

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 2025 **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*

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*

Research Experience

Fall 2022- **Research Assistant, American National Election Studies**, *Nicholas Valentino*

Spring 2023

Fall 2018 - **Research Assistant**, Ted Brader

Summer 2019

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

2017

Spring/Summer 2016 **Research Assistant**, Nicholas Valentino and Michael Traugott

2016

Winter 2014 **University of Chicago Survey Lab**

Service

Fall 2024 - **Junior Americanist Workshop Series (JAWS)**, *Board Member*
present

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**