

Erin S. Cikanek, Ph.D

314 White Hall
123 Central Ave
Ithaca, NY 14850
+1 (708) 369 1163
esc222@cornell.edu
erincikanek.com
Updated: September 15, 2026

Academic Appointments

- 2026-present **Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**
Postdoctoral Teaching Associate, Department of Government,
Non-Resident Fellow and Community of Practice Lead Coordinator: Media, Narratives and Political Communications,
Cornell Brooks Center on Global Democracy
- 2023-present **Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**
Affiliate: Cornell Brooks Center on Global Democracy, Cornell Center for Social Sciences, Roper Center for Public
Opinion Research
- 2023-2026 **Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**
Klarman Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Government
- 2025-present **Conflict Research and Security Studies Lab**
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

Under Review

- “News That’s Madder: Measuring Emotions in Partisan News in the Wake of the 2020 Presidential
Election”, Erin S. Cikanek**
- “Protest Exposure and Support for Democratic Norms”, Erin S. Cikanek and Kimberly Turner** (*Assistant
Professor, University of Pittsburgh*)

Working Papers

- Evaluating News Media During Democratic Decline, Erin S. Cikanek**, In
Big Mad: Big Mad: How Emotional News Shapes American Democracy, *Book Chapter Draft*
- “Feeling Democracy: Citizens’ Emotional States and Support for Democratic Norms”, Erin S. Cikanek**

“Evaluating Different Conceptions of Emotions as to their Ability to Explain Political Actions and Judgments”, *Erin S. Cikanek and George Marcus*

“Popular Understandings of Democracy”, *Frances Cayton, Rachel Beatty Riedl, Erin S. Cikanek, Paul Friesen, Ken Roberts, Javier Sajuria, Andrea Tesei*

“Ordered Bayesian Aldrich-McKelvey Scaling: Improving Bias Correction on the Liberal-Conservative Scale”, *Kevin McAlister, Hwayong Shin, Erin S. Cikanek*

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

- 2026 **“Protest Exposure and Support for Democratic Norms”**, *w/Kimberly Turner, MPSA Panel*
- 2024 **“How They Say It: Elite Emotional Cues and Support for Democratic Norms”**, *APSA Panel*
- 2024 **“News that Maddens: Measuring the Emotional Environments of Television News After the 2020 Presidential Election”**, *MPSA Panel*
- 2023 **“Evaluating Different Conceptions of Emotions as to their Ability to Explain Political Actions and Judgments”**, *w/George Marcus, MPSA Panel*

- 2023 **“Operationalizing emotion: identifying best practices for three common conceptions”**, *w/George Marcus, ISPP Panel*
- 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

Section Instructor, Cornell University

- Fall 2026 **GOVT1109: DISAGREEMENT**, *Lead Instructor Peter Loewen*
- 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*

Service

- Fall 2026 - present **Cornell University AI & Society Seed Grant Program**, *Internal Reviewer*
- 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**

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**