

# Laura Moses

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## Education

### **The Ohio State University**

Ph.D., Political Science, 2017-2023

Presidential Fellow 2022-2023

*Dissertation:* “Interests on the Internet: Interest Actors and Organizations Online and Policy Implications”

*Committee:* Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier (dissertation chair), Michael Neblo, William Minozzi, Bruce Desmarais (Pennsylvania State University)

### **Brown University**

Masters of Public Affairs, 2017

*Data-Driven Policy Concentration*

### **The Ohio State University**

B.A., History with honors and research distinction

B.A., Music with honors

## Research Areas

**American Politics:** digital politics, the public sphere, empirical deliberative democracy, social media, representation, American politics, Congressional messaging, online political behavior, political institutions

**Political Methodology:** network inference, computational social science, survey research, field experiments, natural language processing, field experiments, causal inference

## Publications

**Moses, Laura** “The online affiliations of interest groups” *Int Groups Adv*, 12, 413–434 (2023).

**Moses, Laura** and Box-Steffensmeier, Janet. “Meaningful Messaging: Sentiment in Elite Social Media Communication with the Public on the COVID-19 Pandemic” *Science Advances*, 2021.

URL: [advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/29/eabg2898](https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/29/eabg2898)

**Moses, Laura** and Box-Steffensmeier, Janet. “Machine Learning: A First Introduction for Political Research” *Oxford Handbook of Methodological Pluralism*, ed. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Dino P. Christenson, and Valeria Sinclair-Chapman (2023).

## Articles Under Review

Moses, Laura. “Conceptualizing and Identifying ‘Interest Actors’”

Moses, Laura. “Directed Information and Influence Networks for Political Research”

## Selected Projects in Progress

“Anti-Elite and Populist in Rhetoric in Congressional Speech” with Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Dino Christenson and Sahar Abi-Hassan

“Congressional Connections on Social Media” with Sean Theriault, Annelise Russell, and Maggie MacDonald

“Interest Actors and Agendas: Impact on Members of Congress Policy Messaging on Social Media”

“Trends in Presidential Pardons” with Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Dino Christenson and Sahar Abi-Hassan

## Professional & Academic Experience

**Assistant Director of Research** Institute of Democratic Engagement & Accountability, 2024-present

**Visiting Fellow** Department of Political Science, 2023-present

Co-authored original research papers and mentored graduate students and undergraduate research assistants. Led and developed research projects. Developed statistical models, co-authored grants, prepared presentations and manuscripts. Designed and implemented python and R functions and packages for research.

**Senior Political Researcher** YouGov Blue, October 2023- July 2024

Managed end-to-end public opinion research in the United States and select markets abroad. Designed political and market research surveys for clients in non-profit and for-profit businesses. Conducted data analysis and opinion polling. Created survey research experiments for clients in academia and industry. Co-led analysis team operations, worked with other research teams and customers to develop and implement custom opinion and political research. Developed internal data science infrastructure and software for increased machine learning capabilities and designed new features related to organizational data collection and natural language processing.

**Graduate Research Assistant** with Dr. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, 2017-2023

Co-authored original research papers and co-mentored junior graduate students and undergraduate research assistants. Led and developed research projects. Collected and coded data, developed statistical models, reported results, and prepared presentations and manuscripts. Designed and implemented python and R functions and packages to analyze network, text data, and interact with APIs.

**Senior Scholar, Program in Statistics & Methodology**, The Ohio State University, 2021-2022

Consulted on research projects and methodological challenges with faculty and senior graduate students focusing on research design, statistical analysis, model interpretation, and data visualization. Taught workshops for Social and Behavioral Sciences on specific quantitative methods, including text processing, web scraping, and using high-performance computing resources. Organized external speaker series and workshops.

**Fellow, Institute of Democratic Engagement & Accountability**, The Ohio State University, 2017-2023

Co-authored white papers and evaluated deliberation session outcomes. Managed online and in-person deliberations, designed policy documents for deliberative sessions, led organizing and planning in-person demonstrations of research, and trained and mentored undergraduate research assistants.

**Junior Scholar, Program in Statistics & Methodology**, The Ohio State University, 2019-2020

Consulted on research projects and methodological challenges with graduate students, assisted with quantitative methods sequence and projects, led workshops on specific quantitative methods, and organized speaker series and departmental events. Supported faculty adoption and implementation of python software for courses and research.

**Consortium Member**, PAN-FAB, Greater Boston Pandemic Fabrication Team, 2020-2021

Created school reopening resources for individual school districts and produced research surveys for workshop participants to evaluate learning and feelings about COVID-19 prevention and personal protection.

**Research Consultant**, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), 2017

Research assistant to Dr. Tavneet Suri, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Identified outcomes on universal basic income studies and compiled findings. Conducted initial statistical investigation of mobile money experiments.

**Administration**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2013-2016

Administrator for the Director of the Computer Science and Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL). Cooperatively led and managed external research partnerships with other universities and industry partners. Developed and managed research outreach and engagement events including the White House-MIT Big Data Privacy Workshop, K-12 Code.org educational programming, a conference commemorating Project MAC for over 1000 participants, and other workshops, events, and seminars. Directed administrative activities, coordinating with faculty, industry partners, donors, university administration and, alumni. Collaborated with MIT development and the Office of the President for the Director's office.

**Policy Intern**, Performing Arts Alliance & League of American Orchestras, 2010

Responsibilities included data collection and analysis; drafting text for reports, and memos. Advised performing

arts alliance members on broadband policy and regulation changes proposed by the FCC in 2010, and provided memos on technical policy changes. Led meetings with Ohio legislators during Arts Advocacy Day.

## Grants, Honors & Awards

The Presidential Fellowship, The Ohio State University, 2022

Virginia Gray Graduate Research Grant, Political Organizations and Parties APSA, 2022

William Jennings Bryan Prize, OSU Political Science Department Best Paper in American Politics, 2022

Francis R. Aumann Award, OSU Political Science Department Best Paper in Political Methodology, 2022

Annual Meeting for Society for Political Methodology, Travel Grant, 2022

American Political Science Association, Travel Grant, 2022

William Jennings Bryan Prize, OSU Political Science Department Best Paper in American Politics, 2021

American Political Science Association, Travel Grant, 2021

University Fellowship, The Ohio State University, 2020

William Jennings Bryan Prize, OSU Political Science Department Best Paper in American Politics, 2020

Francis R. Aumann Award, OSU Political Science Department Best Paper in Political Methodology, 2020

Research Grant, Department of Political Science, The Ohio State University, 2020

Summer Research Grant, Department of Political Science, The Ohio State University, 2018

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program in Quantitative Methods and Social Research Scholarship, College of Arts and Sciences, The Ohio State University, 2018

Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Fellowship, The Ohio State University, 2017

Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Georgetown University Privacy Practicum, Best Project, 2015

John Glenn Washington Academic Fellowship, The Ohio State University, 2010

## Teaching

### **Undergraduate Research Co-Advisor**

The Ohio State University, 2018-2023

Mentors undergraduate research projects on Congress, the judiciary, the presidency, public opinion, and social media. Co-advises technical projects with 10-15 undergraduates who engage in data collection with web scraping, analysis with machine learning, inferential networks, natural language processing, feature engineering, and software design. Guides undergraduate research projects in computational social science.

### **Guest Instructor**

Graduate Quantitative Political Analysis, The Ohio State University, AU2019

*Supervised Machine Learning: Introduction to Support Vector Machines*

*Unsupervised Machine Learning: K-Means & the EM Algorithm*

Instructor: Dr. William Minozzi

### **Teaching Assistant**

Graduate Economics and Statistics for Public Policy, Brown University, 2017

Instructors: Dr. John Freidman and Dr. Emily Oster

Undergraduate Introduction to Public Policy, Brown University, 2016

Instructor: Dr. Robert Hackey

### **Instructor of Record**

Undergraduate Introduction to Computer-Assisted Problem Solving, The Ohio State University, 2012-2013  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

## Additional Training

### **Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning at Ohio State University**

Professional training on mentoring undergraduate researchers

Professional training in diversity, equity, and inclusion

### **Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program, 2018**

Course: Empirical Modeling of Social Science Theory: Advanced Topics

Course: Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences II: Advanced Topics

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology Advanced Study Program, 2014-2015**

Graduate courses with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Georgetown University Privacy Practicum on privacy legislation for technology and AI (2015), and Internet policy (2014).

## Conference Participation

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2021, 2022)

Society for Political Methodology Conference (2022)

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2021, 2022, 2023)

*2020 canceled due to COVID-19*

Politics and Computational Social Science (2018\*, 2020, 2021)

Political Networks Conference (2017\*,2021, 2022)

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2023)

Brice Acree Text as Data Workshop (2021)

Junior Americanist Workshop Series (2021)

Translational Data Analytics Ohio State University Spring Forum (2022)

Visions in Methodology Annual Meeting (2018\*)

Privacy Forum, Mobile Health and Information Privacy, *invitation only* (2015)

\* denotes attendee

## Service

Women in Legislative Studies, Panel Organizer, 2021

Ohio State University Political Science Undergraduate Diversity, Co-founder & Conference Planning Committee, 2018-2022

Ohio State Social Media Research Working Group, Co-founder, 2018-2020

Parallel Graduate Studies Committee, Political Science Department, 2018-2019

### **Conference Discussant**

Mershon 2016 Elections Conference

Panel Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association (2021, 2022)

### **Reviewer**

*American Political Science Review*

*Journal of Politics*

*American Journal of Political Science*

*Legislative Studies Quarterly*

## Skills

### **Programming Languages**

Python, R, SQL, STATA

### **Statistical Computing and Software**

STAN, JAGS, and BUGS for Bayesian modeling; the Tidyverse in R; Python data analysis libraries (e.g. Polars, Numpy, Scipy, SciKit-Learn); BeautifulSoup and Selenium for web-scraping; Spacy, PyTorch)

### **Foreign Language**

French (advanced beginner)

## Selected Coursework

### **Public Policy**

Policy Design and Implementation · Program Evaluation · Management and Implementation in Public and Non-profit Organizations · Financial Administration · Public Budgeting

### **Methodology**

Natural Language Processing · Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition · Spatiotemporal Modeling · Causal Inference · Bayesian Inference · Generalized Linear Models · Time Series · Network Inference · Game Theory

## Memberships

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Society for Political Methodology

Visions in Methodology

The Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science

Women in Network Science

Women in Legislative Studies

## References

### **Dr. Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier**

The Ohio State University

Department of Political Science

Vernal Riffe Professor of Political Science & Sociology (Courtesy)

Distinguished University Professor

Immediate Past President of the American Political Science Association

email: box-steffensmeier.1@osu.edu

### **Dr. Bruce Desmarais**

Pennsylvania State University

DeGrandis-McCourtney Early Career Professor in Political Science

Director of the Center for Social Data Analytics

email: bdesmarais@psu.edu

### **Dr. William Minozzi**

The Ohio State University

Department of Political Science

Professor of Political Science

Director of Research for the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability

email: minozzi.1@osu.edu

### **Dr. Michael Neblo**

The Ohio State University

Department of Political Science

Professor of Political Science & Philosophy, Communication, and Public Policy (Courtesy)

Director of the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA)

email: neblo.1@osu.edu