

# Dr Shaun Ratcliff

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## Current positions

*Lecturer, Political Science, United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney*

## Areas of specialisation

US politics • Australian politics • Public opinion and voter behaviour • Political parties  
• Public policy • Quantitative research methods

## Education

2017 PhD, Political science, Monash University  
2011 MA, Politics and communications, Monash University  
2006 BA, Politics, history and philosophy, University of Western Sydney

## Research

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming Negative Campaigning, Issue Salience and Vote Choice: Assessing the Effects of the Australian Labor Party's 2016 'Mediscare' Campaign (with Andrea Carson and Aaron Martin), *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*. Available [here](#).

2018 Public opinion and policy responsiveness in Australia: The case of same-sex marriage (with Andrea Carson and Yannick Dufresne), *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 53(1), 3-23 Available [here](#).

2018 Support for minor parties in Australia: Economic insecurity versus issue representation. In Shaun Wilson and Markus Hadler (eds), *Australian Social Attitudes IV: Australia in an age of insecurity*, 27-54. Available [here](#).

2017 Interest aggregators, not office chasers: Evidence for party convergence and divergence in Australia, *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 52(2), 236-256. Available [here](#).

Under review Policy representation and political trust: Evidence from Australia (with Aaron Martin).

Working paper Measuring public opinion for small groups and areas using data from voter advice applications and

- MRP (with Simon Jackman and Luke Mansillo).
- Working paper (Un)Representative democracy? Measuring mass-elite congruence over time.
- Working paper The nature of ideological polarization in the American electorate (with Stanley Feldman, Simon Jackman and Shawn Treier).
- Working paper Role of party membership on success of entrepreneurs in China (with Ben Goldsmith and Minglu Chen).
- Working paper How race and immigration complicate electoral cleavages (with Marija Taflaga and Andrea Carson).
- Working paper Populist Radical Right Voters and Parties: Evidence from Three Anglo-American Democracies (with Glenn Kefford).
- Working paper How American Allies React: Elite Sentiment and Foreign Policy Shifts in the Aftermath of US Elections (with Gorana Grgic).

#### INVITED TALKS

- 2018 Parties as interest aggregators: Studying issue representation in Australian politics, *Invited talk* to the School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University.
- 2017 The nature of ideological polarization in the American electorate, *Invited talk* to the School of Politics and International Relations, Australian National University (paper co-authored with Stanley Feldman, Simon Jackman and Shawn Treier).
- 2016 Interest aggregators, not office chasers: What U.S. research can tell us about Australian political parties and the policies they pursue, *Invited talk* to the United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney.
- 2015 A high and real conflict of principles, or the end of effective party democracy? Examining evidence for party convergence in Australia from the 1960s to the 2000s, *Invited talk* to the Department of Political Science, Stony Brook University, New York.

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS (PAST 12 MONTHS ONLY)

- 2018 (Un)Representative democracy and the congruence between mass and elite preferences *Australian Society of Quantitative Political Science 2018 Annual Conference*, Canberra.  
Also presented at the *Political Organisations and Participation 2018 Annual Workshop*, Sydney.
- 2018 Populist Radical Right Voters and Parties: Evidence from Three Anglo-American Democracies (with Glenn Kefford), *Australian Society of Quantitative Political Science 2018 Annual Conference*, Canberra.
- 2018 Small area estimates of public opinion: Model-assisted post-stratification of data from voter advice applications (with Simon Jackman and Luke Mansillo), *American Political Science Association 2018 Annual Meeting*, Boston.  
Also presented at the *Australian Society of Quantitative Political Science 2018 Annual Conference*, Canberra; and the *Asian Political Methodology 2019 Annual Meeting*, Kyoto.
- 2018 How race and immigration complicate electoral cleavages (with Marija Taflaga and Andrea Carson), *Australian Political Studies Association and International Political Science Association 2018 Annual Meeting*, Brisbane.

## Media and commentary

Regular media commentator. Articles and op-eds in print and online in [The Washington Post's Monkey Cage blog](#), [BBC online](#), [ABC online](#), quoted in [The Sydney Morning Herald](#), [ABC Online](#),

[The Age](#), [News.com.au](#), [The Guardian \(Australia\)](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) (and other News publications), and a number of radio interviews. Through the United States Studies Centre I have also been involved with public talks on polling, the 2018 US midterm elections, same-sex marriage and populism.

## Teaching

- 2019 *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, GOVT6139 - Research Design, The University of Sydney.
- 2019 *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, GOVT6229 - Campaigning: Data, Politics, Strategy, The University of Sydney.
- 2018 - present *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, USSC 3601 - Public Opinion and Voting in the US, The University of Sydney.
- 2018 - present *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, DATA 5207 - Data Analysis in the Social Sciences, The University of Sydney.
- 2016 - present *Instructor*, Data Analysis in R, Australian Consortium for Social & Political Research.
- 2016 *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, ATS 2256 - Political Psychology, Monash University.
- 2016 *Co-lecturer*, POLS30034 - Political Psychology, The University of Melbourne.
- 2015-16 *Head tutor and Guest lecturer*, MULT 30018 - Applied Research Methods, The University of Melbourne.
- 2014-16 *Tutor and Guest lecturer*, ATS 1353 - Foundations of Modern Politics, Monash University.
- 2013-14 *Guest lecturer*, ATS 3699 - Parties and Power in Australia, Monash University.
- 2014 *Tutor*, ATS 1873 - Introduction to International Relations, Monash University.
- 2012 *Seminar coordinator*, APG 4900 - Cultural Economies, Monash University.

## Additional academic roles and service

- 2018 *Guest editor*, special issue of Political Science (New Zealand) on Electoral Reform.
- 2017-present *Research affiliate*, Centre for Translational Data Science, University of Sydney.
- 2017-present *University of Sydney Representative*, Australian Consortium for Social & Political Research.
- 2015-present *Executive committee member*, Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science.
- 2016 *Advisory committee member*, Vote Compass, 2016 Australian federal election (University of Melbourne appointment).
- 2014 *Coordinator*, 2014 Australasian Political Psychology Workshop, Melbourne.

## Grants and awards

- 2017-18 Commercial Development and Industry Partnerships grant to fund planning for a cooperative election study (with Simon Jackman)  
\$23,500 for research and teaching assistance, and workshop funding, to support the design of the survey and external grant applications.
- 2016 American Political Science Association travel award  
\$250 for travel expenses to the 2016 APSA annual meeting, Philadelphia.
- 2014 Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science travel award  
\$500 for travel expenses to 2014 Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science, Sydney.
- 2014 Monash Travel Award  
Financial award to cover the cost of all flights and other travel expenses to present at the 2014 Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago.

- 2014 Australian Postgraduate Award  
Annual stipend to assist with the general living costs of full-time higher degree by research students.
- 2013 Australian Political Studies Association travel award  
\$1,000 for travel expenses to the 2013 Australian Political Studies Association Annual Conference, Perth.
- 2013 Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science travel award  
\$300 for travel expenses to 2013 Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science, Sydney.

## Relevant skills

A strong practical and theoretical understanding of democratic politics and policy-making, particularly in the US and Australian contexts, but also with a working knowledge of Canadian, UK and other systems.

Experience designing, running and administering undergraduate, postgraduate and executive classes in politics and quantitative research methods.

Proficient with *R*, Markdown and  $\LaTeX$ . Intermediate skills with *SPSS*.

Experience developing surveys and liaising with survey companies for academic research, campaigns and lobby groups.

## Memberships of academic bodies

American Political Science Association • Australian Political Studies Association • International Political Science Association • Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science • Midwest Political Science Association • Political Organisations and Participation (AusPSA standing group)

## Appointments held

- 2017-present *Lecturer*, United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney.
- 2016-present *Instructor*, Australian Consortium for Social & Political Research (details above).
- 2015-present *Consultant* (data analyst), various.
- 2015-2016 *Lecturer, sessional teacher and researcher*, University of Melbourne (details above).
- 2012-2016 *Assistant lecturer, sessional teacher and researcher*, Monash University (details above).
- 2010-14 *Public Affairs Manager*, Victorian Association of Forest Industries.
- 2008-10 *Public Relations Consultant*, Curtin University.
- 2005-08 *Research Officer*, Western Australian State Parliament.