

# Dr Shaun Ratcliff

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## Current positions

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

## Areas of specialisation

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

## 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 The role of political polarization on American and Australian trust and media use during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Peter Van Aelst and Jay G. Blumler (eds), *Political Communication in the Time of Coronavirus* (with Andrea Carson and Leah Ruppanner).
- 2020 Voter behaviour: Age, ancestry and economic self-interest. In Marian Simms, Marian Sawyer, Anika Gauja (eds), *Morrison's Miracle: The 2019 Australian Federal Election* (with Jill Sheppard and Juliet Pietsch). Available [here](#).
- 2020 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*, 30(1), 83-104. Available [here](#).
- 2019 Electoral reform and voters' behaviour in Australia and New Zealand: editors' introduction to the special issue (with Svitlana Chernykh, Benjamin E. Goldsmith, Leonie Huddy and Aaron Martin), *Political Science*, 70(2), 97-101. 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 AND IN PROGRESS

- R&R Dark money and opaque politics: Making sense of contributions to Australian political parties (with Darren Halpin).
- R&R Anxiety and Financial Worry under the COVID-19 pandemic: Employment Disruption and Increased Housework and Childcare in Australia and the United States (with Leah Ruppanner, Xiao Tan and Andrea Carson).
- R&R Populists or Nativist Authoritarians? A Cross-National Analysis of the Populist Radical Right Ideology Amongst Voters (with Glenn Kefford).
- R&R The role of party membership on success of entrepreneurs in China (with Benjamin E. Goldsmith and Minglu Chen).
- Under review Do we still care who gets what, when and how? Asset ownership, economic interests and voter behavior after 2016. Available [here](#).
- Working paper A matter of trust: How Americans and Australians diverged in trust and media use during a global pandemic (with Andrea Carson and Leah Ruppanner).
- Working paper Measuring public opinion for small groups and areas using data from voter advice applications and MRP (with Simon Jackman). Available [here](#).
- In progress The nature of ideological polarization in the American electorate (with Stanley Feldman, Simon Jackman and Shawn Treier).
- In progress Not quite dead: Wealth, ideology and the ongoing relevance of economic interests.
- In progress What donations say about political parties: Interest aggregators or catch-all office-seekers? (with Darren Halpin).
- In progress Corporate donations, interests and influence in Australian politics (with Darren Halpin).
- In progress Partisan Divides on Childcare, Parental Leave and Flexible Work: Evidence from COVID-19 (with Leah Ruppanner and Andrea Carson).
- In progress Support towards Family Policy: A Comparison of the U.S. and Australia during COVID-19 (with Leah Ruppanner and Andrea Carson).

#### INVITED TALKS

- 2019 Understanding the Australian electorate, *Invited talk* to the Workshop on elections and advocacy, Sydney Policy Lab.
- 2019 Understanding the 2019 Australian Election, *Invited talk* to the Electrical Trade Union National Conference.
- 2018 Populists or Nativist Authoritarians? A Cross-National Analysis of the Populist Radical Right Ideology (with Glenn Kefford), *Invited talk* to the Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University.
- 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 (APPROX. PAST 12 MONTHS ONLY)

- 2019 Voter behaviour: Age, ancestry and economic self-interests (with Jill Sheppard and Juliet Pietsch), *Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia: 2019 Election Workshop*, Canberra.
- 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.

## Teaching

- 2020 - present *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, USSC2602 - US Politics: Elections, Presidents, Laws, 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.
- 2019 *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, GOVT6229 - Campaigning: Data, Politics, Strategy, The University of Sydney.
- 2019 *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, GOVT6139 - Research Design, The University of Sydney.
- 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.

## Community engagement and media commentary

Co-authored report on public opinion in the US and Australia. Available [here](#).  
Regular media commentator on politics in Australia and the US, and survey research and public opinion more broadly, including articles and op-eds in print and online in [The Washington Post's](#)

Monkey Cage blog, [The Guardian \(Australia\)](#), [BBC online](#) and [ABC online](#), and commentary from interviews in [The Sydney Morning Herald](#), [The Australian Financial Review](#), [ABC Online](#), [The Age](#), [News.com.au](#), [The Guardian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) (and other News publications). I was on the Network Ten expert panel for its 2020 US presidential election coverage (excerpts [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), and frequently do television, radio and podcast interviews, including with ABC News, the [ABC Signal podcast](#), Network Ten's The Project, Sky News and SBS. Additionally, I have been involved with public talks on polling and survey research, US and Australian elections, the Australian same-sex marriage plebiscite and populism.

## Additional academic roles and service

2017-present	<i>University of Sydney Representative</i> , Australian Consortium for Social & Political Research.
2015-present	<i>Executive committee member</i> , Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science.
2018-19	<i>Principal investigator</i> , Cooperative Australian Election Survey, 2019. The largest election study conducted in Australia to date, this was a \$140,000 survey of 10,000 Australians conducted during the 2019 federal election involving 10 researchers from five universities.
2019	"Voter behaviour" chapter, in Chen, P. et al. (eds). <i>Australian Politics and Policy</i> , Open Textbook (senior and junior editions). Sydney: University of Sydney Press.
2017-19	<i>Research affiliate</i> , Centre for Translational Data Science, University of Sydney.
2016-19	<i>Academic advisory committee member</i> , Vote Compass, 2016 and 2019 Australian federal elections.
2018	<i>Guest editor</i> , special issue of Political Science, on Electoral reform and voter behaviour in Australia and New Zealand. Available <a href="#">here</a> .
2014	<i>Coordinator</i> , 2014 Australasian Political Psychology Workshop, Melbourne.

## Grants and awards

2018	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.
2014-2016	Australian Postgraduate Award Annual stipend to assist with the general living costs of full-time higher degree by research students.
2013-16	Travel awards valued between \$300 and \$1,000 for travel expenses to various political science conferences in Australia and the United States.

## Relevant skills

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*.

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

## Professional associations

American Political Science Association • Australian Political Studies Association • International Political Science Association • Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science • Midwest Political Science Association • Australian PSA standing group on Political Organisations and Participation

## Appointments held

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