

Elizabeth Suhay

American University, Washington, DC

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Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, Government, School of Public Affairs (2018–present)
American University

Assistant Professor, Government, School of Public Affairs (2014–2018)
American University

Assistant Professor, Government & Law (2009–2014)
Lafayette College, Easton, PA

Editorial & Leadership

Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Political Psychology* (2025–present)

Editor, *Elements in Political Psychology* (2024–present)
Cambridge University Press

Vice Director, Science & Policy Certificate Program (2022–present)
College of Arts & Sciences, American University

Graduate Program Director, Political Science (2019–2024)
American University

Affiliations

Faculty Fellow, The Civic Life, Sine Institute (2025–26)
American University

Fellow, Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies (2017–present)
American University

Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (Fall 2023)
Vanderbilt University

Visiting Scholar, Annenberg School for Communication (2012–2013)
University of Pennsylvania

Education

PhD in Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
American Politics; Political Theory; Methodology

BA in Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
High Honors in Political Science; Distinction in History & Political Science

Publications

Book

Elizabeth Suhay. October 2025. *Debating the American Dream: How Explanations for Inequality Polarize Politics*. Russell Sage Foundation Press.

Edited Volumes

David Barker and Elizabeth Suhay, eds. 2021. *The Politics of Truth in Polarized America*. Oxford University Press.

Elizabeth Suhay, Bernard Grofman, and Alex Trechsel, eds. 2020. *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion*. Oxford University Press.

Elizabeth Suhay and James N. Druckman, eds. 2015. The Politics of Science: Political Values and the Production, Communication, and Reception of Scientific Knowledge. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 658.

Research Articles

Daniel Steiman* and Elizabeth Suhay. 2023. Conducting Interview Projects in the U.S. Congress: Analyzing the Methods of Experts in the Field. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 48(4): 699-730.

Elizabeth Suhay, Aparna Soni, Claudia Persico, and Dave E. Marcotte. 2022. Americans' Trust in Government and Health Behavior during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 8(8): 221-244.

Elizabeth Suhay, Mark Tenenbaum*, and Austin Bartola*. 2022. Explanations for Inequality and Partisan Polarization in the U.S., 1980-2020. *The Forum* 20(1): 5-36.

Meri Long, Ryan Dawe*, and Elizabeth Suhay. 2021. Gender Attitudes and Candidate Preferences in the 2016 US Presidential Primary and General Election. *Politics & Gender* 18(3): 830-857. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X21000155>

Elizabeth Suhay, Marko Klasnja, and Gonzalo Rivero. 2021. Ideology of Affluence: Explanations for Inequality and Economic Policy Preferences among Rich Americans. *The Journal of Politics* 83(1): 367-380.

Winner 2018 APSA Class & Inequality "best paper" award

Karen L. Akerlof, Taryn Bromser-Kloeden, Kristin Timm . . . Elizabeth Suhay [multi-author publication]. 2021. Categorizing Professionals' Perspectives on Environmental Communication with Implications for Graduate Education. *Environmental Communication* 15(4): 447-464.

Sarah Croco, Elizabeth Suhay, Rachel Blum, Lilliana Mason, Hans Noel, Jonathan Ladd, and Michael Bailey. 2019. Student-Run Exit Polls 101. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 52(2): 361-366.

Benjamin Toff and Elizabeth Suhay. 2019. Partisan Conformity, Social Identity, and the Formation of Policy Preferences. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 31(2): 349-367.

Elizabeth Suhay and Cengiz Erisen. 2018. The Role of Anger in the Biased Assimilation of Political Information. *Political Psychology* 39(4): 793-810.

Elizabeth Suhay and Jeremiah Garretson. 2018. Science, Sexuality, and Civil Rights: Does Information on the Causes of Sexual Orientation Change Attitudes? *The Journal of Politics* 80(2): 692-696.

* Indicates student co-author (at time of writing)

Elizabeth Suhay, Emily Bello-Pardo*, and Brianna Maurer*. 2017. The Polarizing Effects of Online Partisan Criticism: Evidence from Two Experiments. *International Journal of Press/Politics* 23(1): 95–115.

Alexandre Morin-Chasse, Elizabeth Suhay, and Toby Jayaratne. 2017. Discord over DNA: Politically Contingent Responses to Scientific Research on Genes and Race. *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 2(2): 260–299.

Elizabeth Suhay, Mark Brandt, and Travis Proulx. 2016. Lay Belief in Biopolitics and Political Prejudice. *Social Psychological and Personality Science* 8(2): 173–182.

Jeremiah Garretson and Elizabeth Suhay. 2016. Scientific Communication about Biological Influences on Homosexuality and the Politics of Gay Rights. *Political Research Quarterly* 69(1): 17–29.

Elizabeth Suhay, Brian Calfano, and Ryan Dawe*. 2016. Social Norms, Dual Identities, and National Attachment: How the Perceived Patriotism of Group Members Influences Muslim Americans. *Politics, Groups, & Identities* 4(1): 63–83.

Elizabeth Suhay, Allyson Blackwell*, Cameron Roche*, and Lucien Bruggeman*. 2015. Forging Bonds and Burning Bridges: Polarization and Incivility in Blog Discussions about Occupy Wall Street. *American Politics Research* 43(4): 643–679.

Elizabeth Suhay. 2015. Explaining Group Influence: The Role of Identity and Emotion in Political Conformity and Polarization. *Political Behavior* 37(1): 221–251.

Elizabeth Suhay and Toby Jayaratne. 2013. Does Biology Justify Ideology? The Politics of Genetic Attribution. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 77(2): 497–521.

Marc Hetherington and Elizabeth Suhay. 2011. Authoritarianism, Threat, and Americans' Support for the War on Terror. *American Journal of Political Science* 55(3): 546–560.

Ted Brader, Nicholas Valentino, and Elizabeth Suhay. 2008. What Triggers Public Opposition to Immigration? Anxiety, Group Cues, and Immigration Threat. *American Journal of Political Science* 52(4): 959–978.

Reprinted in Howard Lavine, ed. 2010. *Political Psychology, Volume II: Public Opinion and Mass Political Behavior*. Sage.

Commentaries & Encyclopedia Articles

Elizabeth Suhay and Mark Brandt. 2025. Building Community and Advancing Transparency in Political Psychology's Next Chapter. *Political Psychology* 46(1): 3–5.

Elizabeth Suhay. 2022. Human Interaction, Politics, and Democratic Reform: Integrating Political Science with an Interpersonal Systems Approach. *Cognition and Emotion* 36(8): 1485–1490.

Elizabeth Suhay. 2017. The Politics of Scientific Knowledge. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*, Jon Nussbaum, ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Elizabeth Suhay. 2017. Genetic Essentialism. In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Political Behavior*. Fathali M. Moghaddam, ed. Sage Publications: 323–325.

Reports, Reviews, & Other Publications

Dave E. Marcotte and Elizabeth Suhay. 2021. An Initial Evaluation of the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) 2020-2021. School of Public Affairs, American University.

Elizabeth Suhay, Emily Cloyd, Erin Heath, and Erin Nash. 2019. *Recommended Practices for Science Communication with Policymakers*. School of Public Affairs/American University and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Elizabeth Suhay and Brianna Maurer*. 2018. Authoritarianism in the Public. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*, Sandy Maisal, ed.

Elizabeth Suhay. 2017. Review of *Anxious Politics: Democratic Citizenship in a Threatening World* by Bethany Albertson and Shana Kushner Gadarian. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 81(1): 196–198.

Elizabeth Suhay. 2016. Review of *The Hidden Agenda of the Political Mind: How Self-Interest Shapes Our Opinions and Why We Won't Admit It* by Jason Weeden and Robert Kurzban. *Perspectives on Politics* 14(1): 36–38.

Toby Jayaratne and Elizabeth Suhay. 2015. Genetic, environmental, and choice causal attribution survey measures. Published in PsycTESTS database.

Elizabeth Suhay. 2011-12. Review of *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans After 9/11* by Lori Peek. *Political Science Quarterly* 126(4): 708–710.

Scott E. Page and Elizabeth Suhay. 2006. *A Decision-Making Guide to the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan.

Webinars

"Recommendations for Science Communication with Policymakers Based on a U.S. Research Study." Science Communication online course, CampusIL (Israel), 2021.

"Evidence-based Science Communication with Policymakers" (with Emily Cloyd, Erin Heath, & Erin Nash). Sage Webinar, July 2019.

"Politics in Science/Science in Law: Consuming Science Responsibly in the Courtroom, Legislature, and Public Sphere" (with Dan Kahan & Francis Shen). Sage Webinar, May 2015.

Work in Progress

Perceptions of Political Corruption in the U.S. (with Hwayong Shin)

Seeking a Land of Opportunity: Immigrants' Beliefs in the American Dream (with Mark Tenenbaum and Wali Rehemani*)

Americans' Partisan Perspectives on Scientific Authority & Consensus (with Jennifer Hochschild and Steven Worthington)

Synthesizing Americans' Perspectives on Forensic and Scientific Genetic Biobanks (with Meredith Dost* and Jennifer Hochschild)

Bridging the Scientist-Policymaker Divide: Congressional Perspectives on Science Communication (with Kristen Munnely*, Erin Heath, and Erin Nash*)

Grants & Awards

External Grants

Extraordinary Claims, Extraordinary Evidence grant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University for "Politicizing Expert Authority," with Jennifer Hochschild (PI). 2024.

Trust in Science Project/Harvard University grant for "Protesting Expert Authorities: Autonomy and the Democratic Challenge to Evidence-Based Policy" (\$100,000), with Jennifer Hochschild (PI). 2022.

National Science Foundation grant for "Societal Trust and Health amidst COVID-19, and an Evaluation Framework for the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN)" (\$200,000). 2020.

National Science Foundation grant for "Developing Approaches to the Study of Information" (\$40,500), with David Barker. 2018.

National Academy of Sciences (with support from Rita Allen Foundation) grant for "Evidence-Based Science Communication to Policymakers" (\$37,500). 2017.

Russell Sage Foundation grant for "The Politics of Genetic Explanations for Social Inequality" (\$40,800). 2016.

Time-Sharing Experiments for Social Sciences (TESS) award, with Jeremiah Garretson. 2013.

Time-Sharing Experiments for Social Sciences (TESS) award, with Ted Brader & Nicholas Valentino. 2003.

Internal Grants

Excellence with Impact grant for "Improving Science Communication with Policymakers" event, School of Public Affairs, American University. 2019.

Junior Faculty Research Grant, School of Public Affairs, American University. 2017 & 2018.

Excellence with Impact grant for "Politics of Science" event, School of Public Affairs, American University. 2015.

Academic Research Committee Grant, Lafayette College. 2012 & 2013.

Thesis Grant, Political Science & Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan. 2006 & 2007.

Awards & Fellowships

Faculty Civic Life Fellow, American University. 2024-25.

Outstanding Teaching by a Tenured Faculty Member, School of Public Affairs, American University. 2020.

Excellence with Impact Faculty Award, School of Public Affairs, American University. 2015.

Richard King Mellon Research Fellowship, Lafayette College. 2010.

Roberta Sigel Early Career Scholar Paper Award, Int'l Society of Political Psychology. 2008.

Rackham Graduate School One-Term Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan. 2008.

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Political Science, University of Michigan. 2006.

Gerald R. Ford Fellowship, Political Science, University of Michigan. 2005–7.

Connelly Award Fellowship, Political Science, University of Michigan. 2004.

Summer Awards for Faculty/Student Collaboration, with Professor Donald R. Kinder, Political Science, University of Michigan. 2003 & 2004.

Angus B. Campbell Research Fellowship, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. 2002–3.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention. 2002.

Horace H. Rackham Regents Fellowship, University of Michigan. 2000–2.

**Talks,
Conferences,
Workshops**

Invited Talks

Symposium on Science & Politics, Center for Science of Science & Innovation and Ryan Institute on Complexity, Northwestern University 2025

Department of Political Science, Stony Brook University 2024

Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh 2024

Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina 2023

How People Think About the Economy Conference, University College London 2023

Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Public Issues Leadership Development Conference, Washington, D.C. 2023

Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) Workshop, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C. 2023

American Political Science Congressional Fellows Program, Washington, DC 2022

Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality, Yale University 2021

Thinking Morally about Genetics & Agency Conference, Columbia University 2019

Reconceptualizing the Challenges of Direct-to-Consumer Health Products, Banbury Center, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 2019

School of Media & Public Affairs, George Washington University 2019

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University 2019

Communicating Science Seminar, American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. 2019

Stem Cell Research Center, University of California, Irvine 2019

Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland 2018

Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, McGill University 2018

National Academy of Sciences Sackler Colloquium, Washington, D.C. 2017

Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan, May 2017

Center for Neuroscience & Society, University of Pennsylvania, Jan 2017

Consortium for Socially Relevant Philosophy of/in Science and Engineering, University of Texas, Dallas 2016

AcademyHealth National Health Policy Conference, Washington, D.C. 2016

Political Psychology Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA 2016

Political Persuasion Conference, University of California, Irvine, Laguna Beach, CA 2016

Department of Government, Georgetown University 2015

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania 2012

Conference Papers & Presentations

American Political Science Association 2025, 2024, 2023, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management 2022

Current Innovations in Probability-Based Household Internet Panel Research (CIPHER) 2025

Cooperative Congressional Election Study 2017

European Consortium for Political Research 2015

International Society of Political Psychology 2022, 2021, 2020, 2015, 2012

Midwest Political Science Association 2025, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010

National Capital Area Political Science Association 2023, 2017

New York Area Political Psychology Meeting 2023, 2010

NYU-CESS Experimental Political Science 2015

Penn-Temple Philadelphia Region American Politics 2013

External Workshops

American Political Economy: Foundations, Focuses, Frontiers, Yale University, April 25-26, 2025 (by invitation)

Trust in Science Project Workshop, Program on Science, Technology & Society and Harvard Data Science Initiative, Harvard University, Sept 8-9, 2022 (by invitation)

What is Belief? An Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Nature of Belief, Princeton University, June 13-15, 2022 (by invitation)

Social and Political Impact of Covid-19 in the United States, Russell Sage Foundation, June 10-11, 2021 (by invitation)

Encountering Science in Everyday Life, American Academy of Arts & Sciences, Cambridge, MA, June 1-2, 2017 (by invitation)

Integrating Biopolitics and Political Psychology, UC Merced, June 20, 2016

St. Louis Area Methods Meeting, American University, Washington, D.C., April 20, 2016

Understanding Science Denialism, Wake Forest, Winston-Salem, NC, July 9-10, 2015 (by invitation)

Methodology of Twin and Family Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, March 1-5, 2010 (competitive/NSF funded)

Teaching

Courses

American University:

PhD: U.S. Politics Proseminar; Political Behavior; Research Design; Economic Inequality & Politics (independent study)

MA: Capstone in Political Communication

BA/MA: Political Opinion in the U.S.; Introduction to Survey Research (team taught)

BA: Politics in the U.S.; Inequality in the U.S.; Introduction to Political Research

Lafayette College: Introduction to American Government; Campaigns & Elections in the U.S.; Political Parties and the Electoral Process; Political Opinion and Participation in the U.S.; Emotions and Politics

University of Michigan: Campaigns and Elections (Lecturer); Contemporary Issues in American Politics (GSI); Introduction to Political Theory (GSI)

Dissertation Committees

Current: Kristen Munnelly (Chair); *Completed:* Marcus Johnson (Chair); Em Bello-Pardo (Chair); William Jorgeson (Co-Chair); Michael Heseltine; Simon Heuberger; Cassandra Tai (Iowa); Sara Yeganeh (Stony Brook)

Service

Association Leadership Roles

Conference Co-Chair, Midwest Political Science Association (2024)

Chair, Nominating Committee, International Society of Political Psychology (2023-4)

Program Chair, Social Inequality, Social Change, and Civic Development, International Society of Political Psychology annual conference (2022)

Member, Governing Council, International Society of Political Psychology (2020-3)

Section Chair, Class & Inequality, American Political Science Association (2020-2)

Program Chair, Public Opinion, American Political Science Association annual conference (2021)

Chair of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Class & Inequality, American Political Science Association (2019-20)

Program Chair, Political Psychology, Midwest Political Science Association annual conference (2013)

Association Committees

Political Psychology Best Paper Chair, APSA (2024)

Class & Inequality Best Paper Chair, APSA (2023)

Franklin L. Burdette Pi Sigma Alpha Award Chair, APSA (2021)

Warren Miller Prize, APSA EPOVB (2019)

Nominations Committee, SPSA (2019, 2022)

Program Committee, Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Conference (2017)

Best Dissertation, APSA Political Psychology (2016)

Roberta Sigel Chair, ISPP (2014)

Best Poster, MPSA (2014)

Best Dissertation, APSA Experiments (2012)

Editorial Boards

Journal of Experimental Political Science (2022-)

Political Behavior (2019-)

Science, Values, and the Public series, University of Pittsburgh Press (2019-)

Conference Panel Discussant

APSA (2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2011, 2008); MPSA (2025, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2010); ISPP (2012); NYU-CESS Experimental Political Science (2013, 2011)

Peer Reviewer

Journals: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *American Political Thought*; *American Politics Research*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *British Journal of Social Psychology*; *British Journal of Sociology*; *Climatic Change*; *Cognition & Emotion*; *Communications Psychology*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *Economics & Politics*; *Information, Communication, & Society*; *European Journal of Social Psychology*; *European Political Science Review*; *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*; *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*; *Journal of Communication*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Journal of Experimental Psychology*; *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*; *Journal of Homosexuality*; *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Public Policy*; *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*; *Journal of Risk Research*; *Journal of Women, Politics, & Policy*; *Latin American Research Review*; *Nature Climate Change*; *Nature Human Behaviour*; *Personality & Individual Differences*; *Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *PLOS ONE*; *Political Behavior*; *Political Science Research & Methods*; *Political Psychology*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Political Studies Review*; *Politics, Groups, & Identities*; *Politics & Gender*; *Politics & Religion*; *Polity*; *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*; *Research & Politics*; *Royal Society Open Science*; *Science*; *Social Problems*; *Social Science Quarterly*; *Social Science Research*; *Sociological Forum*; *Vaccine*

Book Publishers: Oxford University Press; Princeton University Press; Routledge

Funders: European Research Council; German Research Foundation; Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research; National Science Foundation; Russell Sage Foundation; Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences

American University Committees

Peer Teaching Evaluation Committee (2024–)

Faculty Search Committee, Government (2023, 2024)

Gill Scholarship Committee, SPA (2019, 2021, 2023)

Methods Field Committee, Government (2018–20)

Academic Core Socio-Historical Subcommittee, AU (2018–9)

Assessment, Government (2017–9)

Faculty Development Leadership Cohort, AU (2017–8)

Excellence with Impact, SPA (2017–8)

Teaching Evaluation, SPA (2015–6)

Honors Capstone Conference Selection, SPA (2015)

Academic Integrity, SPA (2014–5)

Updated: October 19, 2025