

# Jonathan McDonald Ladd

McCourt School of Public Policy  
100 Old North Hall  
Georgetown University  
Washington, DC 20057

Email: [jonathan.ladd@georgetown.edu](mailto:jonathan.ladd@georgetown.edu)  
Homepage: [www.jonathanmladd.com](http://www.jonathanmladd.com)  
Phone: (202) 687-7112

## Education

### *Princeton University*

Ph.D. Department of Politics, 2006.

*Committee:* Larry Bartels (Chair), Douglas Arnold, Martin Gilens, Tali Mendelberg.

M.A. Department of Politics, 2003.

### *Tufts University*

B.A. Political Science, Highest Thesis Honors, *magna cum laude*, 2000.

## Academic Appointments

### *Georgetown University*

Associate Professor, appointments in the McCourt School of Public Policy and Department of Government, 2012–present.

Survey Director and Faculty Liaison, Baker Center for Leadership & Governance, 2018–present.

Faculty Affiliate, Massive Data Institute, 2015–present.

Faculty Liaison, Institute of Politics and Public Service, 2016–present.

Director, M.A. in American Government Program, Department of Government, 2015–present.

American Government Field Chair, Department of Government, 2012–2013, 2017–2018.

Assistant Professor, appointments in the McCourt School of Public Policy (formerly the Public Policy Institute) and Department of Government, 2005–2012.

## Fellowships and Visiting Positions

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Governance Studies Program, Brookings Institution, 2014–present.

Visiting Researcher, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, Summer 2018.

Dissertation Prize Fellow, Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton University, 2003–2005.

## Books

Bode, Leticia, Ceren Budak, Jonathan Ladd, Frank Newport, Josh Pasek, Lisa Singh, Stuart Soroka, Michael Traugott. Forthcoming. *Words that Matter: How the News and Social Media Shaped the 2016 Presidential Election*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2012. *Why Americans Hate the Media and How It Matters*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Winner of the 2013 *Goldsmith Book Prize* from Harvard University's Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy for the book "that best fulfills the objective of improving democratic governance through an examination of the intersection between the media, politics and public policy."

Winner of the 2012 *Donald McGannon Award* for Social and Ethical Relevance in Communications Policy Research for the "most notable book addressing issues of communications policy."

## Articles in Refereed Journals

Bailey, Michael M., Rachel Blum, Sara Croco, Jonathan M. Ladd, Lilliana Mason, Hans Noel, and Elizabeth Suhay. "Student Run Exit Polls 101." Forthcoming in *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

Part of a symposium on methodology teaching in political science.

Gillion, Daniel Q., Jonathan M. Ladd, and Marc Meredith. "Party Polarization, Ideological Sorting and the Emergence of the U.S. Partisan Gender Gap." Forthcoming in the *British Journal of Political Science*.

Hopkins, Daniel J. and Jonathan M. Ladd. 2014. "The Consequences of Broader Media Choice: Evidence from the Expansion of Fox News." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 9 (1): 115–135. (doi: [10.1561/100.00012099](https://doi.org/10.1561/100.00012099))

Ladd, Jonathan M., and Gabriel S. Lenz. 2011. "Does Anxiety Improve Voters' Decision Making?" *Political Psychology* 32 (2): 347–361. (doi: [10.1111/j.1467-9221.2010.00805.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9221.2010.00805.x))

Part of a three-article workshop discussing our previous article, "Reassessing the Role of Anxiety in Vote Choice."

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2010. "The Role of Media Distrust in Partisan Voting." *Political Behavior* 32 (4): 567–585. (doi: [10.1007/s11109-010-9123-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-010-9123-z))

Winner of the *Westview Press Award* for best graduate student paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2006.

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2010. "The Neglected Power of Elite Opinion Leadership to Produce Antipathy toward the News Media: Evidence from a Survey Experiment." *Political Behavior* 32 (1): 29–50. (doi: [10.1007/s11109-009-9097-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-009-9097-x))

Ladd, Jonathan M., and Gabriel S. Lenz. 2009. "Exploiting a Rare Communication Shift to Document the Persuasive Power of the News Media." *American Journal of Political Science* 53 (2): 394–410. (doi: [10.1111/j.1540-5907.2009.00377.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2009.00377.x))

Reprinted as Chapter 2 in *Media Power in Politics, 6th Edition*, ed. Doris A. Graber. 2011. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, pp. 19–32.

Reprinted as Chapter 30 in *Political Knowledge*, eds. Jeffrey Friedman and Shterna Friedman. 2012. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 320–346.

Successfully replicated in Hainmueller, Jens. 2012. "Entropy Balancing for Causal Effects: A Multivariate Reweighting Method to Produce Balanced Samples in Observational Studies." *Political Analysis* 20(1): 25–46.

Ladd, Jonathan M., and Gabriel S. Lenz. 2008. "Reassessing the Role of Anxiety in Vote Choice." *Political Psychology* 29 (2): 275–296. (doi: [10.1111/j.1467-9221.2008.00626.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9221.2008.00626.x))

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2007. "Predispositions and Public Support for the President during the War on Terrorism." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 71 (4): 511–538. Lead article. (doi: [10.1093/poq/nfm033](https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfm033))

## Book Chapters

Ladd, Jonathan M., and Alexander R. Podkul. Forthcoming. "Sowing Distrust of the News Media as an Electoral Strategy." In *Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion*, eds. Bernard Grofman, Liz Suhay, and Alex Trechsel. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Ladd, Jonathan M., and Alexander R. Podkul. 2019. "[Distrust of the News Media as a Symptom and a Further Cause of Partisan Polarization](#)." In *New Directions in Media and Politics, Second Edition*, ed. Travis N. Ridout. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 54-79.

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2013. "[The Era of Media Distrust and Its Consequences for Perceptions of Political Reality](#)." In *New Directions in Media and Politics*, ed. Travis N. Ridout. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 24-44.

## Major Public Datasets Created

Ladd, Jonathan M., Joshua A. Tucker, and Sean Kates. 2018. "2018 American Institutional Confidence Poll" Distributed by the Baker Center for Leadership & Governance, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

Gillion, Daniel Q., Jonathan M. Ladd, and Marc Meredith. 2018. "Historic Presidential Approval and Party Identification Cumulative File."

## Other Publications

### *Major Public Reports*

Ladd, Jonathan M., Joshua A. Tucker, and Sean Kates. 2018. "2018 American Institutional Confidence Poll: The Health of American Democracy in an Era of Hyper Polarization." A Report by the Baker Center for Leadership & Governance, Georgetown University, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Ladd, Jonathan M., and Joshua A. Tucker 2017. "Review of Data Available to Measure the Health of Democracy and Menu of Future Options for Improved Measurement Efforts in the United States." A Report by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2017. "Media Distrust and the Spread of Accurate Political Information." A Report by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

### *Columns and Blog Posts for a Popular Audience*

Co-Editor and Writer, *Mischiefs of Faction* political science blog on *Vox.com*, 2015–present.

Regular Contributor, *Mischiefs of Faction* as an independent political science blog, 2014–2015.

Links to all *Mischiefs of Faction* columns are available at: <http://www.jonathanmladd.com/popular-writing.html>.

### *Book Reviews*

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2012. Review of *When Politicians Attack: Party Cohesion in the Media* by Tim J. Groeling (Cambridge University Press, 2010). *Public Opinion Quarterly* 76 (1): 182–192.

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2011. Review of *War Stories: The Causes and Consequences of Public Views of War* by Matthew A. Baum and Tim J. Groeling (Princeton University Press, 2010). *Political Communication* 28 (2): 245–247.

Ladd, Jonathan M. 2008. Review of *When the Press Fails: Political Power and the News Media from Iraq to Katrina* by W. Lance Bennett, Regina G. Lawrence and Steven Livingston (University of Chicago Press, 2007). *Perspectives on Politics* 6 (3): 601–602.

## Work in Progress

“Using Big Data to Study How Social Media Facilitates Media Agenda-Building” (with Leticia Bode, Ceren Budak, Frank Newport, Joshua Pasek, Lisa Singh, Stuart Soroka and Michael Traugott). Ongoing project, which is the political communication section of the Michigan-Georgetown research group “Social Science and Social Media Collaborative (S3MC),” funded by grants from the University of Michigan and Georgetown University for 2017-2020. In addition to the Brookings Institution Press book that is already forthcoming, multiple articles are planned on the relationship between the social media activity of journalists, the news content they produce, its influence on news consumers.

“Trust in American Institutions and Support for Democratic Norms in the United States” (with Joshua A. Tucker). We have written a large report on the state of the literature on this topic for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which has given us a grant to conduct the Baker Poll, a major national survey on this topic, with a significant open-ended question format component. This project will culminate in a book on this topic.

“The Push and Pull of African Americans’ Support for the Democratic Party” (with Daniel Gillion and Marc Meredith). Presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. Currently under revision.

“The Changing Relationship between Income and Partisanship” (with Daniel Gillion, Marc Meredith and Ryan J. Vander Wielen). Data assembled, currently drafting a working paper.

“Group Thinking and Partisan Opinion Leadership” (with Hans Noel). Data collection in progress.

## Conference and Seminar Presentations

### *Invited Presentations*

Boston University, Department of Political Science (2015)  
 Brigham Young University, Department of Political Science (2018)  
 Columbia University, Department of Political Science (2015)  
 Facebook, Inc., User Experience Research Team, Menlo Park Headquarters (2018)  
 Harvard University, Department of Government (2013)  
 Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (2018)  
 Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School (2013 and 2019)  
 Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Center for European Studies (2017)  
 Tufts University, Department of Political Science (2017)  
 University of California, Berkeley, Department of Political Science (2018)  
 University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Government & Politics (2013)  
 University of North Carolina, Greensboro, University-Wide Lecture Series (2014)  
 University of Texas, Austin, Department of Government (Scheduled for 2019)  
 University of Virginia, Department of Politics (2017)

### *Conference Paper Presentations*

American Political Science Association (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018)  
 Midwest Political Science Association (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Annual Political Networks Conference (2018)  
 Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research (2016, 2017)  
 Society for Political Methodology (2004, 2005)

### *Conference Discussant*

American Political Science Association (2006, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017)  
 Midwest Political Science Association (2008, 2015, 2016)  
 Society for Political Methodology (2011)  
 Poynter Institute Journalism Ethics Summit: Media Trust in a New Era (2017)

### *Invited Conference Roundtable Panelist*

American Political Science Association (2017)  
 Midwest Political Science Association (2014)  
 Social Science History Association (2015)  
 University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communication "Disinformation" Conference (2017)

### *Government Testimony*

One of three outside experts invited to provide public testimony on an initial draft of the Federal Communication Commission's report, "Review of the Literature Regarding Critical Information Needs of the American Public." Washington, DC. June 26, 2012.

## Awards and Grants

### *Awards*

Goldsmith Book Prize, Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, for the academic book "published in the United States in the last 24 months that best fulfills the objective of improving democratic governance through an examination of the intersection between the media, politics and public policy." 2013.

Donald McGannon Award for Social and Ethical Relevance in Communications Policy Research, Donald McGannon Communication Research Center, Fordham University, for the "most notable book addressing issues of communications policy in the previous year." 2012.

Finalist for the Frank Luther Mott—Kappa Tau Alpha Journalism & Mass Communication Research Award, Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society for Journalism and Mass Communication, for the "best research-based book about journalism or mass communication published each year." 2012.

Westview Press Award, for the best graduate student paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. 2006.

### *External Grants*

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Grant for "An Open-Ended Format Survey on Trust in American Institutions and Support for Democratic Norms in the United States." (Principle Investigator: Jonathan Ladd, Co-Principle Investigator: Joshua Tucker.) \$124,877 from the Knight Foundation, matched by \$76,250 from Georgetown University's Baker Center for Leadership & Governance. 2017-2018.

University of Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS) Grant titled “A Social Science Collaboration for Research on Communication and Learning Based upon Big Data” to fund for 3 years the Michigan-Georgetown research group “Social Science and Social Media Collaborative (S3MC)” (Principle Investigators: Michael Traugott and Trivellore Raghunathan, Co-Principle Investigators: Leticia Bode, Ceren Budak, Pamela Davis-Keane, Jonathan Ladd, Zeina Mneimneh, Josh Pasek, Rebecca Ryan, Lisa Singh and Stuart Soroka.) \$1,252,000 from the University of Michigan, matched by \$200,000 from Georgetown University’s Massive Data Institute. 2017-2020.

On the university-wide team that won an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant, “Enhancement of Federal Economic Statistics by Combining Multiple Data Sources” for Georgetown University’s Massive Data Institute to serve as “a network hub and convener of administrative data research facilities.” (Team included: Adriana Kugler, Jonathan Ladd, Maggie Little, Adam O’Neill, Rebecca Ryan and Lisa Singh. Co-Principle Investigators: Provost Robert Groves, Dean Edward Montgomery and Sonal Shah.) \$500,000. 2016.

Society for Political Methodology Travel Grants, to support travel to its Annual Meeting. 2004, 2005.

Mellon Foundation Summer Grant, to support methodological studies at the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. 2001.

### *Internal Grants*

Georgetown Massive Data Institute Seed Grant for “Exploring Relationships between Social Media and Traditional Media.” \$3,300. 2016.

Competitive Summer Academic Grant, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Georgetown University. Summer salary. 2016.

Competitive Grants-In-Aid, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Georgetown University. \$2,000 each. Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2015.

Dissertation Research Grant, Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University. \$5,000. 2003.

## Professional Service

### *Peer Review and Editorial Service*

Editorial Board Member: *Political Behavior* (2015–present), *American Politics Research* (2016–present).

Associate Editor: *Research & Politics*, 2013–2017.

Article manuscript reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Economics & Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Mass Communication & Society*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Communication*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Research & Politics*, *Social Science Quarterly*.

Book manuscript reviewer: Brookings Institution Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, University of Chicago Press.

Grant proposal reviewer: National Science Foundation’s Program in Decision, Risk and Management Sciences, National Science Foundation’s Program in Political Science, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences.

### *Conference Section Chair*

Mass Media Section Program Chair, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2017.

Political Communication Division Program Chair, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2010.

### *Service to Political Science Professional Organizations*

Executive Council, Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section of the American Political Science Association, 2018–present.

Advisory Board, American Political Science Association’s Centennial Center, 2017–present.

President, National Capital Area Political Science Association, 2018–2019. (Governing Council Member, 2012–2014.)

Chair, Best Dissertation Award Selection Committee, Experimental Research Section of the American Political Science Association, 2016.

Selection Committee for Short Courses for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2015.

## Courses Taught

### *Doctoral Level*

Government 634—Political Economy of Mass Media

Government 701—Analysis of Political Data (1<sup>st</sup> Course in PhD Quant Methods Sequence)

Government 723—American Government Field Workshop II: Research Methods

Government 901—Tutorial in Experimental Methods

### *Masters Level*

Government 501—Analysis of Political Data

Public Policy 501—Statistical Methods for Policy Analysis (1<sup>st</sup> Course in MPP Quant Methods Sequence)

Public Policy 761—Political Polling

### *Undergraduate*

Government 234—Polling and Survey Research Methods

Government 393—American Politics and the Media

Government 397—Seminar: Public Opinion and Representation

Government 438—Seminar: Public Opinion and Partisan Polarization

### *Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advising*

Primary advisor for 6 Government Department undergraduate honors theses, 2 of which won the *Pi Sigma Alpha Award* for the best political science undergraduate thesis in the United States (in 2008 and 2017).

Last updated: Aug. 1, 2018

<http://www.jonathanmladd.com/>