

COURTNEY BLACKINGTON

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Pittsburgh, Teaching Assistant Professor & Academic Advisor
Department of Political Science

August 2024 - Present

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
PhD Political Science

August 2018 - May 2024

- Dissertation: “Polarized Protesters: Who Protests for and against Reforms to Democratic Institutions”
- Subfields: Comparative Politics, Methodology

Columbia University
MA Political Science

August 2017 - May 2018

College of William & Mary
BA Government and History Minor

August 2013 - May 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Researcher, Instytut Filozofii i Socjologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk

October 2021 - August 2022

Visiting Researcher, The University of Warsaw

October 2021 - August 2022

Instructor of Record, Political Science, UNC-Chapel Hill

2021-2023

Teaching Assistant, Political Science, UNC-Chapel Hill

2019-2020

Graduate Research Consultant for Undergraduate Research, UNC-Chapel Hill

2022-2023

Research Assistant, Chapel Hill Expert Survey

2019-2022

Political Section Intern, U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania

2016

Public Affairs Intern, U.S. Embassy in Gaborone, Botswana

2015

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Blackington, Courtney and Frances Cayton, Forthcoming. “To Dog-Whistle or To Bark? Elite Communication Strategies when Invoking Conspiracy Theories.” *Government & Opposition*.

Blackington, Courtney, Forthcoming. “The Effects of Religious Group Engagement on Anti-Abortion Protest Participation in Poland.” *Politics, Religion, & Ideology*.

Blackington, Courtney and Frances Cayton, 2024. “How to Stay Popular: Threat, Framing, and Conspiracy Theory Longevity.” *Perspectives on Politics*.

Blackington, Courtney, 2024. “In Defense of Liberal Democracy: Exploring Motivations for Protesting against Democratic Backsliding.” *East European Politics and Societies*.

Blackington, Courtney, Antoaneta Dimitrova, Iulia Ionita, and Milada Anna Vachudova, 2024. “Mobilizing against Democratic Backsliding: What Motivates Protesters in Central Europe?” *East European Politics and Societies*.

Blackington, Courtney, 2023. “Angry and Afraid: Emotional Drivers of Protest for Abortion Rights in Poland,” *East European Politics*, 1-20.

Blackington, Courtney, 2021. “Partisanship and plane crashes: Can partisanship drive conspiratorial beliefs?” *East European Politics*, 1-27.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Blackington, Courtney and Frances Cayton, 2024. “Why do some conspiracy theories stay popular on social media?” *The Loop, ECPR’s Political Science Blog*.

Blackington, Courtney, 2022. “Two Polish women died after being refused timely abortions. Many Poles are outraged – and protesting.” *The Monkey Cage, Washington Post*.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

“Mobilizing Memory: Emotions & Memory in Protests against Democratic Backsliding.” (R&R)

“Disseminating Disgust: How does Disgust Rhetoric Shape Protest Participation?” (R&R)

“Identifying Identities: Uncovering Partisanship in Electoral Authoritarian Regimes.” (with Nicolás de la Cerda)

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Disgust Rhetoric & Acceptance of Political Violence.”

“Concealed Communists? Belief in and Spread of Negotiated Revolution Conspiracy Theories.”

“The Effects of Dog-Whistling and Endorsing Conspiracy Theories on Perceptions of Democratic Backsliding.” (with Frances Cayton)

“Oppositions Assemble: Ethnopolitists in Power and the Parties that Oppose Them.” (with Milada Vachudova)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-CHAPEL HILL

Instructor of Record, Introduction to Comparative Politics, (Summer 2023, Spring 2023, Summer 2021, Spring 2021)

Instructor of Record, Politics of East Central Europe (Fall 2022)

Graduate Research Consultant for Undergraduate Research, Undivided Europe (Spring 2023, Fall 2022)

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2020)

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2020, Fall 2019)

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2024 **Conference Travel Grant**, American Political Science Association

2023 **Online Course Development Grant**, UNC-Chapel Hill

2023 **Lewin Fellowship**, UNC-Chapel Hill’s Department of Political Science

2022 **Davis Graduate Student Travel Grant**, Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies

2022 **Conference Travel Grant**, American Political Science Association

2022 **Summer Research Fellowship**, UNC-Chapel Hill

2021-2022 **Fulbright Student Research Award**, U.S. Department of State

2021-2022 **Title VIII Combined Research and Language Training Award**, American Councils

2018-2023 **Royster Fellowship**, UNC-Chapel Hill’s Graduate School

2020 **Title VIII Summer Language Fellowship**, U.S. Department of State

2020 **COVID-19 Impact Fund**, UNC-Chapel Hill

2020 **Jean-Monnet Center of Excellence EU Summer Research Award**, European Union

2020 **Lewin Fellowship**, UNC-Chapel Hill’s Department of Political Science

2019 **Title VIII Summer Language Fellowship**, U.S. Department of State

2019 **Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Scholarship**, U.S. Department of State, declined

2019 **Travel Grant**, UNC-Chapel Hill's Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies

2018 **Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Scholarship**, U.S. Department of State

2018 **Graduate Student Mobility Grant**, Between the EU and Russia Network

2018 **Howard Penniman Scholarship for Graduate Study**, Pi Sigma Alpha

2018 **Summer Language Institute Scholarship**, University of Pittsburgh

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024 **Tanner Teaching Assistant Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**, Center for Faculty Excellence at the University of North Carolina

2022 **John Patrick Hagan Award for the Best Graduate Student Instructor of Record**, Department of Political Science at UNC

2021 **Wallace Award for the Best Teaching Assistant**, Department of Political Science at UNC

2020 **Teaching Fellow**, University of North Carolina

2018-2024 **Royster Fellowship**, University of North Carolina

2018 **Summa Cum Laude**, Columbia University

2017 **Summa Cum Laude**, College of William & Mary

2017 **Departmental Honors**, College of William & Mary

2016 **Phi Beta Kappa**, College of William & Mary

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024 American Political Science Association (1 paper will be presented)

2023 American Political Science Association (2 papers presented)

2023 George Washington University's Conference on Grassroots Illiberalism (1 paper presented)

2023 Council for European Studies (3 papers presented)

2023 European Union Studies Association (1 paper presented)

2023 Midwest Political Science Association (2 papers presented)

2022 Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (2 papers presented)

2022 American Political Science Association (2 papers presented)

2022 Council for European Studies (3 papers presented)

2021 American Political Science Association (declined due to fieldwork, 2 papers accepted)

2021 Council for European Studies (2 papers presented)

2021 Southern Political Science Association (1 paper presented)

2021 Association for the Study of Nationalities (1 paper presented, 1 roundtable)

2021 Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (1 paper presented)

2021 Second Helsinki Conference on Emotions, Populism, and Polarisation (1 paper presented)

2021 Western U.S. Graduate Research Workshop on the EU (1 paper presented)

2020 American Political Science Association (1 paper presented)

2020 King's College London's Democratic Backsliding Conference (1 paper presented)

INVITED TALKS

Fall 2023. *Polarized Protesters: Who Protests for and against Attacks on Democracy?* College of William & Mary.

Spring 2023. *Threat, Framing, and Conspiracy Theory Longevity*. UNC-Chapel Hill.

Spring 2022. *Anger, Fear, and Hopelessness in Polish Pro-Choice Protests*. University of Białystok.

Fall 2021. *Polarized Protesters: Who Protests for and against Reforms to Democratic Institutions?* European Studies Unit at the Instytut Filozofii i Socjologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk.

Spring 2021. *Mobilizing Memory: Perceptions of the Communist Transition in Anti-PiS Protests*. Poland: A Decade of PiS, Protest, and Opposition roundtable organized by Olga Onuch for the Association for the Study of Nationalities Conference.

Spring 2021. *Protesting for Liberal Democracy*. Race, Human Rights, and Populism in Poland Symposium organized by the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Illinois, and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Fall 2020. *Defending Democracy on the Streets*. Protest in Poland: Popular Opposition, Women's Rights, & PiS organized by the Comparative Authoritarianism Protest Research Network.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

- Faculty Advisory Board, Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, University of Pittsburgh (2024-2026)
- Discussant, East European Graduate Workshop (2023)
- Undergraduate Research Coordinator, UNC's Authoritarian Politics Lab (2022-2023)
- Co-organizer of the Political Power and Persuasion in Contested Regimes in Europe Workshop (2023)
- Discussant, European Union Studies Association Conference (2023)
- Peer Reviewer, *East European Politics*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *International Sociology*
- Interviewed for and quoted in article in [The Washington Post](#)
- Graduate Student Representative, UNC Political Science Dept.'s Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2020-2022)
- Discussant, Pi Sigma Alpha's Undergraduate Research Conference (2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023)
- UNC Department Representative, APSA Graduate School Recruitment Fair for Minority Students (2020)
- MA Student Representative, Columbia University's Department of Political Science (2017-2018)

SKILLS

Languages:	Polish (advanced), French (intermediate)
Programming:	R, GIS, \LaTeX
Certifications:	Associate Level of the Center for the Integration of Research, Training, & Learning Program, Effective Mentoring, Teaching Fellow, Mental Health First Aid for Higher Education, Green Zone Certification