

# Michael R. Kistner

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CONTACT INFORMATION Department of Political Science University of Houston 366 Philip G. Hoffman Hall, Houston, TX 77204 Email: [mkistner@uh.edu](mailto:mkistner@uh.edu) Phone: (309) 531-0494 Website: [michaelrkistner.com](http://michaelrkistner.com)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS **University of Houston** Assistant Professor of Political Science 2021 - present

EDUCATION **Princeton University** Ph.D. in Politics and Social Policy 2021  
M.A., Politics 2017  
**Illinois Wesleyan University** B.A., Political Science 2015

JOURNAL ARTICLES Shor, Boris and **Michael R. Kistner**. 2023. "Comparing Leviathans: Agenda Influence in State Legislatures, 2011 to 2023." *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, 4(4) pp. 551 - 576.  
**Kistner, Michael R.** 2022. "Fighting for Majorities? Explaining the Development of Caucus Fundraising in American Legislatures." *Journal of Politics*, 84(1), pp. 321-34.  
Canes-Wrone, Brandice and **Michael R. Kistner**. 2022. "Out of Step and Still in Congress? Electoral Consequences of Incumbent and Challenger Positioning across Time." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 17(3) pp. 389-420.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS Canes-Wrone, Brandice and **Michael R. Kistner**. 2023. "Local Newspapers and Ideological Accountability in US House Elections." In *Accountability Reconsidered: Voters, Interests, and Information in US Policymaking*. Cambridge University Press.

BOOK MANUSCRIPT *Paying for the Party: How Fundraising Demands Lead to Less Productive and Representative Legislatures*

- Under review
- Recipient of best dissertation prizes by the Legislative Studies and State Politics & Policy Sections of APSA

WORKING PAPERS "Responsive Rhetoric: Evidence from Congressional Redistricting" with Jaclyn Kaslovsky

- Invited to revise and resubmit at *Legislative Studies Quarterly*

"Promoting Conspiracy Theories Strategically" with David Hilden

- Invited to revise and resubmit at the *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*

“Ideological Bias in Legislator Contact? Evidence From Witness Slips in the Illinois General Assembly” with Michael Pomirchy

“Opening the Gates: Interest Group Influence on Partisan Agenda Control” with Boris Shor

“Immigration and Political Incorporation: Asian American Representation in State Legislatures” with Tanika Raychaudhuri

WORK IN  
PROGRESS

“Ambition and Conflict in Legislatures” with Christian Fong

“Measuring Partisanship and Representation in Online Congressional Communication” with Robert Alvarez, Maya Fitch, Lucas Lothamer, and Elizabeth Simas

“Exploring the Public’s (Mis)perceptions of Legislative Effectiveness” with Elizabeth Simas, Jamie Wright, and David Hilden

FELLOWSHIPS,  
GRANTS, AND  
AWARDS

Graduate Student Mentorship Award, *UH Department of Political Science* 2024

Research Grant, *University of Houston New Faculty Program* 2024

Research Grant, *The Center for Effective Lawmaking* 2022

Teaching Innovation Grant, *University of Houston* 2022

Carl Albert Dissertation Award, *APSA Legislative Studies Section* 2022

Chris Mooney Dissertation Prize, *APSA State Politics and Policy Section* 2022

Research Grant, *University of Houston New Faculty Program* 2021

Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honorary Fellowship, *Princeton University* 2020-2021

Graduate Student Fellowship, *Princeton University* 2015-2020

Research Grant, *Center for the Study of Democratic Politics* 2017

Intellectual Leadership Award, *Illinois Wesleyan University* 2015

Eckley Summer Scholars Fellowship, *Illinois Wesleyan University* 2014

INVITED TALK

University of Oklahoma (Carl Albert Center for Congressional Studies) 2023

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Conference on Interest Groups and Polarization, Trinity University 2022

Carl Albert Center Legislative Studies Conference 2022

Center for Effective Lawmaking Conference 2024

Conference on Parties in American Legislatures, University of Houston 2023

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2015, 2018, 2023

Money in Politics Conference, Copenhagen Business School 2024

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2021

State Politics and Policy Conference 2019, 2022, 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Short Workshop on Causal Inference <i>ICPSR Summer Institute</i>	2023, 2024
	POLS 3316: Statistics for Political Science <i>University of Houston</i>	2022, 2023
	POLS 3395: Money in American Politics <i>University of Houston</i>	2022
	GOVT 2305: American and Texas Government <i>University of Houston</i>	2021, 2022
	POLS 6364: Graduate Seminar in Legislative Process <i>University of Houston</i>	2021
	WWS 600b: Introductory/Intermediate Statistics <i>School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University</i>	2018, 2019
	POL 327: Mass Media, Social Media, and American Politics <i>Department of Politics, Princeton University</i> Preceptor (Instructor: Andrew Guess)	2018
	POL 571: Graduate Quantitative Methods I <i>Department of Politics, Princeton University</i> Preceptor (Instructor: John Londregan)	2017
DISCIPLINARY & UNIVERSITY SERVICE	Graduate Student Research Series, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Co-organizer (with Jae-Hee Jung)</i>	2024 - present
	Christopher Mooney Dissertation Prize Award Committee, American Political Science Association <i>Committee Member</i>	2023
	Conference on Parties in American Legislatures <i>Co-organizer (with Boris Shor)</i>	2023
	American Institutions Working Group, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Organizer</i>	2022 - present
	Core American Government Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Committee Member</i>	2022-2023
	Data Cleaning in the Tidyverse, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Workshop Instructor and Organizer</i>	2022
	Election Policy and Democracy Reform Competition, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy <i>Competition Judge</i>	2022
	Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Committee Member</i>	2021-2022

MAT 037 (Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative): Beginning Algebra 2020  
*Co-Instructor*

Data and Statistical Services Lab, Princeton University 2018-2020  
*Statistical Consultant*

GRAD STUDENT ADVISING Robert Alvarez, David Hilden, Maya Fitch

REFeree SERVICE *American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; State Politics and Policy Quarterly; Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*

RELEVANT SKILLS Teaching Certification (Association of College and University Educators), R, Python, STATA, Stan, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

REFERENCES Brandice Canes-Wrone  
Professor of Political Science  
Stanford University  
bcwrone@stanford.edu

Nolan McCarty  
Professor of Politics and Public Affairs  
Princeton University  
nmccarty@princeton.edu

Boris Shor  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
University of Houston  
bshor@uh.edu