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# Erin S. Cikanek, Ph.D

## Academic Appointments

- 2023-2026 **Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**  
Klarman Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Government,  
Affiliate: Center for Global Democracy, Cornell Center for Social Sciences, Roper Center for Public Opinion Research
- 2025-present **Conflict Research and Security Studies**  
Lab Affiliate

## Education

- 2023 **Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, PhD.**  
**Subfields:** American Politics (Political Psychology, Public Opinion), Methods  
**Committee:** Nicholas Valentino (*chair*), Ted Brader, Stuart Soroka (UCLA), Christopher Fariss, Walter Mebane (*statistics*)
- 2014 **Social Science, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, MA**
- 2012 **Public Policy and Administration, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, MA**
- 2007 **Philosophy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, BA**

## Publications

**“The Emotional Foundations of Democratic Citizenship”, Ted Brader and Erin Cikanek, In**  
New Directions in Public Opinion, Third Edition, Ed. Berinsky, Adam. Routledge, 2019

## Working Papers

- “News That’s Madder: Measuring Emotions in Partisan News in the Wake of the 2020 Presidential Election”, (Under Review)**
- “Feeling Democracy: Citizens’ Emotional States and Support for Democratic Norms”**
- “Operationalizing Emotion: Identifying Best Practices for Two Common Conceptions”, w/ George Marcus**
- “Ordered Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey Scaling: Improving Bias Correction on the Liberal-Conservative Scale”, w/ Hwayong Shin and Kevin McAlister**

## Invited Talks

- Spring 2025 **Syracuse University, Does Enthusiasm Strengthen Democracy? The Potential for Positive News to Enforce Democratic Norms**  
Mini Conference on Experiments in Political Science

- Spring 2023 **Cornell University**, *Feeling Democracy: Emotions and the Support of Democratic Norms*  
Guest Lecture in 'Global Democracy and Public Policy', PUBPOL 2320
- Summer 2024 **University of Pittsburgh - The Mobilization and Political Economy (MPE) Summer Research Program**,  
"Survey Experiments and You - A Very Brief Introduction"  
Methods lecture introducing summer research program participants to survey experiments
- Fall 2022 **Seattle University**, "Anger as a Key Factor in Partisan News Media"
- Fall 2021 **University of Massachusetts-Amherst**, "Antecedents of electoral emotions: A Pilot Study for Measuring Emotions Via Survey Response"

## Grants and Awards

- 2022-2023 **Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship**, *One of the most prestigious awards granted by Rackham Graduate School to advanced doctoral students to complete dissertation research and writing, \$34,794 stipend*
- 2020 **Garth Taylor Dissertation Award in Public Opinion**, "The Emotional Landscape of the American Media & Its Relationship to Public Opinion", \$5000
- 2020 **Gerald R. Ford Fellowship**, *internal tuition funding, \$23,000 stipend, and \$3,840 research funding*
- 2019 **Gerald R. Ford Fellowship**, *internal tuition funding, \$23,000 stipend, and \$3,840 research funding*
- 2019 **Russell Sage Foundation Small Grant in Computational Social Science**, "The Emotional Landscape of the American Media", \$9926
- 2017 **Roy Pierce Scholars Fund Award**, "The Influence of Perceived Competence on Political Interest and Participation", w/ Nicholas Valentino
- 2017 **Summer Collaboration Grant, University of Michigan**, "The Influence of Perceived Competence on Political Interest and Participation", w/ Sinead Redmond and Charles Shipan
- 2016 **Departmental Research Grant, University of Michigan**, "The Helpfulness of Humor"
- 2012 **Nominee- MPPA Distinguished Thesis Award**, *Northwestern University*

## Conference Presentations

- 2024 "News that Maddens: Measuring the Emotional Environments of Television News After the 2020 Presidential Election", MPSA
- 2023 "Early Returns: The Roles of Preconscious Feelings in Shaping Political Actions and Judgment", w/George Marcus, MPSA
- 2022 "The Emotional Landscape of American Media: 2010-2020", ISPP Panel
- 2019 "The Politicization of Policies to Address Climate Change", APSA Panel, w/ Nicholas Valentino
- 2019 "Emotional Signals in American Broadcast News", ISPP Panel
- 2019 "Emotional Signals in American Broadcast News", MPSA Panel
- 2019 "Assessing Ideological Polarization Over Time Using Ordered Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey Scaling", MPSA Panel, w/ Kevin McAlister and Hwayong Shin
- 2018 "Ordered Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey Scaling: Improving Bias Correction on the Liberal-Conservative Scale", APSA Panel, w/ Hwayong Shin and Kevin McAlister
- 2018 "Evaluating Excellence: Race and Gender in Social Science Communication", APSA Panel, w/ Hakeem Jefferson
- 2018 "From Reliability to Validity: Considering Latent Dimensions in Text-as-Data", *Society for Political Methodology Graduate Student Poster*

- 2018 **“The Politicization of Climate Change Knowledge, Concern, and Policy Opinion”**, *MPSA Section Panel*, w/ Nicholas Valentino
- 2018 **“Ordered Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey Scaling: Improving Bias Correction on the Liberal-Conservative Scale”**, *SPSA Panel*, w/ Hwayong Shin and Kevin McAlister
- 2017 **“The Helpfulness of Humor”**, *MPSA Panel*
- 2016 **“The Helpfulness of Humor”**, *MPSA Graduate Student Poster Session*

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## Teaching

**Graduate Student Instructor**, University of Michigan

- Winter 2022 **POLSCI 499: Survey Design and Analysis**, *with Nicholas Valentino*
- Fall 2021 **POLSCI 381: Political Science Research Design**, *with Nancy Burns*
- Winter 2018 **POLSCI 321: Persuasive Politics**, *with Arthur Lupia*
- Fall 2017 **POLSCI 385/489: Beyond Partisanship**, *with Arthur Lupia*
- Winter 2017 **POLSCI 101: Introduction to Political Theory**, *with William Rose*
- Fall 2016 **POLSCI 329/COMM 329: Mass Media & Political Behavior**, *with Nicholas Valentino*

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## Research Experience

- Fall 2022-  
Spring 2023 **Research Assistant, American National Election Studies**, *Nicholas Valentino*
- Fall 2018 -  
Summer 2019 **Research Assistant**, Ted Brader
- Summer 2018 **Book Chapter: “The Emotional Foundations of Democratic Citizenship”**, w/ Ted Brader
- Spring/Summer  
2017 **“The Influence of Perceived Competence on Political Interest and Participation”**, w/ Nicholas Valentino
- Spring/Summer  
2017 **Research Assistant**, Arthur Lupia
- Spring/Summer  
2016 **Research Assistant**, Nicholas Valentino and Michael Traugott
- Winter 2014 **University of Chicago Survey Lab**

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## Service

- Fall 2024 -  
present **Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS)**, *Board Member*
- Fall 2022 **Emerging Scholars**, *Emerging Scholars Mentor*
- Winter 2019 **Interdisciplinary Workshop in American Politics**, *Interim Co-Coordinator*
- 2017-2018 **Interdisciplinary Workshop in American Politics**, *Co-Coordinator*
- 2017-2018 **Women’s Caucus**, *Co-President*
- 2017-2018 **Summer Institute on Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM)**, *Graduate Research Assistant*, University of Michigan, 2018
- Winter 2017 **Third Reader**, *Dept. of Political Science Honors Thesis*