

# Dr Shaun Ratcliff

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## Current position

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

## Areas of specialisation

Survey design • Data science • Public opinion and voter behaviour •  
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

2021 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). Available [here](#).

2021 Populists or Nativist Authoritarians? A Cross-National Analysis of the Populist Radical Right Ideology Amongst Voters, *Australian Journal of Political Science* (with Glenn Kefford). Available [here](#).

2021 Dark money and opaque politics: Making sense of contributions to Australian political parties, *Australian Journal of Political Science* (with Darren Halpin). Available [here](#).

2021 Anxiety and Financial Worry under the COVID-19 pandemic: Employment Disruption and Increased Housework and Childcare in Australia and the United States, *Gender, Work and Organization* (with Leah Ruppanner, Xiao Tan and Andrea Carson).

2020 Voter behaviour: Age, ancestry and economic self-interest. In Marian Simms, Marian Sawer, 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 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 Corporate donations, interests and influence in Australian politics (with Darren Halpin).
- In progress Welfare that people can't live on: Explaining public attitudes to Australia's JobSeeker benefit (with Shaun Wilson and Charlotte Overgaard).
- 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

- 2020 Dark money and opaque politics: Making sense of contributions to Australian political parties, *Invited talk* (with Darren Halpin), to the Grattan Institute.
- 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 (MOST RECENT ONLY)

- 2021 The role of political polarization on American and Australian trust and media use during the COVID-19 pandemic (with Andrea Carson and Leah Ruppanner), *Australian Political Studies Association 2021 Annual Conference*, Sydney.
- 2021 When Newstart became JobSeeker: Explaining public attitudes to an unpopular benefit and prospects for post-COVID-2019 reform (with Shaun Wilson), *Australian Political Studies Association 2021 Annual Conference*, Sydney.
- 2020 A Matter of Trust: How Americans and Australians Diverged in Trust and Media Use during a Global Pandemic (with Andrea Carson and Leah Ruppanner), *Asian Political Methodology, 2020 Annual Conference*.
- 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.

## Teaching

- 2020 - present *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, USSC2602 - US Politics: Elections, Presidents, Laws, The University of Sydney.
- 2018 - present *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, DATA 5207 - Data Analysis in the Social Sciences, The University of Sydney.
- 2018 - present *Lecturer and unit coordinator*, USSC 3601 - Public Opinion and Voting in the US, 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 (example [here](#)), and have occasionally done 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

Proficient with *R*, Markdown and  $\LaTeX$ .

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

Expertise developing surveys and working with survey research firms to field large and complex surveys for academic research, campaigns and lobby groups.

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

## 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>Consultant (survey research and data analysis)</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.
2009-10	<i>Public Relations Consultant</i> , Curtin University.