Erin S. Cikanek, Ph.D

202 White Hall
123 Central Ave
Ithaca, NY 14850
☐ *+1 (708) 369 1163*
✉ *esc222@cornell.edu*
🌐 *erincikanek.com*
Updated: January 13, 2026

Academic Appointments

2023-2026 **Cornell University**, *Ithaca, NY*
Klarman Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Government,
Affiliate: Cornell Brooks Center on Global Democracy, Cornell Center for Social Sciences, Roper Center for Public Opinion Research
Non-Resident Fellow and Community of Practice Lead Coordinator: Media, Narratives and Political Communications, Cornell Brooks Center on Global Democracy

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-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**

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**