

TRACEY BARK

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Associate Professor • Political Science & Public Administration

POSITIONS

Associate Professor , Political Science & Public Administration <i>Auburn University at Montgomery</i>	2025–present <i>Montgomery, Alabama</i>
Assistant Professor , Political Science & Public Administration <i>Auburn University at Montgomery</i>	2019–2025 <i>Montgomery, Alabama</i>
Graduate Research Assistant <i>Center for Risk & Crisis Management</i>	2014–2019 <i>Norman, Oklahoma</i>
Graduate Teaching Assistant , Political Science <i>University of Oklahoma</i>	2018–2019 <i>Norman, Oklahoma</i>
Research Assistant , Workforce and Economic Development <i>Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education</i>	2014 <i>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</i>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science <i>University of Oklahoma</i>	2019 <i>Norman, Oklahoma</i>
Master of Public Administration <i>University of Oklahoma</i>	2016 <i>Norman, Oklahoma</i>
B.A. in Political Science <i>University of Oklahoma</i>	2014 <i>Norman, Oklahoma</i>

PUBLICATIONS

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- Tracey Bark and Robert A. Crawford. 2025. "Talking at Parties: Bureaucratic Language in Response to Party Control Changes." *Public Policy and Administration*. [Link to Article](#).
- Tracey Bark, Elizabeth Bell, and Ani Ter-Mrktchyan. 2024. "Regulation Timing in the States: The Role of Divided Government and Legislative Recess." *Regulation & Governance* 18 (4): 1369-1394. [Link to Article](#).
- Samuel Workman, Scott E. Robinson, and Tracey Bark. 2024. "Organization, Information Processing, and Policy Change in U.S. Federal Bureaucracies." *Policy & Politics* 52 (2): 278-297. [Link to Article](#).
- Tracey Bark. 2022. "Show Me the Numbers: Bureaucratic Use of Data in the Policy Making Process." *Administration & Society* 54 (9): 1795-1826. [Link to Article](#).
- Samuel Workman, Deven Carlson, Tracey Bark, and Elizabeth Bell. 2022. "Measuring Interest Group Agendas in Regulatory Proposals: A Method and the Case of US Education Policy." *Interest Groups & Advocacy* 11: 26-45. [Link to Article](#).
- Tracey Bark. 2021. "Information Provision as Agenda Setting: A Study of Bureaucracy's Role in Higher Education Policy." *Regulation & Governance* 15 (2): 408-427. [Link to Article](#).
- Tracey Bark and Elizabeth Bell. 2019. "Issue Prioritization by Bureaucratic Leaders: The Influence of Institutional Structure." *Administration & Society* 51 (6): 915-950. [Link to Article](#).

Tracey Bark and Alisa Hicklin Fryar. 2018. "Politics and Presidents: The Relationship between SHEEOs and Campus Leaders" in *The State Higher Education Executive Officer and the Public Good*, eds. David Tandberg, Brian Sponsler, Randy Hanna, and Jason Guilbeau. New York: Teachers College Press (Columbia University), 193-215.

Samuel Workman, JoBeth Shafran, and Tracey Bark. 2017. "Problem Definition and Information Provision by Federal Bureaucrats." *Cognitive Systems Research* 43 (June): 140-152. [Link to Article](#).

Open Source Textbook (Non-Refereed)

Wesley Wehde, Tracey Bark, Hank Jenkins-Smith, Joseph Ripberger, Gary Copeland, Matthew Nowlin, Tyler Hughes, Aaron Fister, and Josie Davis. 2020. *Quantitative Research Methods for Political Science, Public Policy and Public Administration for Undergraduates: 1st Edition with Applications in Excel*. Johnson City, TN: East Tennessee State University. [Link to Textbook](#).

WORKING PAPERS

Tracey Bark. "Cultural Constraints on Regulation: The Influence of State Political Culture on the Quantity and Content of Bureaucratic Rules." *Article Under Review*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Auburn University at Montgomery

Undergraduate

Introduction to American Politics (*In Person, Online, and Half-Term Formats*)

Grant Writing (*Hybrid*)

Nonprofit Administration (*Online*)

Politics of Education (*Online*)

Research Design

Statistics for Social Science

Graduate

Administration of Nonprofit Organizations (*Online*)

Bureaucratic Politics

Foundations of Public Administration (*In Person and Half-Term Hybrid Formats*)

Grants and Contracts (*In Person and Hybrid Formats*)

Intergovernmental Relations

Research Design

Statistics and Data Analysis

University of Oklahoma

Undergraduate

Introduction to Political Analysis

American Federal Government (*Lab Instructor*)

Graduate

Agenda Setting (*Guest Lecturer*)

Higher Education Policy (*Guest Lecturer*)

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

Centennial Scholars Research Program Grant (with Nicholas O. Howard) 2024

Professional Growth Committee, Concordia College

Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Grant 2023

Experiential Education and Engagement Center, Auburn University at Montgomery

Faculty Research Grant-in-Aid	2022–2025
<i>Research Council/Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Auburn University at Montgomery</i>	
APSA Travel Grant	2022
<i>American Political Science Association</i>	
Nancy L. Mergler Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2018–2019
<i>Provost's Office, University of Oklahoma</i>	
H.V. Thornton Memorial Award	2018–2019
<i>Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma</i>	
Overall Outstanding Graduate Student Award	2018
<i>University of Oklahoma</i>	
Richard C. Kearney Endowed Fellowship	2017–2019
<i>Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma</i>	
John Halvor Leek Memorial Scholarship	2018–2019
<i>Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma</i>	
Student Travel Assistance Grant	2017 & 2018
<i>College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma</i>	
David R. Morgan Award	2017
<i>Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma</i>	
Joyce and Edmond Peters Scholarship	2016–2017
<i>Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma</i>	

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Tracey Bark. "Cultural Constraints on the Quantity and Content of State Bureaucratic Rules." *To be presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*. Vancouver, BC, Canada. September 11-14.

Tracey Bark. "Legislative Plagiarism: The Impact of Bureaucratic Information Provision." *Presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. April 4-7.

Tracey Bark and Robert A. Crawford. "Talking at Parties: Bureaucratic Language in Response to Party Control Changes." *Presented at the 2023 Annual Meetings of:*

Southern Political Science Association. Tampa, FL. January 11-14.

Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 13-16.

Tracey Bark, Ani Ter-Mkrtchyan, and Elizabeth Bell. "Picking up the Slack: Bureaucratic Rulemaking in Times of Legislative Inaction." *Presented at the 2022 Annual Meetings of:*

Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 7-10.

State Politics and Policy Conference. Tallahassee, FL. April 21-23.

American Political Science Association. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. September 15-18. (Accepted, but not presented)

Tracey Bark. "Does Culture Matter? Informal Constraints on Bureaucratic Rulemaking in the American States." *Presented at the 2021 Annual Meetings of:*

Southern Political Science Association. Virtual Conference. January 6-9.

Midwest Political Science Association. Virtual Conference. April 14-18.

Tracey Bark. "Show Me the Numbers: Bureaucratic Use of Data in the Policy Making Process." *Accepted for presentation at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association*. Conference Cancelled.

Samuel Workman, Deven Carlson, Tracey Bark, and Elizabeth Bell. “Measuring Attention Shifts and Regulatory Agenda Change in U.S. Education Policy.” *Presented at the 2019 Annual Meetings of: American Political Science Association.* Washington, D.C. August 29-September 1.
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management. Denver, CO. November 7-9.

Tracey Bark. “Structure Matters: Conditions of Bureaucratic Influence on State Legislation.” *Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.* Chicago, IL. April 4-7.

Tracey Bark. “Information Provision as Agenda Setting: A Study of Bureaucratic Influence in Higher Education Policy.” *Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.* Chicago, IL. April 5-8.

Samuel Workman, Scott E. Robinson, and Tracey Bark. “Attention, Institutional Friction, and Policy Change in U.S. Federal Bureaucracies.” *Presented at the 2017 Annual Meetings of: Midwest Political Science Association.* Chicago, IL. April 6-9.
Southwestern Social Science Association. Austin, TX. April 13-16.
Comparative Agendas Project. Edinburgh, Scotland. June 15-17.
American Political Science Association. San Francisco, CA. August 31-September 3.

Tracey Bark and Elizabeth Bell. “Issue Prioritization in Institutional Agenda Spaces.” *Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.* Chicago, IL. April 6-9.

Tracey Bark. “The Influence of State Politics on Higher Education Governance Structures.” *Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.* Philadelphia, PA. September 1-4.

Tracey Bark. “The Politics of Higher Education Governance: How State Political Context Influences the Creation of Governance Structures.” *Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.* Chicago, IL. April 7-10.

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Public Administration	Public Policy	Statistics
Bureaucracy	American Politics	Research Design
State and Local Politics	Education Policy	Nonprofits

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ADDITIONAL TRAINING

CRCV Summer Seminar	
<i>AUM Civil Rights and Civic Virtues Society</i>	June 24-28, 2024
Women’s Research Mentoring Workshop	
<i>American Political Science Association</i>	June 8-9, 2023
Online Teaching Certification	
<i>AUM Faculty Development Institute</i>	Fall 2019, Summer 2021, Spring 2024
APSA Dissertation Workshop	
<i>State Politics and Policy</i>	August 29, 2018
Inter-university Consortium of Political Science Research Short Course	
<i>Machine Learning for the Analysis of Text as Data</i>	July 16–20, 2018

DOCTORAL COMMITTEES

Deepika Chandel	Completed July 2025
Malerie Goodman	Completed November 2024
Shaniqua Williams	Completed July 2023
Jonathan Farley	Completed April 2023

SERVICE

Discipline

Award Committee Member, Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize	2023
Organizing Committee Member, Policy Studies Workshop	2022–2023
Roundtable Participant, Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2021, 2024
Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2019, 2021, 2024
Panel Chair, Southern Studies Conference	2023
Panel Chair, Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2018, 2019, 2021
Reviewer For: <i>Public Administration</i> , <i>Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory</i> , <i>State Politics & Policy Quarterly</i> , <i>Journal of Public Policy</i> , <i>Higher Education Quarterly</i> , <i>Policy Studies Journal</i> , <i>Cambridge University Press</i>	

Department & University

Auburn University at Montgomery

Member, AUM Faculty Executive Committee	2025–present
Member, CLASS Curriculum Committee	2025–present
Chair, Faculty Senate Administrator Evaluation Committee	2024–present
Member, Faculty Senate Calendar Committee	2024–present
Guest Presenter, CLASS New Faculty Orientation	Fall 2022 & Fall 2024
Member, AUM Civil Rights and Civic Virtue Society	2024–present
Event Moderator, “70 Years After Brown v. Board of Education Decision”	February 2024
Member, Faculty Senate Administrator Evaluation Committee	2023–present
Member, AU/AUM PhD Admissions Committee	2023–2024
Member, CLASS Statistics Course Development Committee	2022–2024
Member, AUM MPS Admissions Committee	2022–present
Member, CLASS Peer Review of Teaching Committee	2021–2022
Member, AUM MPA Admissions Committee	2021–present
Member, AU/AUM PhD Comprehensive Exam Grading Committee	2020–2024
Panelist, Scientific Inquiry in the Social Sciences	November 2020
Member, Departmental Search Committee	2019–2020, 2023–2024
Panelist, Impeachment Discussion Forum	October 2019

University of Oklahoma

OU Graduate College Student Ambassador	2016–2019
President, Graduate Association of Political Science	2017–2019
Facilitator, OU Political Science Graduate Student Orientation	2017 & 2018
Vice President, Graduate Association of Political Science	2015–2016
Member, University Libraries Student Advisory Council	2015–2016

Community

Board of Directors, Gift of Adoption Fund–Alabama Chapter	2021–present
President of Board of Directors, Gift of Adoption Fund–Alabama Chapter	2022–2024
Member, Montgomery Women for Good	2022–2024

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association

Sections: Public Administration, State Politics and Policy, Public Policy, Education Politics and Policy

Midwest Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association