

# Dr Shaun Ratcliff

Sydney, NSW, Australia

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## Current positions

Director, Data Science, YouGov  
Honorary Associate / Lecturer, The University of Sydney

## Areas of specialisation

Data science • Survey design • Public opinion and voter behaviour

## Education

2017 PhD, Political science, Monash University  
2011 MA, Communications (with a politics dissertation), Monash University  
2006 BA, Politics, history and philosophy, University of Western Sydney

## Research

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming Chinese Entrepreneurs, the Party-State, and Gender: Women Succeed in Business without the CCP., *Journal of East Asian Studies* (with Minglu Chen and Benjamin E. Goldsmith).

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 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](#).

#### INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Socio-economic cleavages in 2022 federal voting: persistence of economic and ownership inequalities, *Invited talk* at seminar on The Anatomy of a Centre-Left Majority, Macquarie University.
- 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.

## Community engagement and media commentary

Coordinated MRP for the Australian with YouGov. Available [here](#).

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](#), [The Guardian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian](#), [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 \(Australia\)](#) and [The Australian](#). 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, [ABC 730](#), the [ABC Signal podcast](#), Network Ten's [The Project](#), Sky News and SBS.

Additionally, I have engaged in public talks on polling and survey research, US and Australian elections, the Australian same-sex marriage plebiscite and populism.

## Appointments held

- 2022-present *Direct, Data Science*, YouGov.
- 2022-present *Honorary Associate / Lecturer*, United States Studies Centre, The University of Sydney.
- 2016-present *Instructor*, Australian Consortium for Social & Political Research.
- 2017-2022 *Lecturer*, United States Studies Centre, The University of Sydney.
- 2015-2022 *Consultant*, various clients (including national political campaigns, NGOs, and corporates).
- 2015-2016 *Co-lecturer, sessional teacher and researcher*, University of Melbourne.
- 2012-2016 *Associate Lecturer, sessional teacher and researcher*, Monash University.
- 2010-14 *Public Affairs Manager*, Victorian Association of Forest Industries.
- 2009-10 *Public Relations Consultant*, Curtin University.

Last updated: August 7, 2022 •