Michael R. Kistner

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Houston
Assistant Professor of Political Science   2021 - present

Center for Effective Lawmaking   2024 - present
Faculty Affiliate

EDUCATION

Princeton University
Joint Ph.D., Politics and Social Policy   2021

Illinois Wesleyan University
B.A., Political Science   2015

BOOK

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

- In production at the University of Chicago Press (available June 2026)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Kistner, Michael R., Michael Heseltine, Robert Alvarez, Maya Fitch, Lucas Lothamer, and Elizabeth Simas. Conditionally Accepted. "Measuring Partisanship and Representation in Online Congressional Communication" *American Political Science Review.*

Fong, Christian and **Michael R. Kistner**. Forthcoming (Early Access). "Ambition and Conflict in State Legislatures." *Journal of Politics.*

Kistner, Michael R. and Michael Pomirchy. 2026. "Partisan and Ideological Bias Among the Attentive Public? Evidence From Witness Slips in the Illinois General Assembly." *Legislative Studies Quarterly.* 51(1).

Hilden, David and **Michael R. Kistner**. 2025. "Promoting Conspiracy Theories Strategically." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science.* 20(3), pp. 307 - 337.

Kaslovsky, Jaclyn and **Michael R. Kistner**. 2025. "Responsive Rhetoric: Evidence from Congressional Redistricting." *Legislative Studies Quarterly.* 50(3): pp. 270 - 282.

Kistner, Michael R. and Tanika Raychaudhuri. 2025. "Immigration and Political Incorporation: Asian American Representation in State Legislatures." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly.* 25(2), pp. 212 - 236.

Shor, Boris and **Michael R. Kistner**. 2024. "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.* 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, *UH Department of Political Science*	2024
Carl Albert Dissertation Award, *APSA Legislative Studies Section*	2022
Chris Mooney Dissertation Prize, *APSA State Politics and Policy Section*	2022
Intellectual Leadership Award, *Illinois Wesleyan University*	2015

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Book Completion Grant, *University of Houston CLASS*	2024
Small Grant Award, *The Center for Effective Lawmaking*	2022
Seed Research Grant, *University of Houston Division of Research*	2022
Teaching Innovation Program Grant, *UH Faculty Instructional Support*	2022
Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honorific Fellowship, *Princeton University*	2020-2021
Graduate Student Research Grant, *Center for the Study of Democratic Politics*	2017
Eckley Summer Scholars Fellowship, *Illinois Wesleyan University*	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

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2015, 2018, 2023, 2026
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2020-2025
TexMeth Annual Conference	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
	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 *ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods*	2023-2026
POLS 3395: Money in American Politics *University of Houston*	2022, 2026
POLS 6388: Graduate Seminar in Causal Inference *University of Houston*	2025
POLS 6364: Graduate Seminar in Legislative Politics *University of Houston*	2021, 2024
GOVT 2305: American and Texas Government *University of Houston*	2021, 2022, 2024
Independent Graduate Study on Political Representation *University of Houston*	2023
POLS 3316: Statistics for Political Science *University of Houston*	2022, 2023
WWS 600b: Statistics for Public Policy *School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University*	2018, 2019
POL 327: Mass Media, Social Media, and American Politics *Department of Politics, Princeton University* Preceptor (Instructor: Andrew Guess)	2018
POL 571: Graduate Quantitative Methods I *Department of Politics, Princeton University* Preceptor (Instructor: John Londregan)	2017

Disciplinary & University Service

Graduate Student Research Series, Department of Political Science, University of Houston *Co-Organizer*	2024-present
Comprehensive Exam Committee *Examiner*	2022, 2024-2026
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Houston *Committee Member*	2021-2024
Job Search Committee, Political Theory *Committee Member*	2024

Christopher Mooney Dissertation Prize Award Committee, American Political Science Association		2023
Committee Member		
Conference on Parties in American Legislatures		2023
Co-Organizer		
Core American Government Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Houston		2022-2023
Committee Member		
Election Policy and Democracy Reform Competition, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy		2022
Competition Judge		
Data Cleaning in the Tidyverse, Department of Political Science, University of Houston		2022
Workshop Instructor and Organizer		
MAT 037 (Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative): Beginning Algebra		2020
Co-Instructor		

REFEREE SERVICE

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

ADVISING

Robert Alvarez, Katia Davis, David Hilden, Maya Fitch

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Statistical Consultant	2025
Good Reason Houston (Nonpartisan Education Nonprofit)	
Statistical Consultant	2018-2020
Data and Statistical Services Lab, Princeton University	
Legislative Research Assistant	2013
The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh UK	

REFERENCES

Brandice Canes-Wrone
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Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
anthony.fowler@uchicago.edu

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