

Sarah Young

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University of South Carolina-Aiken
Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy
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CV last updated August 2024

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 2015

Major Field: Public Administration
Cross-field Concentration: Political Economy

Dissertation: "Economic Development Policy and Foreign Direct Investment in the American States: Assessing their Impact on Private Sector Unionization"

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Patricia Freeland (Chair), Dr. Nathan Kelly, Dr. David Folz, Dr. Matthew Murray

Master of Public Administration, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 2008

Bachelor of Arts in History, University of North Carolina-Asheville, 2000

Professional Experience

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of South Carolina Aiken, Aiken, SC; August 2023- current

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of South Carolina Aiken, Aiken, SC; August 2017 – August 2023

Adjunct Instructor, Political Science, Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville, TN; August 2014 – May 2017

Project Coordinator for the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, September 2011- April 2014

Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 2008-11

Education Coordinator, Department of Training and Development, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), Washington, DC; 2003-2006

Publications (Academic Peer Reviewed)

Young, Sarah and Thornburg, Matthew P. 2024. "Citizen Preferences and Awareness of Tax Revenue Options: Public Opinion on South Carolina's "Tax Swap"." *State and Local Government Review*, 56(1), 91-103.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0160323X231216895> (USC ASPIRE Grant Funded)

Young, Sarah; Thornburg, Matthew P.; and Steinmeyer, David Wilson. 2022. "Tax Salience, Escrow, and Support for Property Tax: Findings from a Survey of South Carolina Voters," *Journal of Political Science*: 50 (1): Article 4. (USC ASPIRE Grant Funded)

David Darmofal, Nathan J. Kelly, Christopher Witko, and Sarah Young. 2019. "Federalism, Government Liberalism, and Union Weakness in America." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 19 (4): 428-450.

Young, Sarah L. 2015. "The Impact of Economic Development Strategy on Market Conditioned Income Inequality in the American States." *State and Local Government Review*. 47: 271-284.

Other Publications

Young, Sarah and Matthew P. Thornburg. December 2022. "OUR TURN: Act 388's impact on school taxes largely unknown today, study shows." Op-Ed for Statehouse Report. [OUR TURN: Act 388's impact on school taxes largely unknown today, study shows – Statehouse Report](#)

Young, Sarah and Matthew P Thornburg. 2022. "Findings of the 2021 South Carolina Citizen School Tax Survey: A Report by the University of South Carolina Aiken's Social Science and Business Research Lab" <https://joomla-prod.usca.edu/history-political-science-philosophy/opportunities/ssbrl/ssbrl-files/2770-south-carolina-citizen-school-tax-survey-2021/file>

Young, Sarah. Fall 2021. USC Aiken Social Science and Business Research Lab. "South Carolina School Property Taxes: Did You Know?" (A Citizen Fact Sheet on the School Property Tax Exemption in South Carolina.)

Young, Sarah. 2021. "Book Review: *Tax Increment Financing and Economic Development: Uses, Structures, and Impact*," *Economic Development Quarterly*, vol. 35(1), pages 84-85, February.

Young, Sarah. *Annual Report of the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project, FY 2013* (With Frances Adams-O'Brien and Joy West), Municipal Technical Advisory Service, University of Tennessee.

Young, Sarah. *Annual Report of the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project, FY 2012* (With Frances Adams-O'Brien), Municipal Technical Advisory Service, University of Tennessee.

John M. Scheb II and Sarah Young. 2007. "Research Note: Attitudes Toward Courts Versus Other Institutions of Government." *Baker Center Journal of Applied Public Policy*. Volume 1, Number 1, pg. 26.

Teaching Interests

American National Government, American State and Local Government, Public Policy Process (U.S. Domestic), Public Administration, Public Budgeting and Finance; Gender and Public Policy, Program Evaluation; Employment, Economic Development and Social Welfare Policy; U.S. Interest Groups and Parties

Teaching (Courses Taught as Instructor of Record)

Introduction to U.S. National Government. Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2014, Spring and Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2017- current (multiple sections)

- Traditional, face-to-face format: 39 sections taught in years 2008-2024
- Online asynchronous format: 12 sections taught in years 2019 – 2024
- Hybrid format: four sections taught in years 2016-22
- Students read and assess founding documents, complete analytical paper on checks and balances, and engage in team class debate on political system features.

South Carolina and State & Local Government (advanced undergrad level). Fall 2019, Fall 2021

- Students were assigned to teams to research a policy issue important to the USC Aiken campus. Students contact a state or local elected official and present their original policy brief. In 2021, student team met with Mayor Rick Osbon, City of Aiken.

Introduction to Political Science. Fall 2014, Spring and Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023

- Students conduct an analysis of ideological positions using the major party platforms

Introduction to Public Administration (advanced undergrad level). Fall 2017, Fall 2020, Fall 2023 (special topics variation “Street Level Public Administration”)

- Students engage in a SWOT Analysis of a public agency of their choice.
- Students develop an original code of ethics for street level public servants

Introduction to Public Policy (advanced undergrad level). Spring 2020, Spring 2023

- Students were assigned a higher education topic. I invite legislators or their policy aides to attend a virtual class meeting. Students lobbied legislators or their staff members and presented their original policy brief.

Public Financial Administration (advanced undergrad level), Fall 2018, Spring 2022.

- Students select a city or town budget and financial report and write a term paper analyzing the policy priorities of the municipality using these documents.

Public Program Evaluation (advanced undergrad level). Spring 2019

- Student teams wrote a group “deliverable” evaluating one of three programs in the USC Aiken Political Science program.

Women and Public Policy/Gender and Public Policy (advanced undergrad level). Spring 2018, Spring 2021, Spring 2024

- Students attend a public meeting and write a reflection on how issues and communication dynamics are gendered.

Contemporary Issues in American Public Policy (advanced undergrad level). Fall 2009- Spring 2011. (While an instructor at the University of Tennessee)

Teaching (Additional Duties)

Faculty Lead and Course Credit Advisor for 18 student internships & three independent studies. Fall 2018-Spring 2024.

Faculty Advisor for 30 + Political Science Majors. Fall 2018-Spring 2024.

Faculty Mentor, Evan Jenkins (2021) and Wilbur Holmes (2022), USC Aiken Scholar Showcase Presentations. Faculty Mentor, Wilson Steinmeyer (2021), student assistant on my own research project, co-written publication produced.

Teaching (Awards and Accolades)

Val Lumens Teaching Excellence Award. USC Aiken Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy. 2022, 2024.

“Thank a Teacher” Citations. USC Aiken Office of the Provost. (Three received - years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

Research Interests

State and Local Tax Policy and Education Funding; Behavioral Public Finance and Tax Policy; Labor, Workforce, and Employment Policy; U.S. State Government & Economic Development; Women and Political Representation (U.S.); Local Government Performance Management and Benchmarking; Interest Groups in the United States; Federalism in the United States

Ongoing Research/ Working Papers

“Transparency of Property Tax Exemptions in South Carolina: How Application Forms Matter” (Funded through Strom Thurmond Endowed Chair, \$5000 in Year 2024-25)

“Interest Group Mobilization and South Carolina Act 388”

“Impact of State Welfare Policy Generosity on Descriptive Representation of Women in State Legislatures”

Research Grants and Awards

Strom Thurmond Endowed Chair in Political Science. Awarded May 2024 for research and scholarship in state & local policy (\$15,000 research stipend over three years/ \$5,000 each year)

ASPIRE I. Principal Investigator. UofSC Office of Research. Awarded May 2021. “Public Opinion and Act 388: Issue Salience of South Carolina School Tax Policy” (funded for \$14,700)

HAS Travel Award for Research Conference. USC Aiken funds. April 22, 2022 (funded for \$1050). State Politics and Policy Conference, Tallahassee, Florida.

HAS Award for Research Conference. USC Aiken funds. April 9, 2022 (funded for \$270). Midwest Political Science Conference (virtual).

HAS Travel Award for Research Conference. USC Aiken funds. Summer 2018 (funded approx.. \$800)

Honorable Mention, 2015 Thomas A. Kochan and Stephen R. Sleigh Best Dissertation Award Competition, Labor and Employment Relations Association

UT Graduate School and Political Science Department Travel Grants to attend Academic Conferences; 2011, 2012, 2013 (funded \$1200 total)

Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee, Excellence in Graduate Studies for American Government, 2011(funded \$500)

Department of Undergraduate Research and Department of Humanities, University of North Carolina-Asheville, Research Grant, 2000

~ Archival Research in Swansea, Wales, UK: Images of Margaret Thatcher among Miners’ Wives During the Coal Strike of 1984 (funded \$2400)

Conference Participation/ Invited Talks

August 2024. (With Dr. Daniel “Ben” Bailey). South Carolina Association of Assessing Officials Monthly Meeting. Columbia, SC. Proposed research partnership for “County Governments and Tax Transparency: Presentation of the SC School Tax Exemption”

June 2023. Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges Summer Training Institute (in person format). University of North Carolina-Asheville. Discussion Facilitator for sessions on “Dealing with State Legislation that Encroaches on Teaching” and “Engaged Learning Practices”

March 2023, virtual format. American Society for Public Administration Conference. “Transparency of Property Tax Exemptions in South Carolina: How Application Forms Matter” (revisions and additional research added)

February 2022, in person format, Lander, SC. 2023 SC Political Science Conference. “Transparency of Property Tax Exemptions in South Carolina: How Application Forms Matter” (first draft)

April 22, 2022. (With Matthew Thornburg). State Politics and Policy Conference. Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. Panel Presentation/Paper. “Tax Salience, Escrow, and Support for Property Tax: Findings from a Survey of South Carolina Voters”

April 7, 2022. Midwest Political Science Association Conference (virtual). Panel presentation/Paper. “Salience and Property Tax Opposition: Findings from a Survey of South Carolina Voters”

February 26, 2022. (With Matthew Thornburg). Carolinas Political Science Conference. Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC. Panel Presentation/Paper. “Citizen Knowledge Limits on Property Taxation to Fund Schools: Findings from a Survey of South Carolina Voters”

April 2021. Midwest Political Science Association Conference. (virtual). Panel presentation/Paper. “South Carolina’s Act 388: Examining the Scope of Conflict in School Property Tax Policy”

June 2020. Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges Annual Conference (virtual). Presentation. “Distance Lobbying During the Pandemic: Students Discuss Higher Education Funding with State Representatives.”

Scheduled April 2020. Midwest Political Science Conference. Chicago, IL. Panel Presentation. “South Carolina’s Act 388: Examining the “Scope of Conflict” in School Property Tax Policy.” Conference Cancelled Due to Pandemic Stay-at-Home Order

February 2019. South Carolina Political Science Conference. Furman University, Greenville, SC. Panel Presentation. “Act 388 and Interest Group Mobilization”.

June 2018. State Politics and Policy Conference. Penn State University, State College, PA. Panel Presentation/ Paper. “The Impact of Maternal Social Policies on Number of Women in State Elected Offices: Applying McDonagh’s ‘Hybrid State’ Hypothesis to Sub-national Governments” (Revised paper).

March 2018. South Carolina Political Science Conference. Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC. Panel Presentation/ Paper. “The Impact of Maternal Social Policies on Number of Women in State Elected Offices: Applying McDonagh’s ‘Hybrid State’ Hypothesis to Sub-national Governments” (First draft).

January 2013. Southern Political Science Association, Orlando, FL. Presentation and Paper. “The Impact of Economic Development Strategy on Market Conditioned Income Inequality in the American States.”

December 2012. Tennessee-American Society for Public Administration Conference, Nashville, TN. Poster Presentation (with Nurgul Aitalieva). “Performance Patterns Among Cities in the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project (TMBP): A Focus on Fire Service.”

October 2012. University of Tennessee Political Science Department Round-table, Knoxville, TN. Presentation and Paper. “The Impact of Economic Development Strategy on Market Conditioned Income Inequality in the American States”

September 2012. Public Performance Management and Reporting Conference, Trenton, New Jersey. Panel Presentation and Issue Brief. “The Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project: An Investment in the Future of Tennessee Cities.”

January 2012. Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA. Presentation and Paper. “Varieties of Capitalism, State Economic Development, and Unionization in the American States.”

April 2011. Tennessee Political Science Association. Nashville, TN. Presentation and Paper. “State Strategies to Attract Foreign Investment and Impact on Union Organizing Outcome: Comparative Analysis of Tennessee, South Carolina, Missouri.”

January 2011. Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA. Presentation and Paper Submission: “The Impact of Foreign Ownership on Union Organizing in the United States: Some New Findings.”

Professional Service

Textbook Review Advisory Board, *Central Ideas in American Government*, Soomo Learning (2024)

Textbook Reviewer, *Political Science: An Introduction for Change Makers* by Wendy Muse-Sinek, Sage Publishing (2023)

Reviewer, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* (2022)

Textbook Reviewer, *Political Science Today* by Wendy Wittman Cobb, Sage Publishing (2021)

Reviewer, *Political Research Quarterly* (2019)

Reviewer, *Economic Development Quarterly* (2016)

University & Department Service

Member, USC Aiken Budget and Planning Committee. Current

Member, USC Aiken Faculty Assembly Nominating Committee. Fall 2022- current.

Chair, USC Aiken Faculty Assembly University Planning Committee. Fall 2021- current.

Chair, Department of History & Political Science Search Committee: IR Tenure Track Line. 2023-24. Successful acceptance of hire from Dakota Trithara.

Political Science Program Internship Coordinator. Fall 2019 – current.

Faculty Presenter, “Who Talks?: It Matters! Women and Participation in Public Meetings.” ICE Event in Connection with Office of Diversity Initiatives, Women’s History Month. March 16, 2022.

RISE Grant Proposal Reviewer. USC Office of Research. January 2022.

Advisor, Political Science Club. Fall 2019-current.

Member, USC Aiken Taskforce to Review COVID Guidelines. May 2021.
Volunteer Greeter, Spring Commencement Ceremony. May 2021.

Panel Reviewer, Aiken Scholar's Academy Student Research Project Defense. (Four student defenses). April 2021.

Member, Honors Awards and Scholarship Sub-Committee for University Service, March-April 2021.

Faculty Presenter, Opening Remarks prior to viewing of "Birthright: A Film of Women's Reproductive Freedom" ICE Event with Office of Diversity Initiatives. March 23, 2021.

Volunteer, COVID Public Vaccination Event. USC Aiken. March 2021.

Committee Lead, USC Aiken Virtual Constitution Day. September 2020. Coordinated the recording and delivery of three virtual learning events.

- "Beyond the 19th Amendment: The Push for the E.R.A" Virtual Panel Discussion, Moderator.
- Coordinated two additional virtual seminars led by Dr. Mitchell Krumm, Assistant Professor, and Karin Sisk, Aiken League of Women Voters
- Curated a webpage with links/resources

Member, USC Aiken Future Task Force, Sub-committee on Student/Parent/Alumni Engagement in Response to COVID Pandemic. Spring 2020.

Member, Commencement Ceremony Committee. Fall 2019.

Co-Chair, Search Committee for Comparative Politics Position. Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy, Fall 2019- Spring 2020. Approx. 115 Applicants. Successful hire.

Chair, USC Aiken Faculty Assembly Campus Life Committee. Fall 2019-Spring 2020; Member Campus Life Committee, 2018-2021

Member, Search Committee for Political Theory Position. Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy, Fall 2018- Spring 2019. Approx. 90 Applicants. Successful hire.

Invited Outside Member, English Composition Instructor Search Committee. Spring 2019. Approx. 25 applicants.

Career Services Internship Council Working Group. "Resume Roundtable" April 16, 2019.

Faculty Presenter, "The F Word: A Discussion about Feminism". ICE Event. Hosted by Amethyst Marroquin and the Office of Student Life – Diversity Initiatives. USC Aiken. March 2019.

Faculty Presenter, "Watergate: A Look Back". ICE Event and Guest Lecture to Dr. Heather Peterson's Class. April 2018.

Member, Search Committee for Political Theory Position. Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy, Fall 2017- Spring 2018. Approx. 80 Applicants.

Magellan Scholar undergraduate research proposal reviewer. UofSC System. March 2018.

Program Assistance, Palmetto Connections Symposium. Hosted by Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy. University of South Carolina- Aiken. November 2017.

Faculty Co-Sponsor and Presenter, "DACA: A Dream Deferred". (with Dr. Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan and Taifa Baker, JD.) Roundtable Session Hosted by Office of Student Life- Diversity Initiatives. University of SC- Aiken. September 2017.

Community Service

Faculty Presenter, “School Tax Matters: Understanding Act 388”. College of Humanities and Social Sciences Aiken in the Alley Community Outreach Series. April 2024.

Moderator. Aiken County Democratic Party State Chair Forum. Aiken, SC. Spring 2023.

Voices and Votes Invited Speaker. Lecture on women’s suffrage and moderation of after-film discussion of “Iron Jawed Angels” at Aiken Technical Community College, March 28, 2022.

Election Poll Manager. Aiken, SC, November 2020.

Member, Gregg-Graniteville Scholarship Selection Committee, Aiken, SC, April 2020

Coordinator and Host, Women in Leadership SC “Circle of Women” Event, Fall 2019. Aiken, SC.
Collaborative Effort with Councilwoman Lessie Price of the City of Aiken and Barbara Rackes of Women in Leadership South Carolina.

Presentation to Aiken County Democratic Party: “Unions, Income Equality, and the Democratic Party” Odell Weeks Center, May 2019.

Question Editing Team Member (with Matthew Thornburg) for Aiken County Board of Education Candidates’ Forum, October 2018.

Panel Moderator, “Women Leading in Our Community,” Constitution Week Activities, September 2018. Led a panel discussion of four women leaders in local politics who promoted women’s critical role in leadership.

Moderator, Aiken Democrats House Congressional Candidate Forum. May 17, 2018.

Professional Development/Training (Selected)

University of Georgia. Certified Municipal Financial Officer Training Program: Intro to Accounting (November 2021) and Intro Budgeting (January 2022), Accounting 2 (December 2022), Debt Administration (Summer 2023), Capital Improvement Plan (April 2023), two more classes to take in the summer 2024 for certification.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence. “Weird Questions to Enhance Student Engagement” by Dr. Deborah McMurtrie and Dr. Bridgett Coleman. Sept. 26, 2022.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence. “Exploring an Intentionally Inclusive Pedagogy” by Dr. Melencia Johnson. Sept. 12, 2022.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence. “Navigate Student Engagement and Success Portal”. August 31, 2022 Annual Title IX Training. Aug. 23, 2022.

Governmental Financial Officers Association. “The Future of the Sales Tax”. (Virtual Training). May 2022.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence. Two Workshops Attended in the Teaching Excellence Certificate Series. Jan. 26 and Feb. 9, 2022.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence. Symposium on Student Success. January 7, 2022.

UofSC (Columbia) Center for Teaching Excellence. “Who are the Veterans on Campus? Untangling the Identity from the Experience” (virtual) Nov. 7, 2021.

UofSC System. IRB Training on human subjects. April 2021.

USC Aiken Finance and Administration Workshop. “Budgeting and Accounting” Overview of budget processes, grants, finance intranet, GL corrections. Nov. 6, 2021.

Office of Diversity Initiatives. Safe Zone Training. March 16, 2021.

Annual Title IX Training. Aug. 16, 2021.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence. 2020. Workshop Series on *Teaching College*” by Norman Eng book read. Three virtual workshops.

Critical Inquiry Workshop. May 2019.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence, High Impact Practices Workshop. Jan 2019.

Critical Inquiry Workshop. May 2018.

USC Aiken Office of Diversity Initiatives/ Center for Teaching Excellence. “Micro-aggressions in the Classroom.” March 22, 2018.

USC Aiken Center for Teaching Excellence. Lunch and Learn Series. Service Learning Workshop. Oct. 3, 2017.

Local Government Performance Management Experience

Data and Taskforce Coordination for the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project, UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (2011-2014)

~ Worked with multiple department heads from 20 Tennessee municipalities to gather, analyze, and edit performance management data submitted directly from the cities.

Other Experience

Field Planning and Management Internship, Field Office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Knoxville, TN, June 2009-September 2010

~ Compiled Quality Management Review for US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Knoxville Field Office, working with Mark Brezina, Field Office Director. (2009)

Team Leader, Crossville Sustainable Energy Initiative, Spring 2008 Semester, in connection with POLS 585-Planning Methods

~Facilitation of workshops engaging local leaders and members of the public in creating a sustainable energy strategy for the City of Crossville, TN~

Graduate Assistant, Political Science, University of Tennessee, Fall 2006-Spring 2008

~ For Dr. John Scheb, Dr. Michael Fitzgerald, Dr. Patricia Freeland, Dr. David Houston ~

Internship, Department of Community Development, City of Knoxville, Sept. 2007- August 2008

Education Coordinator, Department of Training and Development, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), Washington, DC; 2003-2006

~ Coordinated 50+ labor education seminars for union stewards and members in local unions across the United States and Canada. Created seminar activities and educational literature. Designed and delivered presentations to crowds of 100 +, facilitated seminar working groups, and led role-play simulations.

Memberships

Governmental Financial Officers Association, 2021-current

COPLAC Women in STEM, Virtual Affinity Groups Participant, 2022-23

South Carolina Political Science Association, 2018-current

Midwest Political Science Association, 2021- 2024

American Society of Public Administration, 2022-current

American Association of University Professors, 2018-current

Software Skills

Proficiency in STATA (statistics), Zoom, MS Teams, Excel, Banner (for grade reporting), DegreeWorks, Navigate, Blackboard Ultra, and Desire2Learn. Basics of Lime Survey.