

Michael R. Kistner

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science University of Houston 366 Philip G. Hoffman Hall, Houston, TX 77204	Email: mkistner@uh.edu Phone: (309) 531-0494 Website: michaelrkistner.com
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	University of Houston <i>Assistant Professor of Political Science</i>	2021 - present
	Center for Effective Lawmaking <i>Faculty Affiliate</i>	2024 - present
EDUCATION	Princeton University Joint Ph.D., Politics and Social Policy	2021
	Illinois Wesleyan University B.A., Political Science	2015
BOOK	<i>Paying for the Party: How Fundraising Demands Lead to Less Productive and Less Representative Legislatures</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In production at the University of Chicago Press (available June 2026)	
JOURNAL ARTICLES	<p>Kistner, Michael R., Michael Heseltine, Robert Alvarez, Maya Fitch, Lucas Lothamer, and Elizabeth Simas. Conditionally Accepted. "Measuring Partisanship and Representation in Online Congressional Communication" <i>American Political Science Review</i>.</p> <p>Michael R. Kistner and Michael Pomirchy. Conditionally Accepted. "Partisan and Ideological Bias Among the Attentive Public? Evidence From Witness Slips in the Illinois General Assembly." <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i>.</p> <p>Fong, Christian and Michael R. Kistner. Forthcoming (Early Access). "Ambition and Conflict in State Legislatures." <i>Journal of Politics</i>.</p> <p>Hilden, David and Michael R. Kistner. 2025. "Promoting Conspiracy Theories Strategically." <i>Quarterly Journal of Political Science</i>. 20(3), pp. 307 - 337.</p> <p>Kaslovsky, Jaclyn and Michael R. Kistner. 2025. "Responsive Rhetoric: Evidence from Congressional Redistricting." <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i>. 50(3): pp. 270 - 282.</p> <p>Kistner, Michael R. and Tanika Raychaudhuri. 2025. "Immigration and Political Incorporation: Asian American Representation in State Legislatures." <i>State Politics & Policy Quarterly</i>. 25(2), pp. 212 - 236.</p> <p>Shor, Boris and Michael R. Kistner. 2024. "Comparing Leviathans: Agenda Influence in State Legislatures, 2011 to 2023." <i>Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy</i>. 4(4), pp. 551 - 576.</p> <p>Kistner, Michael R. 2022. "Fighting for Majorities? Explaining the Development of Caucus Fundraising in American Legislatures." <i>Journal of Politics</i>. 84(1), pp. 321-34.</p>	

	Canes-Wrone, Brandice and Michael R. Kistner . 2022. "Out of Step and Still in Congress? Electoral Consequences of Incumbent and Challenger Positioning across Time." <i>Quarterly Journal of Political Science</i> . 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 <i>Accountability Reconsidered: Voters, Interests, and Information in US Policymaking</i> . pp. 129 - 149. Cambridge University Press.	
WORKING PAPERS	"Credit Claiming and Accountability for Legislative Effectiveness" with Elizabeth Simas, Jamie Wright, and David Hilden	
	"Opening the Gates: Interest Group Influence on Partisan Agenda Control" with Boris Shor	
AWARDS AND PRIZES	Graduate Student Mentorship Award, <i>UH Department of Political Science</i>	2024
	Carl Albert Dissertation Award, <i>APSA Legislative Studies Section</i>	2022
	Chris Mooney Dissertation Prize, <i>APSA State Politics and Policy Section</i>	2022
	Intellectual Leadership Award, <i>Illinois Wesleyan University</i>	2015
GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS	Book Completion Grant, <i>University of Houston CLASS</i>	2024
	Small Grant Award, <i>The Center for Effective Lawmaking</i>	2022
	Seed Research Grant, <i>University of Houston Division of Research</i>	2022
	Teaching Innovation Program Grant, <i>UH Faculty Instructional Support</i>	2022
	Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honorific Fellowship, <i>Princeton University</i>	2020-2021
	Graduate Student Research Grant, <i>Center for the Study of Democratic Politics</i>	2017
	Eckley Summer Scholars Fellowship, <i>Illinois Wesleyan University</i>	2014
INVITED TALKS	Assistant Professor Excellence Series, University of Houston	2026
	Department of Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	2025
	Department of Political Science, Texas A&M	2025
	American Institutions Seminar, Louisiana State University	2025
	Department of Political Science, Stanford University	2024
	Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago	2024
	Department of Political Science, American University	2024
	Carl Albert Center for Congressional Studies, University of Oklahoma	2023
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2020-2025
	TexMeth Annual Conference (Hobby School of Public Policy)	2025
	Money in Politics Conference (Copenhagen Business School)	2024

	Center for Effective Lawmaking Conference Annual Meeting	2024
	State Politics and Policy Annual Conference	2019, 2022-2024
	Conference on Parties in American Legislatures (University of Houston)	2023
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2015, 2018, 2023
	Conference on Interest Groups and Polarization (Trinity University)	2022
	Legislative Studies Conference (Carl Albert Center, University of Oklahoma)	2022
	Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2021
TEACHING	Short Workshop: Introduction to Causal Inference <i>ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods</i>	2023-2025
	POLS 6388: Graduate Seminar in Causal Inference <i>University of Houston</i>	2025
	POLS 6364: Graduate Seminar in Legislative Politics <i>University of Houston</i>	2021, 2024
	GOVT 2305: American and Texas Government <i>University of Houston</i>	2021, 2022, 2024
	Independent Graduate Study on Political Representation <i>University of Houston</i>	2023
	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
	WWS 600b: Statistics for Public Policy <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</i>	2024-present
	Comprehensive Exam Committee <i>Examiner</i>	2022, 2024, 2025
	Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Committee Member</i>	2021-2024
	Job Search Committee, Political Theory <i>Committee Member</i>	2024

	Christopher Mooney Dissertation Prize Award Committee, American Political Science Association <i>Committee Member</i>	2023
	Conference on Parties in American Legislatures <i>Co-Organizer</i>	2023
	Core American Government Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Committee Member</i>	2022-2023
	Election Policy and Democracy Reform Competition, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy <i>Competition Judge</i>	2022
	Data Cleaning in the Tidyverse, Department of Political Science, University of Houston <i>Workshop Instructor and Organizer</i>	2022
	MAT 037 (Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative): Beginning Algebra <i>Co-Instructor</i>	2020
REFeree SERVICE	<i>American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Quarterly Journal of Political Science; Legislative Studies Quarterly; State Politics and Policy Quarterly; Political Behavior; Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy; California Journal of Politics and Policy</i>	
ADVISING	Robert Alvarez, Katia Davis, David Hilden, Maya Fitch	
RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Statistical Consultant <i>Good Reason Houston (Nonpartisan Education Nonprofit)</i>	2025
	Statistical Consultant <i>Data and Statistical Services Lab, Princeton University</i>	2018-2020
	Legislative Research Assistant <i>The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh UK</i>	2013
REFERENCES	Brandice Canes-Wrone Professor of Political Science Stanford University bcwrone@stanford.edu	Anthony Fowler Professor of Political Science University of Chicago anthony.fowler@uchicago.edu
	Frances Lee Professor of Politics and Public Affairs Princeton University frances.lee@princeton.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	