

Ethan Porter

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

The George Washington University

- School of Media and Public Affairs, Associate Professor, 2022-
- Department of Political Science, Associate Professor, 2022-
- School of Media and Public Affairs, Assistant Professor, 2016-2022

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

The Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics at George Washington University

- Co-Director, 2025-present
- Director, Misinformation/Disinformation Lab, 2020-present

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D., Political Science. 2016

Dissertation: *The Consumer Citizen*

John Mark Hansen (Chair), William Howell, Eric Oliver, Betsy Sinclair

Bard College

B.A., Political Science and Literature. 2007

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Russell Sage Summer Institute in Computational Social Science

Princeton University, June 2017.

BOOKS

1. **The Meaning Motive.** Under contract with Cambridge University Press.
2. **The Consumer Citizen.** 2020. Oxford University Press.
3. **False Alarm: The Truth About Political Mistruths in the Trump Era.** 2019. Cambridge University Press for the Elements in American Politics series. With Thomas J. Wood.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. “The Reputational Penalty: How Fact-Checking Can Penalize Those Who Spread Misinformation.” With Jacob Ausubel and Annika Davies. Accepted, *Political Behavior*.
2. “The Limits of Partisan Change: Evidence from Hypothetical Scenarios.” With Alexander Coppock and Donald P. Green. Accepted, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*
3. “Rethinking Citizen Competence: A New Theoretical and Empirical Framework.” With Steven Klein. Forthcoming, *British Journal of Political Science*.
4. “Improving Debriefing Practices for Participants in Social Science Experiments.” With Katherine Clayton, Yamil Velez and Thomas J. Wood. *PNAS Nexus*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae502>. 2024.
5. “Increasing Demand for Fact-Checking.” With Matthew Graham. *Political Communication*. 42(2): 325–348. 2024.
6. “Shoves, Nudges and Combating Misinformation: Evidence On A New Approach.” With Thomas J. Wood, David Broniatowski and Pedram Hosseini. Forthcoming, *Behavioural Public Policy*.

7. “Correcting misinformation about the Russia-Ukraine War Reduces False Beliefs But Does Not Change Views About the War.” With R. Bailey Scott, Thomas J. Wood and Raushan Zhandayeva. *Plos One*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0307090>. 2024.
8. “The Role of Mental Representation in Sharing Misinformation Online.” With David Broniatowski, Pedram Hosseini and Thomas J. Wood. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*. 30(4): 511–538. 2024.
9. “Combating Hateful Attitudes and Online Browsing Behavior: The Case of Antisemitism.” With Catie Bailard, Matt Graham, Kim Gross and Rebekah Tromble. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. 11(3): 300-313. 2024.
10. “Correcting COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation in 10 Countries.” With Yamil Velez and Thomas J. Wood. *Royal Society Open Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.221097>. 2023.
11. “Conceptual Replication of Four Key Findings About Factual Corrections and Misinformation During the 2020 US Election: Evidence From Panel-Survey Experiments.” With Alexander Coppock, Kimberly Gross, Emily Thorson and Thomas J. Wood. *British Journal of Political Science*. 53(4): 1328-1341. 2023.
12. “Latino-Targeted Misinformation and the Power of Factual Corrections.” With Yamil Velez and Thomas J. Wood. *Journal of Politics*. 85 (2): 789-794. 2023.
13. “Analogic Perspective-Taking and Attitudes Toward Teachers’ Unions.” With Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. 10 (1): 100 - 111. 2023.
14. “Correcting Trump’s Election Lies Can Improve Confidence in U.S. Elections: Experimental Evidence.” With Catie Bailard and Kimberly Gross. *Harvard-Kennedy School Misinformation Review*. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-109>. 2023.
15. “Time and Skeptical Opinion Content Erode the Effects of Science Coverage on Climate Beliefs and Attitudes.” With Brendan Nyhan and Thomas J. Wood. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 119 (26). 2022.
16. “Factual Corrections Eliminate False Beliefs About COVID-19 Vaccines.” With Yamil Velez and Thomas J. Wood. *Public Opinion Quarterly*. 86 (3): 762 – 773. 2022.
17. “Can Social Media Ads Affect Vote Choice? Evidence from a Field Experiment.” With Alexander Coppock and Donald P. Green. *Research and Politics*. doi: 10.1177/20531680221076901. 2022.
18. “Political Misinformation and Factual Corrections on the Facebook News Feed.” With Thomas J. Wood. *Journal of Politics*. 84 (3): 1812-1817. 2022.
19. “Can the Gender Gap in Political Ambition Be Reduced? Evidence from High School Students.” With Joshua Kalla. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 17 (2): 259-281. 2022.
20. “Placebo Selection In Survey Experiments: An Agnostic Approach.” With Yamil Velez. *Political Analysis*. 30(4): 481 - 494. 2022.
21. “Aligning Taxes and Spending: Theory and Experimental Evidence.” With Daniel Hemel. *Behavioural Public Policy*. 6(3): 464-484. 2022.

22. "The Global Effectiveness of Fact-Checking: Evidence From Simultaneous Experiments in Argentina, Nigeria, South Africa, and the U.K." With Thomas J. Wood. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 118 (37). 2021.
23. "Elite Rhetoric Can Undermine Democratic Norms." With Katherine Clayton, Nicholas T. Davis, Brendan Nyhan, Timothy J. Ryan, and Thomas J. Wood. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 118 (23). 2021.
24. "Why Public Sector Union Members Support Their Unions: Survey and Experimental Evidence." With Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. *Social Forces*. 100 (1): 375 - 399. 2021.
25. "Surfacing the Submerged State: Operational Transparency and Trust in Government." With Ryan Buell and Michael I. Norton. *Manufacturing and Service Operations Management*. 23 (4): 781-802. 2021.
26. "Correcting Bias in Perceptions of Public Opinion Among American Elected Officials: Results from a Randomized Field Experiment." With Joshua Kalla. *British Journal of Political Science*. 51 (4): 1792-1800. 2021.
27. "The Public's Dilemma: Race and Political Evaluations of Police Killings." With Cathy Cohen and Thomas J. Wood. *Politics, Groups and Identities*. 9 (1): 101-128. 2021.
28. "Rethinking Public Appeals: Experimental Evidence on Presidential Performances." With William Howell and Thomas J. Wood. *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* (inaugural issue). 1 (1): 137 - 158. 2020.
29. "Can Presidential Misinformation on Climate Change Be Corrected? Evidence from Internet and Phone Experiments." With Thomas J. Wood and Babak Bahador. *Research and Politics*. doi:10.1177/2053168019864784. 2019.
30. "The Wisdom of Partisan Crowds." With Joshua Becker and Damon Centola. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 116 (22): 10717 - 10722. 2019.
31. "Taking Fact Checks Seriously, But Not Literally? The Effects of Corrective Information on Factual Beliefs and Candidate Favorability." With Brendan Nyhan, Jason Reifler and Thomas J. Wood. *Political Behavior*. 42: 939-960. 2019.
32. "The Elusive Backfire Effect: Mass Attitudes' Steadfast Factual Adherence." With Thomas J. Wood. *Political Behavior*. 41 (1): 135-163. 2019.
33. "Identifying Media Effects Through Low-Cost Multi-Wave Field Experiments." With Kimberly Gross and Thomas J. Wood. *Political Communication*. 36 (2): 272-287. 2018.
34. "Bureaucratic Responsiveness and Partisan Bias in an Election: Evidence from a Field Experiment." With Jon Rogowski. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. 8 (4): 602-617. 2018.
35. "Sex Trafficking, Russian Infiltration, Birth Certificates, and Pedophilia: A Survey Experiment Correcting Fake News." With Thomas J. Wood and David Kirby. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. 5 (2): 159-164. 2018.
36. "Information, Knowledge and Attitudes: An Evaluation of the Taxpayer Receipt." With Lucy Barnes, Avi Feller and Jake Haselswerdt. *Journal of Politics*. 80 (2): 701-706. 2018.
37. "Race, Interracial Families and Political Advertising in the Obama Era: Experimental Evidence." With Thomas J. Wood. *Political Communication*. 33 (3): 481-502. 2016.

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS	1. “Factual Corrections: Concerns and Current Evidence.” With Thomas J. Wood. <i>Current Opinion in Psychology</i> . 2023.
BOOK CHAPTERS	1. “Can Facts Change Minds? The Case of Free Trade.” With Thomas J. Wood. In <i>The Politics of Truth in a Polarized Era</i> , edited by David C. Barker and Elizabeth Suhay. Oxford University Press. 2022.
SCIENTIFIC MASS COLLABORATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Tackling Misinformation: What Researchers Could Do With Social Media Data.” 2020. With Irene Pasquetto, Briony Swire-Thompson and others. <i>The Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review</i>. 2. <i>The Debunking Handbook 2020</i>. 2020. With Stephen Lewandowsky, John Cook, Ullrich Ecker and others. Available at https://sks.to/db2020. DOI:10.17910/b7.1182 3. “Measuring the Predictability of Life Outcomes with a Scientific Mass Collaboration.” 2020. With Matthew J. Salganik, Ian Lundberg and others. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>. 117 (15): 8398 - 8403.
BOOK REVIEWS	1. “Post-Truth American Politics: False Stories and Current Crises by David Ricci.” <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> . 139 (3): 480–481. 2024.
WORKING PAPERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Appealing to Meaning Can Increase Political Interest.” Under review. 2. “Encouraging Climate Science Exposure Changes Beliefs and Policy Attitudes But Not Behavior.” With Brendan Nyhan and Thomas J. Wood. Under review.
GRANTS, GIFTS AND AWARDS	<p>External Grants and Gifts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Co-PI (\$3,000,000) January 2025 - • Google News Initiative (\$150,000) December 2020 to December 2021 • Social Science Research Council (\$50,000) January 2020 to January 2021 • Omidyar Network (\$99,875) Apr 2014 to Nov 2015 • National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant in Decision Sciences (\$29,965) Dec 2013 to Dec 2015 • Department Tuition Grant for ICPSR July 2013 <p>Internal Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GW University Cross-Disciplinary Research Fund 2023 • GW University Faculty Facilitating Fund 2019 • SMPA Research Fund 2016-2017, 2017-2018 <p>Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Morton Best Article Award from the <i>Journal of Experimental Political Science</i>, for “Combating Hateful Attitudes and Online Browsing Behavior: The Case of Antisemitism” 2024 • Staub Faculty Excellence Award, George Washington University 2020 • Mellon Fellowship, University of Chicago 2015-2016 • Eisenhower-Roberts Fellow, The Eisenhower Institute 2014-2015 • Grodzins Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago 2014, 2016 • University Fellowship, University of Chicago 2010-2015
RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Assistant 2013 to 2016 William Howell, University of Chicago</p> <p>Managing/Associate Editor 2007 to 2010 <i>Democracy: A Journal of Ideas</i>, Washington, D.C.</p>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	George Washington University	
	<i>Fake News, Misinformation and the Challenges of 21st Century Democracy</i>	2019
	<i>Strategic Political Communication</i>	2016-present
	<i>Data Analysis for Political Communication</i>	2018-present
	<i>Experiments in American Democracy</i>	2016
	University of Chicago (as Lecturer)	
	<i>Experiments in American Politics and Policy</i>	Spring 2016
	<i>Class Politics in America</i>	Winter 2014

PRESENTATIONS	Invited Talks		
	• Duke	February 2026	
	• Kings College London	September 2025	
	• UNC Greensboro	April 2025	
	• Bard College	November 2024	
	• Sciences Po	October 2024	
	• Georgetown University Symposium on Election Resilience	September 2024	
	• MIT Human Cooperation Lab	May 2024	
	• University of Southern California Understanding and Combating Disinformation in Public Diplomacy	March 2024	
	• SUNY Stony-Brook	October 2023	
	• National Academy of Sciences Workshop on Understanding and Addressing Misinformation about Science	April 2023	
	• National Academy of Sciences Standing Committee on Evidence Synthesis and Communications in Diet and Chronic Disease Relationships	March 2023	
	• Google IQ	March 2023	
	• Wesleyan Media Project Post-Election Conference	December 2022	
	• International Conference on Web and Social Media	June 2022	
	• American Librarian Association Annual Conference	June 2022	
	• Comparative Politics Conference at Washington University in St. Louis	April 2022	
	• Harvard Kennedy/U.S. State Department Misinformation Workshop	February 2022	
	• PolitiFact: Festival of Fact-Checking	May 2021	
	• National Press Foundation	March 2021	
	• American Politics Workshop at Ohio State University	February 2021	
	• News and Information Disorder in the 2020 US Presidential Election Conference at Yale Law School	December 2020	
	• American Politics Workshop at Yale University	December 2019	
	• Gnovis Annual Conference at Georgetown University	March 2019	
	• Social Media in the U.S. Elections at the U.S. State Department	October 2018	
	• The 2016 U.S. Presidential Election Conference at the Mershon Center at the Ohio State University	November 2017	
	• American Politics Workshop at Columbia University	February 2017	
	• Pew Research Center	January 2017	
	• American Politics Workshop at University of Michigan	Oct 2013	
	• Conference on Hurricane Sandy at Yale University	Apr 2013	
	• Tax Politics and Policy Workshop at Harvard University	Oct 2012	
		Conference Presentations	
		• Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association	2013-2023
		• Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association	2012-2022
		• Annual Meeting of the American Sociology Association	2018
	• Harvard Experimental Political Science Graduate Conference	2016	
	• Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (poster)	2013-2015	
	• Conference on State Political Institutions and the Executive Branch	2014	
	• Experimental Political Science Conference at NYU	2014	
	• Fiscal Sociology Workshop at Northwestern University	2013	

	Invited Conference Participation	
	• Behavioral Sciences Workshop at Harvard University	August 2013
	• White House Meeting On Psychological Science and Behavioral Economics in the Service of Public Policy	May 2013
	University of Chicago	
	• American Politics Workshop	2013, 2014
	• Political Economy Lunch at the Harris School of Public Policy	Nov 2013
CONFERENCES ORGANIZED	<i>Rebuilding Trust in Government Through Transparency</i>	June 2015
	Presentations and panel discussions about the taxpayer receipt, transparency and trust in government, featuring political scientists and national policymakers	
SERVICE	Associate Editor, <i>Science Advances</i>	2024 -
	Reviewer: Cambridge University Press; National Science Foundation; Oxford University Press; <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> ; <i>American Political Science Review</i> ; <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> ; <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> ; <i>Journal of Politics</i> ; <i>Journal of Experimental Political Science</i> ; <i>Journal of Quantitative Description</i> ; <i>Nature</i> ; <i>Nature Communication</i> ; <i>PNAS Nexus</i> ; <i>Political Behavior</i> ; <i>Political Communication</i> ; <i>Politics, Groups and Identities</i> ; <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> ; <i>Psychological Science</i> ; <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> ; <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i> ; <i>Science</i> ; <i>Science Advances</i> ; others	
	Member, University Innovation Committee, George Washington University	2024-2025
	Section Head, Political Communication, Midwest Political Science Association	2024
	Co-Director, American Politics Workshop at GW Political Science	2022-2023
	Co-Director, Media and Politics Workshop at GW SMPA	2018-2021
	Editor, Society for Political Methodology	2012-2015
SELECTED POPULAR PUBLICATIONS	“Fact Checks Work, Even on Facebook. But Not Enough People See Them.” <i>The Washington Post</i> . With Thomas J. Wood. November 10, 2021.	
	“Voters Won’t Believe That Policies Are Good Unless We Treat Them Like Consumers.” <i>The Washington Post</i> . January 27, 2021.	
	“Why Is Facebook So Afraid of Checking Facts?” <i>Wired</i> . With Thomas J. Wood. May 14, 2020.	
	“No, We’re Not Living in a Post-Fact World.” <i>Politico Magazine</i> . With Thomas J. Wood. January 4, 2020.	
	“Politicians Don’t Actually Care What Voters Want.” <i>The New York Times</i> . With Joshua Kalla. July 11, 2019.	
	“Study: Real News Tops Fake News (and Yes, This Is Real News).” <i>The Daily Beast</i> . With Thomas J. Wood and David Kirby. March 17, 2018.	
	“The Rituals Of The Presidency Make Trump Seem More Presidential.” <i>FiveThirtyEight</i> . With William Howell and Thomas J. Wood. March 21, 2017.	
	“Does Post-Debate Spin Work?” <i>The New York Times</i> . With Kimberly Gross and Thomas J. Wood. October 19, 2016.	
	“Want to See How Government Spends Your Money?” <i>The Washington Post</i> . March 11, 2011.	
	“Immoderate America.” <i>The Wilson Quarterly</i> . Fall 2010.	
	“Coming to Washington.” <i>Dissent</i> . Fall 2010.	

“The Woman Democrats Need.” *The Boston Globe*. January 24, 2010.

“Rashid Who? Why the Jews Finally Came Home for Obama.” *The New Republic Online*. Fall 2010.

REFERENCES

John Mark Hansen

Charles L. Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor
University of Chicago
E-mail: hansen@midway.uchicago.edu
(773) 702-5476

William Howell

Sydney Stein Professor
University of Chicago
Email: whowell@uchicago.edu
(312) 550-3767

Eric Oliver

Professor
University of Chicago
Email: eoliver@uchicago.edu
(773) 702-9784

Betsy Sinclair

Professor
Washington University in St. Louis
Email: bsinclai@wustl.edu
(314) 935-7276