

Conor M. Dowling
Professor of Political Science
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APPOINTMENTS

University at Buffalo, Department of Political Science

- Professor, August 2023 – present
 - Director of Graduate Studies, August 2024 – present

University of Mississippi, Department of Political Science

- Professor, July 2022 - August 2023
- Associate Professor, July 2016 - June 2022
- Assistant Professor, August 2012 - June 2016

Yale University, Institution for Social and Policy Studies and Center for the Study of American Politics

- Postdoctoral Associate, September 2008 - July 2012

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Binghamton University (SUNY)

- Ph.D. in Political Science, December 2008
- M.A. in Political Science, May 2006

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods

- Designing, Conducting, and Analyzing Field Experiments (Yale University), Summer 2006
- Simultaneous Equations (University of Michigan), Summer 2005

James Madison University

- B.A. in Political Science, graduated *cum laude*, May 2003

PUBLICATIONS

Books

3. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, and Michael G. Miller. 2022. [*Small Power: How Local Parties Shape Elections*](#). Oxford University Press.
2. Patashnik, Eric M., Alan S. Gerber, and Conor M. Dowling. 2017 [2020 Paperback]. [*Unhealthy Politics: The Battle over Evidence-Based Medicine*](#). Princeton University Press.
 - Awarded the Don K. Price Award for the best book on science, technology, and politics published in the last year by the American Political Science Association's Science, Technology & Environmental Politics Section (2018).
 - Awarded the Louis Brownlow Book Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions on topics of wide contemporary interest to practitioners and scholars in the field of public administration, by the National Academy of Public Administration (2018).
1. Dowling, Conor M., and Michael G. Miller. 2014. [*Super PAC! Money, Elections, and Voters after Citizens United*](#). Routledge.

Journal Articles

38. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, Michael G. Miller, and Jeffrey D. Milyo. Forthcoming. "Partisanship and Voting Rule Trade-offs." *American Politics Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X261470402>
37. Dowling, Conor M., Michael G. Miller, and Kevin Morris. 2025. "Crossover Voting Rates in Partisan and Nonpartisan Elections: Evidence from Cast Vote Records." *Political Research Quarterly* 78(2): 720-737.
36. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, Michael G. Miller, and Michelle D. Tuma. 2022. "Race, Crime, and the Public's Sentencing Preferences." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 86(S1): 523-546.
35. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, and Michael G. Miller. 2021. "The Conditional Effect of Local Party Organization Activity on Federal Election Outcomes." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 31(3): 368-387.
34. Dowling, Conor M., Michael Henderson, and Michael G. Miller. 2020. "Knowledge Persists, Opinions Drift: Learning and Opinion Change in a Three-Wave Panel Experiment." *American Politics Research* 48(2): 263-274.
33. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, and Michael G. Miller. 2019. "Do Local Party Chairs Think Women and Minority Candidates Can Win? Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment." *Journal of Politics* 81(4): 1282-1297.
 - Awarded the Best Paper Award by the American Political Science Association's Experimental Research Section for the best paper presented at the 2016 APSA Annual Meeting (2017).
32. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, Alan S. Gerber, and Gregory A. Huber. 2019. "Should I Cast an Ill-Informed Ballot? Examining the Contours of the Normative Obligation to Vote." *American Politics Research* 47 (5): 1081-1099.
31. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Seth J. Hill. 2019. "The Voting Experience and Beliefs about Ballot Secrecy." *PLoS ONE* 14: e0209765.
30. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, Alan S. Gerber, and Gregory A. Huber. 2017. "Are Voting Norms Conditional? How Electoral Context and Peer Behavior Shape the Social Returns to Voting." *Journal of Politics* 79(3): 1095-1100.
29. Winburn, Jonathan, Michael Henderson, and Conor M. Dowling. 2017. "From the Constituent's Eye: Experimental Evidence on the District Selection Preferences of Individuals." *Political Research Quarterly* 70(1): 32-41.
28. Dowling, Conor M., and Michael G. Miller. 2017. "Experimental Evidence on the Relationship between Candidate Funding Sources and Voter Evaluations." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 3(2): 152-163.
27. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, and Michael G. Miller. 2016. "When Is Changing Policy Positions Costly for Politicians? Experimental Evidence." *Political Behavior* 38(2): 455-484.
26. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2016. "Why People Vote: Estimating the Social Returns to Voting." *British Journal of Political Science* 46(2): 241-264.
25. Dowling, Conor M., and Michael G. Miller. 2015. "Can Information Alter Perceptions about Women's Chances of Winning Office? Evidence from a Panel Study." *Politics & Gender* 11(1): 55-88.

24. Dowling, Conor M., and Amber Wichowsky. 2015. "Attacks without Consequence? Anonymity, Disclosure, and the Effectiveness of Negative Advertising." *American Journal of Political Science* 59(1): 19-36.
23. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, and Michael G. Miller. 2014. "Does Time Heal All Wounds? Scandals and the Passage of Time." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, Symposium 47(2): 357-366.
22. Gerber, Alan S., Eric M. Patashnik, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2014. "Doctor Knows Best: Physician Endorsements, Public Opinion, and the Politics of CER." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 39(1): 171-209.
21. Dowling, Conor M., and Amber Wichowsky. 2013. "Does it Matter Who's Behind the Curtain? Anonymity in Political Advertising and the Effects of Campaign Finance Disclosure." *American Politics Research* 41(6): 965-996.
20. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Seth J. Hill. 2013. "Do Perceptions of Ballot Secrecy Influence Turnout? Results from a Field Experiment." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(3): 537-551.
19. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Seth J. Hill. 2013. "Who Wants to Discuss Vote Choices with Others? Polarization in Preferences for Deliberation." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 77(2): 474-496.
18. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Costas Panagopoulos. 2013. "Big Five Personality Traits and Responses to Persuasive Appeals: Evidence from Voter Turnout Experiments." *Political Behavior* 35(4): 687-728.
17. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2013. "Assessing the Stability of Psychological and Political Survey Measures." *American Politics Research* 41(1): 54-75.
16. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2013. "Is There a Secret Ballot? Ballot Secrecy Perceptions and Their Implications for Voting Behaviour." *British Journal of Political Science* 43(1): 77-102.
15. Dowling, Conor M., Ryan D. Enos, Anthony Fowler, and Costas Panagopoulos. 2012. "Does Public Financing Chill Political Speech? Exploiting a Court Injunction as a Natural Experiment." *Election Law Journal* 11(3): 302-315.
14. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2012. "Disagreement and the Avoidance of Political Discussion: Aggregate Relationships and Differences across Personality Traits." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(4): 849-874.
13. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2012. "Personality and the Strength and Direction of Partisan Identification." *Political Behavior* 34(4): 653-688.
12. Doherty, David, Conor M. Dowling, and Michael G. Miller. 2011. "Are Financial or Moral Scandals Worse? It Depends." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 44(4): 749-757.
11. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2011. "Citizens' Policy Confidence and Electoral Punishment: A Neglected Dimension of Electoral Accountability." *Journal of Politics* 73(4): 1206-1224.
10. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, Connor Raso, and Shang E. Ha. 2011. "Personality Traits and Participation in Political Processes." *Journal of Politics* 73(3): 692-706.

9. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2011. "The Big Five Personality Traits in the Political Arena." *Annual Review of Political Science* 14: 265-287.
8. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2011. "Personality Traits and the Consumption of Political Information." *American Politics Research* 39(1): 32-84.
7. Gerber, Alan S., Eric M. Patashnik, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2010. "A National Survey Reveals Public Skepticism About Research-Based Treatment Guidelines." *Health Affairs* 29(10): 1882-1884.
6. Gerber, Alan S., Eric M. Patashnik, David Doherty, and Conor M. Dowling. 2010. "The Public Wants Information, Not Board Mandates, From Comparative Effectiveness Research." *Health Affairs* 29(10): 1872-1881.
5. Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, and Shang E. Ha. 2010. "Personality and Political Attitudes: Relationships Across Issue Domains and Political Contexts." *American Political Science Review* 104(1): 111-133.
4. Gerber, Alan S., Neil Malhotra, Conor M. Dowling, and David Doherty. 2010. "Publication Bias in Two Political Behavior Literatures." *American Politics Research* 38(4): 591-613.
3. McNulty, John E., Conor M. Dowling, and Margaret H. Ariotti. 2009. "Driving Saints to Sin: How the Difficulty of Voting Dissuades Even the Most Motivated Voters." *Political Analysis* 17(4): 435-455.
2. Dowling, Conor M., and Steve B. Lem. 2009. "Explaining Major and Third Party Candidate Entry in U.S. Gubernatorial Elections, 1980-2005." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 9(1): 1-23.
1. Lem, Steve B., and Conor M. Dowling. 2006. "Picking Their Spots: Minor Party Candidates in Gubernatorial Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* 59(3): 471-480.

Other Publications:

6. Krupnikov, Yanna, and Conor M. Dowling. 2016. "The Effects of Negative Advertising." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Ed. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.51
5. Dowling, Conor M. 2016. "Idiocracy: Do You Need To Be Informed To Vote in a Democracy?" In *Poli Sci Fi: An Introduction to Political Science through Science Fiction*. Michael A. Allen and Justin S. Vaughn (eds.). Routledge.
4. Gerber, Alan S., Kevin Arceneaux, Cheryl Boudreau, Conor M. Dowling, and D. Sunshine Hillygus. 2015. "Reporting Balance Tables, Response Rates and Manipulation Checks in Experimental Research: A Reply from the Committee that Prepared the Reporting Guidelines." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 2(2): 216-229.
3. Gerber, Alan S., Kevin Arceneaux, Cheryl Boudreau, Conor M. Dowling, D. Sunshine Hillygus, Thomas R. Palfrey, Daniel R. Biggers, and David J. Hendry. 2014. "Reporting Guidelines for Experimental Research: A Report from the Experimental Research Section Standards Committee." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 1(1): 81-98.
2. Dowling, Conor M. 2011. "Public Financing and Candidate Participation in Gubernatorial Elections." In *Public Financing in American Elections*. Costas Panagopoulos (ed.). Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
1. Brief for *Amici Curiae*: Costas Panagopoulos, Ryan D. Enos, Conor M. Dowling, and Anthony Fowler.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS / PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

“The Effects of Increased Campaign Finance Disclosure: Evaluating Reform Proposals” with Wichowsky. (in progress)

“The Social Returns to Political Knowledge” with Henderson. (in progress)

“The Social Returns to Political and Charitable Giving” with Henderson. (in progress)

“Trade-offs between Exclusion and Inclusion Errors: Considering the Role of Partisanship” with Doherty and Miller. (under review)

“Honor Traits and Political Behavior” with Doherty and Miller. (under review)

INVITED TALKS

“Can Voters Locate Copartisan Candidates in Nonpartisan Elections? Evidence from Cast Vote Records”

- Binghamton University (2024)

“The Primary Electorate and Party Polarization”

- Center for the Study of American Politics Conference, Yale University (2019)

“The Advantages of Anonymity and the Effects of Increased Campaign Finance Disclosure”

- A Measure of Change: Next Generation Transparency, National Institute on Money in State Politics conference (2015); Money and the First Amendment, conference co-sponsored by the Keller Center for the Study of the First Amendment, CU Political Science Department, and the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law, CU Law School (2016)

“Does it Matter Who’s Behind the Curtain? Interest Groups and Anonymity in Political Advertising.”

- Yale University (2011)

“Is There a Secret Ballot? Ballot Secrecy Perceptions and Their Implications for Voting Behavior.”

- Dartmouth College (2010); Fordham University (2010); UMass-Amherst (2010); University of Virginia (2011); Yale University (2010)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo

- Citizen Participation
 - Fall 2023
- Elections and Voting Behavior
 - Spring 2024
- Graduate Seminar in American Politics
 - Fall 2024
- Graduate Seminar in American Political Behavior
 - Spring 2026
- Introduction to American Government
 - Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026
- Public Opinion
 - Fall 2024 (Remote)

University of Mississippi (SMBHC = Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College)

- Applied Politics
 - Winter 2019 (Study USA course in Washington, DC), Winter 2021 (Remote)
- Freshman Honors Seminar I – The Self and Society (SMBHC)
 - Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 (Remote)
- Freshman Honors Seminar II – Religion, Science, and Nature (SMBHC)
 - Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021 (Remote), Spring 2022, Spring 2023
- Graduate Seminar in American Politics
 - Fall 2013, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2021
- Graduate Seminar in American Political Behavior
 - Spring 2017, Spring 2020
- Introduction to American Government
 - Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2014 (SMBHC), Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Fall 2017 (SMBHC), Spring 2018
- Political Communication
 - Fall 2020 (Remote), Fall 2022
- Political Parties and Interest Groups
 - Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2016
- Campaigns and Elections
 - Spring 2017
- Senior Seminar in American Politics (“Do Campaigns Matter?”)
 - Fall 2013, Fall 2015
- Voting and Political Participation
 - Spring 2013, Spring 2014 (SMBHC), Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2016 (SMBHC), Fall 2018, Spring 2022, Spring 2023

Yale University

- Introduction to Statistics (Applications in Political Science), Fall 2011

Binghamton University

- Political Behavior, Spring 2008
- Campaigns and Elections, Summer 2005

GRANTS / AWARDS

Consultant (Senior Personnel at time of grant submission, before moving institutions, with James Thomas [co-PI], Simone Delorme [co-PI], Amy McDowell [Senior Personnel], and Catarina Passidomo [Senior Personnel]), “REU Site: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Race, Power, and the Politics of Place,” National Science Foundation, Award Number 22433249 (5/1/2023-4/30/2026), \$413,813

Co-investigator (with Jonathan Winburn, PI), “Year of the Child” Project, Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, 2019, \$20,000

College of Liberal Arts Sanford and Susan Thomas Senior Professor Research Award in the Social Sciences, University of Mississippi, 2019, \$2,000

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Investment Grant, University of Mississippi, 2015-2016, \$7,500 (PI, 2016 Cooperative Congressional Election Study, University of Mississippi Team Content)

College of Liberal Arts Faculty Grant for Research and Creative Achievement, University of Mississippi

- 2019, \$7,955
- 2017, 8,026
- 2016, \$7,500

- 2014, \$7,500
- 2013, \$7,500

SEC Travel Grant, University of Mississippi, 2015-2016, \$1,381.35

Dissertation Semester Fellowship, Binghamton University, Fall 2007.

Hinman Research Fellow, Binghamton University Political Science Department, Summer 2004-2007.

Hinman Fellowship Recipient, Binghamton University Political Science Department, 2003-2004.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Associate Editor: *Political Behavior*, September 2025-present

Co-editor: *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* with Tracy Osborn (University of Iowa) and Jonathan Winburn (University of Mississippi), June 2020-December 2024

Editorial Board Member: *Political Behavior* (2025-); *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* (2025-)

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Asian Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Election Law Journal*, *Electoral Studies*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, *Journal of Women, Politics, & Policy*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *National Science Foundation*, *Oxford University Press*, *PLOS ONE*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Politics*, *Politics & Gender*, *Polity*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Rationality and Society*, *Social Forces*, *Social Science Journal*, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, *TESS* (Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences).

Select Conference Presentations:

- American Political Science Association (2009-2012, 2014-2018, 2021, 2026)
- Cooperative Election Study (2025)
- Election Science, Reform, and Administration (2025)
- International Society of Political Psychology (2022, 2026)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2007-2017, 2019, 2021-2023, 2025-2026)
- NYU-CESS Experimental Political Science Conference (2017)
- Southern Political Science Association (2005-2008, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2023-2026)
- State Politics and Policy Conference (2024, 2026)

Select Chair/Discussant Duties:

- American Political Science Association (2014-2018)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2008-2010, 2012, 2014, 2019, 2021, 2025-2026)
- Southern Political Science Association (2007-2008, 2015, 2020, 2024)
- State Politics and Policy Conference (2022-2026)

Other Activities:

- Co-host. "State Politics and Policy Conference." University at Buffalo, scheduled for June 2027.
- Co-organizer. "Barbour Center for the Study of American Politics Conference." University of Mississippi, June 13-15, 2025.
- Chair. 2025. APSA State Politics and Policy Section Service Award Committee.
- External Reviewer. 2024. Kent State University Department of Political Science.

- Member. 2024 Midwest Political Science Association Nominations Committee for the Election of Officers.
- Member. 2017 American Political Science Association Program Committee. Experimental Research section co-chair (with Amber Wichowsky).
- Member. 2015 Southern Political Science Association Program Committee. Elections and Voting section chair.
- Co-coordinator. “Political Scandal and Corruption Conference.” Loyola University Chicago, August 28, 2013.
- Member. “Reporting Standards Committee.” APSA’s Organized Section on Experimental Research. 2010-2011.

DEPARTMENT / UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University at Buffalo

Graduate Advising (alphabetical order)

- Cory Anastasia (Ph.D. expected 2027)
- Stella Chan (Ph.D. expected 2027)
- Emily Schofield (M.A. 2024)
- Jamison Fry (M.A. 2025)

Other (Non-Routine) Departmental Service

- Director of Graduate Studies (August 2024-present)
- Department Advisory Committee (2024-present)
- Graduate Studies Committee (2023-24)
- American / Comparative Politics Search Committee (2023)

University of Mississippi

Graduate Advising (alphabetical order)

- Grant Armstrong (Ph.D. 2020; Committee Chair)
- Kayla Butler (M.A. 2016)
- Austin Cutler (M.A. 2021)
- John Dudley (Ph.D. 2018)
- Travis Endicott (Ph.D. 2021; Committee Chair)
- Daniel Fudge (Ph.D. 2019)
- Nichole Gligor (Ph.D. 2021)
- Joel Hanel (Ph.D. 2017; Committee Chair)
- Jonah King (Ph.D. 2023; Committee Chair)
- A. Hannibal Leach (Ph.D. 2017)
- Chanse Travis (Ph.D. 2015)

Honors Thesis Advising

- Chair: Angela Alexander (2022), Morgan Atkins (2022), Raquel Espitia (2017), Logan Kohan (2022), Savannah Maas (2018), Joseph Murphy (2021), Christine Sim (2016)
- Reader: Cody Austin (2017), Karsen Bailey (2020), Kimberly Hardges (2015), Julia James (2021), Joshua Mannery (2021), Bess Nichols (2017), Cameron Regnery (2020), Olivia Makayla Sanders (2023), Sarah Sproles (2020), Kara Tate (2021)

Other (Non-Routine) Departmental Service

- American Politics Doctoral Exam Committee (2018, 2020, 2021, 2023)
- Graduate Admissions Committee (2017, 2022)
- Hiring Committees
 - American Politics / African American Studies Search Committee (2022, chair)

- American Politics Search Committee (2014, 2017)
- Judicial Politics Search Committee (2016)

University/College Committees

- College of Liberal Arts James Meredith Changemaker Award Committee (2023)
- Academic Freedom & Faculty Responsibility Committee, College of Liberal Arts, Group III (University Standing Committee, 2022-2023)
- Research Board, College of Liberal Arts, Group III (University Standing Committee, 2021-2023; Alternate, 2018-2021)
 - eRA taskforce (Fall 2022)
- Sabbatical Leave Review Committee, College of Liberal Arts, Group III (University Standing Committee, 2019-2023)
- Instructional Technology, College of Liberal Arts, At-Large Representative (2018-2021)
- Committee on the Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Applied Statistics (2015-2021)
- Truman Scholarship Nominating Committee (2020)