

# ISAAC D. MEHLHAFF

Department of Political Science  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
301 Hamilton Hall, CB #3265  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Updated: July 13, 2022  
Email: [mehlhaff@live.unc.edu](mailto:mehlhaff@live.unc.edu)  
Website: [imehlhaff.net](http://imehlhaff.net)

## EDUCATION

---

**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

---

Marc J. Hetherington 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).

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff** “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.

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff** “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

---

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

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

Marc J. Hetherington, Caroline Lancaster, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff** “Worldview Politics in the United States and Great Britain.”

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff** “Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Global Evidence from a Half-Century of Public Opinion.”

Robert C. Luskin, Daron R. Shaw, Marc J. Hetherington, and **Isaac D. Mehlhaff** “Signed Forecast Errors in Pre-Election Media Polls, 1990-2020.”

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff** “Political Discussion at Scale: Argument Mining with Deep Learning.”

## SOFTWARE

---

**Isaac D. Mehlhaff** CPC: Implementation of Cluster-Polarization Coefficient (version 2.2.1). *Comprehensive R Archive Network*. <https://cran.r-project.org/package=CPC>.

## FUNDING

---

Graduate Research Fellowship <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2020 - 2023 \$138,000
Graduate Fellowship <i>Program for Public Discourse, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2021 - 2022 \$1,000
Americas Graduate Fellowship <i>Institute for the Study of the Americas, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2018 - 2020 \$5,000
Travel Award <i>Standing Group on Latin American Politics, European Consortium for Political Research</i>	2019 €150
Uhlman Fellowship <i>Department of Political Science, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2019 \$2,000
Harold G. Lundberg Fellowship <i>Chi Psi Educational Trust</i>	2018 \$2,500
Lorraine A. and W. Dwight Stone Fellowship <i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 - 2018 \$14,000
William K. Fitch Fellowship <i>Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 \$5,000
Barry Popkin Senior Honors Thesis Award <i>College of Letters and Science Honors Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 \$3,000
Stanoch Family Fellowship <i>Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2017 \$1,500
C. Ray Flynn Fellowship <i>Chi Psi Educational Trust</i>	2016 \$5,000
Welton Honors Research Grant <i>College of Letters and Science Honors Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	2016 \$2,500

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

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

**Political Discussion at Scale: Argument Mining with Deep Learning**

- Annual Conference 2022  
*Society for Political Methodology* St. Louis, MO

**Mass Polarization and Democratic Decline: Global Evidence from a Half-Century of Public Opinion**

- Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science 2022  
*Rice University* Houston, TX
- Annual Conference 2022  
*Midwest Political Science Association* Chicago, IL
- Annual Meeting 2021  
*American Political Science Association* Seattle, WA

**Worldview Politics in the United States and Great Britain**

- Conference on Theories of the Contemporary Divide in Western Societies 2021  
*European University Institute* Florence, Italy

**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

---

**Graduate Coordinator**

- Formal and Quantitative Seminar* 2022 - present
- UNC-Duke University Working Group on Latin American Politics* 2019 - 2020

**Member**

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

*Graduate Stipends Committee*

2020 - 2021

**Discussant**

*Workshop on Latin American Politics and Party Competition, Duke University*

2021

**Reviewer**

*NSF GRFP Peer Review Workshop*

2020, 2021

**Editor**

*ARCHIVE Undergraduate Journal of History*

2017

TEACHING

---

**POLI 276: Everyday Political Theory: Seeing Like a Citizen**

- Spring 2022 (Graduate Consultant)

**Agora Fellows, Program for Public Discourse**

- Fall 2021 (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

---

LANGUAGES

- English, Spanish, Portuguese

TECHNICAL

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