

# ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

Department of Political Science  
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## EDUCATION

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**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** Chapel Hill, NC  
*Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science* In Progress  
Fields: Comparative Politics, American Politics, Political Methodology  
Committee: Marc J. Hetherington (chair), Mary A. Kroeger, Rahsaan Maxwell,  
Timothy J. Ryan, Jaime Settle (William and Mary)

*Master of Arts in Political Science* 2020  
Committee: Marc J. Hetherington (chair), Ted Enamorado, Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo

**University of Wisconsin-Madison** Madison, WI  
*Bachelor of Arts with Honors in the Liberal Arts* 2018  
Majors: History, Political Science, Economics  
Advisor: Erica S. Simmons

## PUBLICATIONS

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Hetherington, Marc J. and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff** “American attitudes toward covid-19 are divided by party. The pandemic itself might undo that.” *The Washington Post* (August 18, 2020).

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** “Subverting Solidarity: The Role of American Organized Labor in Pursuing United States Foreign Policy Objectives in Chile, 1961-1973.” *The Burkhardt Review* 1, no. 2 (2018): 24-40.

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** “The Short-Term Success of New Deal Work Relief Programs: An Evaluation of Private Sector Employment, 1929-1940.” *Equilibrium: Journal of Economics* 8 (Spring 2018): 29-33.

## WORKING PAPERS

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**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** “A Group-Based Approach to Measuring Polarization.” *Under Review*.

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.**, Marc Hetherington, Michael MacKuen, and Timothy J. Ryan. “Where Motivated Reasoning Withers and Looms Large: Fear and Partisan Reactions to the Covid-19 Pandemic.” *Under Review*.

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** “Estimating Mass Polarization and its Structural Determinants Over Time and Space.”

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** “Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Evidence of a Negligible Relationship.”

**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** “Polarization in Comparative Perspective: Concept, Definition, and Measurement.”

## SOFTWARE

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**Mehlhaff, Isaac D.** *CPC: Implementation of Cluster-Polarization Coefficient* (version 2.0.2). R. 2021.

## FUNDING

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Graduate Research Fellowship 2020 - 2023

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| <i>National Science Foundation</i>   | \$138,000              |
| Graduate Fellowship<br><i>Program for Public Discourse, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>                      | 2021 - 2022<br>\$1,000 |
| Uhlman Endowment<br><i>Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>                      | 2020<br>\$500          |
| Americas Graduate Fellowship<br><i>Institute for the Study of the Americas, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>  | 2018 - 2020<br>\$5,000 |
| Travel Award<br><i>Standing Group on Latin American Politics, European Consortium for Political Research</i>                     | 2019<br>€150           |
| Uhlman Fellowship<br><i>Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>                     | 2019<br>\$2,000        |
| Harold G. Lundberg Fellowship<br><i>Chi Psi Educational Trust</i>  | 2018<br>\$2,500        |
| Lorraine A. and W. Dwight Stone Fellowship<br><i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>                    | 2018<br>\$10,000       |
| William K. Fitch Fellowship<br><i>Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>                                     | 2017<br>\$5,000        |
| Lorraine A. and W. Dwight Stone Fellowship<br><i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>                    | 2017<br>\$4,000        |
| Barry Popkin Senior Honors Thesis Award<br><i>College of Letters and Science Honors Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> | 2017<br>\$3,000        |
| Stanoch Family Fellowship<br><i>Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>                             | 2017<br>\$1,500        |
| C. Ray Flynn Fellowship<br><i>Chi Psi Educational Trust</i>  | 2016<br>\$5,000        |
| Welton Honors Research Grant<br><i>College of Letters and Science Honors Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>            | 2016<br>\$2,500        |

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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| Associate Level of Accomplishment<br><i>Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning,<br/>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i> | 2021 |
| James W. Prothro Award for Best Master's Thesis in Political Science<br><i>Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i> | 2021 |
| Best Presentation, 2nd Place<br><i>Uhlman Seminar, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>  | 2020 |
| William Jennings Bryan Award for Best Thesis in Political Science<br><i>Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>                    | 2018 |
| Best Paper in Global History<br><i>Student History Conference, Ball State University</i>  | 2018 |
| William F. Allen Research Award<br><i>Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>  | 2017 |
| Phi Beta Kappa  | 2017 |

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

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**Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Evidence of a Negligible Relationship**

- Annual Meeting 2021  
*American Political Science Association* Seattle, WA

**Measuring Political Polarization: The Cluster-Polarization Coefficient**

- Annual Meeting 2021  
*Southern Political Science Association* New Orleans, LA
- Annual Conference 2020  
*Society for Political Methodology* Toronto, ON
- Standing Group on Latin American Politics 2019  
*European Consortium for Political Research* Segovia, Spain

**Peasant Politics and Plurinationalism: Constructing the Zapatistas through Discourse Analysis**

- North Carolina Conference on Latin American Studies 2019  
*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill* Chapel Hill, NC
- Undergraduate Symposium 2018  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison* Madison, WI
- Senior Honors Thesis Symposium 2018  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison* Madison, WI

**Subverting Solidarity: The Role of American Organized Labor in Pursuing United States Foreign Policy Objectives in Chile, 1961-1973**

- Student History Conference 2018  
*Ball State University* Muncie, IN

**The Short-Term Success of New Deal Work Relief Programs: An Evaluation of Private Sector Employment, 1929-1940**

- Welton Honors Retreat 2016  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison* Spring Green, WI

SERVICE

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**Removing Inequities in Political Science Working Group** 2020 - present  
*Member*

**Graduate Stipends Committee** 2020 - present  
*Member*

**NSF GRFP Peer Review Workshop** 2020  
*Reviewer*

**UNC-Duke University Working Group on Latin American Politics** 2019 - 2020  
*Co-Convenor*

**ARCHIVE Undergraduate Journal of History** 2017  
*Editor*

TEACHING

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## **Agora Fellows**

- Fall 2021, Spring 2022 (Co-Facilitator)

## **POLI 203: Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty**

- Spring 2020 (Teaching Assistant)

## **POLI 100: American Democracy in Changing Times**

- Fall 2019 (Teaching Assistant)

## **POLI 208: Political Parties and Elections**

- Fall 2018 (Instructional Assistant)

## **SKILLS**

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### **LANGUAGES**

- English, Spanish, Portuguese

### **TECHNICAL**

- R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stan, Qualtrics, Git, Python, SQL, STATA