <i>Committee Member</i>	Dec. 2020–Mar. 2021
Search Committee for Political Science Civil Conflict Hire, <i>Committee Member</i>	Oct.–Dec. 2018

OUTSIDE & COMMUNITY SERVICE

North Texas Research Council (NTRC), <i>UTD Institutional Director</i>	Feb. 2025–Aug. 2025
Highland Springs Senior Living Center, Dallas, TX <i>Presentation of 'Fake or Fact? Can you tell the difference? And, do you want to?'</i>	Jan. 15, 2025
First United Methodist Church of Denton, Denton, TX <i>Presentation of 'Fake or Fact? Can you tell the difference?'</i>	Oct. 7, 2024
League of Women Voters of Collin County, Plano, TX <i>Presentation of 'Fake or Fact? A Public Forum on False Information'</i>	Sept. 30, 2024
Richardson League of Women Voters, Richardson, TX <i>Presentation of 'Fake or Fact? Can you tell the difference?'</i>	Mar. 28, 2024

Last updated: September 2026