

*Curriculum Vitae*

# **Aaron A. Hitefield**

February 2023

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Department of Political Science  
Whitworth University  
300 W Hawthorne Rd, Spokane, WA 99251

Phone: +1(423) 797 0472  
Email: [ahitefield@whitworth.edu](mailto:ahitefield@whitworth.edu)  
Website: <https://www.aaronhitefield.com>

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## **Academic Appointments**

**Whitworth University**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2022-current.

## **Education**

**University of Georgia**, August 2017—May 2022

Ph.D. in Political Science, School of Public and International Affairs

Dissertation Title: *United We Vote? Analyzing the Effects of Nationalization on Congressional Elections*

Dissertation Committee: Jamie Carson (Major Professor), Michael Lynch, Geoffrey Sheagley

**King University**, 2013-2017

B.S. in Mathematics; Double Major: Political Science; Minor: Security and Intelligence Studies

*Magna Cum Laude*, Sniders Honors Fellow

## **Research Interests**

American Political Institutions and Methodology: Congress and the Presidency, Political Behavior, Parties and Elections, Representation, and American Political Development.

## **Peer Reviewed Publications**

Dougherty, Keith L., and Aaron A. Hitefield. 2023. "The Effect of the Great Compromise on the Constitutional Convention of 1787." *American Politics Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X231220643>.

Carson, Jamie L., and Aaron A. Hitefield. 2023. "A Red Wave or a Ripple? Nationalized Politics and the 2022 Midterm Elections." *The Forum*.

Carson, Jamie L., Spencer Hardin, and Aaron A. Hitefield. 2021. "You're Fired! Donald Trump and the 2020 Congressional Elections." *The Forum*, 18(4), pp. 627-650.

Carson, Jamie L. & Aaron A. Hitefield. 2018. "Donald Trump, Nationalization, and the 2018 Midterm Elections." *The Forum*, 16(4), pp. 531-549.

## **Book Chapters**

Hitefield, Aaron A. and M.V. Hood III. "The 2020 Presidential Nomination Process." 2021. In *The 2020 Presidential Election in the South*, eds. Branwell DuBose Kapeluck and Scott E. Buchanan. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

## **Teaching Experience**

Assistant Professor, Whitworth University, Political Science Department

- Undergraduate Courses
  - PO-396: Electoral Politics (Fall 2022)
  - PO-396: The Politics of Income Inequality (Spring 2023)
  - PO-331: The American Presidency (Spring 2023)
  - PO-296: Legislative Process: Simulation (Jan Term 2023-24)
  - PO-102: American National Politics (Fall 2022-23, Spring 2023-24)
  - PO-342: American Political Parties (Fall 2023)
  - PO-204: Data in Politics (Fall 2023)
  - PO-250: Environmental Politics (Spring 2024)
  - PO-332: Modern Congress (Spring 2024)

Instructor of Record, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Graduate Courses
  - POLS 7770: Graduate Teaching Seminar (Fall 2021)
- Undergraduate Courses
  - POLS 4530: American Political Parties (Spring 2021)
  - POLS 4605: The Politics of Congressional Elections (Spring 2020)

Guest Talk/Guest Lectures, Whitworth University

- Spring 2023: Environmental Politics
- Fall 2022: 2022 Election Talk

Guest Talk/Guest Lectures, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Fall 2020: The Politics of Congressional Elections (Honors)
- Fall 2019: American Political Development
- Fall 2019: American Political Development (Honors)
- Fall 2019: Introduction to American Politics

Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Dr. Alexa Bankert (Spring 2022)

- POLS 1101: American Government
- Dr. Audrey Haynes (Fall 2021)
  - POLS 1101: American Government
- Dr. Keith T. Poole (Fall 2019-Spring 2020)
  - POLS 4635: Politics of Income Inequality
  - POLS 4555: Railroads and American Politics

Teaching Assistant, POLS 7012, Introduction to Political Methodology (Graduate),  
University of Georgia, Department of Political Science

- Dr. Robert Grafstein and Dr. Michael Lynch (Fall 2019)

## **Research Experience**

Research Assistant, University of Georgia Department of Political Science

- Dr. Jamie L. Carson (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
- Dr. M.V. Trey Hood (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)
- Dr. Keith L. Dougherty (Summer 2020)
- Dr. Jamie L. Carson (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
- Dr. Jason Anastasopoulos (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
- Dr. Charles S. Bullock III (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
- Dr. Keith L. Dougherty (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

## **Selected Working Papers**

“Strategy, Choice, and Nationalization in U.S. House Elections.” with Jason S. Byers and Jamie L. Carson

“Nationalized Politics and the 2020 Elections.” with Jamie L. Carson and Spencer Hardin

“The Effects of Discrimination on Support for the Black Lives Matter Movement.” with Neil S. Williams and Karlee Taylor.

“Citizen Preferences for their Legislative Body.” with Neil S. Williams and Karlee Taylor.

“*Smith v. Allwright*: Examining External Reform and the Electoral Connection.” With Adam G. Rutkowski and Ryan D. Williamson

“Context Matters: Examining Restrictive Rules and Machine Learning Classifiers.” with Michael Lynch and Anthony J. Madonna

“Strategic Presidential Candidacy Announcements in the Invisible Primary.” with Jason S. Byers.

“Does Quality Still Matter? Reexamining Nationalization’s Effect on Primary and General Elections.” with Jason S. Byers, and Jamie L. Carson

“Unpacking Quality: Examining Voter Perceptions of Previous Electoral Experience.”  
with Jason S. Byers and Matthew E. Kopp

## **Conference Presentations**

### **2023**

“Quality Challengers and Competition in U.S. Senate Primary Elections.” Presenting at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Jason S. Byers (2023).

“The Effects of Discrimination on Support for the Black Lives Matter Movement.” Presenting at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Neil S. Williams and Karlee Taylor (2023).

### **2022**

“Money, Nationalization, and the Vote: Campaign Finance in U.S. Congressional Elections.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Jamie L. Carson and Joel Sievert (2022).

“Citizen Preferences for their Legislative Body.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Neil S. Williams and Karlee Taylor (2022).

“The Effects of the Great Compromise on the Constitutional Convention of 1787.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Keith L. Dougherty (2022).

### **2021**

“Money and Nationalization: Campaign Finance in Congressional Elections.” Paper accepted for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, with Jamie L. Carson and Joel Sievert.

“*Smith v. Allwright*: Examining External Reform and the Electoral Connection” Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Ryan D. Williamson and Adam G. Rutkowski.

“Holding the President Accountable: Analyzing the 2020 Presidential and Congressional Elections.” Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Spencer Hardin and Jamie L. Carson.

### **2020**

“Evaluating the Roots of Careerism in the U.S. House of Representatives.” Paper Accepted for the American Political Science Association, with Jamie L. Carson [Panel Canceled: COVID-19]

“Money, Nationalization, and the Vote: Campaign Finance in U.S. Congressional Elections.” Paper Accepted for the Midwest Political Science Association, with Jamie L. Carson [Canceled: COVID-19]

## **2019**

“A Referendum on Trump: Analyzing the 2018 Midterm Elections.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, with Jason S. Byers, Jamie L. Carson, and Jordan McKissick

“Success at the Constitutional Convention.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, with Keith L. Dougherty

## **Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Grant (2024)

Dornsife Faculty Fellow (2023-2024)

Faculty Research and Development Fellowship Award (2023)

The Dirksen Center Congressional Research Grant (2021)

The University of Georgia Graduate School Dean’s Award (2021)

IA Graduate Student Small Research Grant (2021) (with Neil S. Williams & Karlee Taylor)

Prestage-Cook Travel Award (2020 SPSA) (Canceled attendance: Earthquakes)

Reed Fellowship, University of Georgia (2018-2019)

Excellence in Research Award, University of Georgia (2018-19)

Thomas P. Lauth Fellowship, University of Georgia (2017-2018)

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, King University (2017)

Student Leadership Award, Student Affairs (2017)

## **Skills**

LATEX, R, R Studio, STATA, WinBUGS/JAGS, Microsoft Excel

## **Volunteer and Service**

Member of Organizing Committee for the 2024 Spokane Intercollegiate Research Conference

Whitworth University - Head NGO Observer for United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 28 - 2023

Journal Referee—*Political Behavior, American Politics Research, Political Research Quarterly, Party Politics, Journal of Political Marketing, Journal of Cyber Policy*

Discussant – Recent Developments in American Politics - SPIA Undergraduate Research Colloquium (2022)

Discussant – Women's Rights and Representation - SPIA Undergraduate Research Colloquium (2019)

Student Government President (SGA) – King University (2016-2017)

Congressional Intern (D.C. Capitol Office) – Congressman Phil Roe (TN-01) (2017)

Campaign Manager for Tennessee State House of Representatives Election (2016)

### **Media Interviews and/or Media References**

February 2024: PBS Civics Bowl Guest Questioner – Guest KSPS PBS; sponsored by the League of Women Voters and KSPS. *Forthcoming April 8th.*

November 22, 2023: [“Whitworth professor, 2 students attend United Nations Climate Change Conference”](#)

November 21, 2023: [Whitworth Professor and Two Students to Attend United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 28](#)

November 9, 2022: [“How Democrats stifled the ‘red wave’ despite high inflation, low approval ratings.”](#)

November 8, 2022: [“Election analysts break down early results from local general election races.”](#)

November 3, 2022: [“#4ThePeople: Murray, Smiley collectively spent over \\$36 million during campaign.”](#)

October 9, 2020: Poll conducted by M.V. Hood III, Aaron A. Hitefield, and Jake S. Truscott referenced in Wall Street Journal article entitled [“Georgia Poll: Trump, Biden Virtually Tied, Open Senate Race Tight.”](#)

### **References**

Available Upon Request