

KENNETH LOWANDE

📅 July 2025
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APPOINTMENTS

University of Michigan

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| Associate Professor, Department of Political Science | 2023-present |
| Associate Professor (by Courtesy), Ford School of Public Policy | |
| Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research | 2018-present |
| Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science | 2018-2023 |
| Assistant Professor (by Courtesy), Ford School of Public Policy | |

Princeton University

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| Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics | 2017-2018 |
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Washington University in St. Louis

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| Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Political Science | 2016-2017 |
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EDUCATION

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| University of Virginia, Government, M.A., Ph.D. | 2012-2016 |
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| Baylor University, Political Science (minor: History), B.A. | 2008-2011 |
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RESEARCH

Book

2024. *False Front: The Failed Promise of Presidential Power in a Polarized Age*. Chicago Studies in American Politics, University of Chicago Press.

Peer Reviewed Articles

2025. "When Presidents Limit Bureaucratic Power: Evidence from Abortion Bans in Foreign Aid," *Perspectives on Politics* (with Ignangeli Salinas-Muñiz)

2025. "Public Responses to Unilateral Policymaking," *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. (with Benjamin Goehring)

2025. "Expertise Acquisition in Congress," *American Journal of Political Science*. (with Christian Fong and Adam Rauh)

2024. "Executive Action that Lasts," *Journal of Public Policy* 44 (2): 344-365. (with Michael Poznansky)

2024. "Information and Confrontation in Legislative Oversight," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 49 (2): 227-256. (with Ayse Eldes and Christian Fong)

2022. "Where is Presidential Power? Measuring Presidential Discretion Using Experts," *British Journal of Political Science*, 52: 1876-1890. (with Charles Shipan)

2021. "Executive Power in Crisis," *American Political Science Review*, 115(4): 1406–1423. (with Jon Rogowski)
2021. "Congressional Oversight Revisited: Politics and Procedure in Agency Rulemaking," *The Journal of Politics*, 83 (1): 401–408. (with Rachel Potter)
2021. "Police Demilitarization and Violent Crime," *Nature Human Behaviour*, 5: 205–211.
2021. "Presidents and the Status Quo," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 16(2): 215–244.
2020. "Bureaucratic Responsiveness to LGBT Americans," *American Journal of Political Science* 64 (3): 664–681. (with Andrew Proctor)
2019. "Descriptive and Substantive Representation in Congress: Evidence from 80,000 Congressional Inquiries," *American Journal of Political Science* 63 (3): 644–659. (with Melinda Ritchie and Erinn Lauterbach)
2019. "Politicization and Responsiveness in Executive Agencies," *The Journal of Politics* 81 (1): 33–48.
2018. "Who Polices the Administrative State?" *American Political Science Review* 112 (4): 874–890.
2018. "Presidential Particularism and U.S. Trade Politics," *Political Science Research & Methods* 6 (2): 265–281. (with Jeffery Jenkins and Andrew Clarke)
2018. "Delegation or Unilateral Action?" *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 34 (1): 54–78.
2017. "Tariff Politics and Congressional Elections: Exploring the Cannon Thesis," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 29 (3): 382–414. (with Jeffery Jenkins and Andrew Clarke)
2017. "Congressional Investigations and the Electoral Connection," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 33 (1): 1–27. (with Justin Peck)
2016. "Informal Consequences of Budget Institutions in the U.S. Congress," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 41 (4): 965–996. (with Andrew Clarke)
2014. "After the Orders: Presidential Memoranda and Unilateral Action," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 44 (4): 724–741.

Editor Reviewed Articles

- Forthcoming. "False Promises of the Unitary Executive." *National Affairs*.
2023. "Bureaucratic Politics: New Insights from the United States and the Developing World," *Annual Review of Political Science*. (with Sarah Brierley, Rachel Potter, and Guillermo Toral)
2021. "Presidential Unilateral Power," *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 21–43. (with Jon Rogowski)
2018. "Causal Inference from Pivotal Politics Theories," Symposium on Pivotal Politics, *The Journal of Politics* 80 (3): 1082–1087. (with Andrew Clarke and Thomas Gray)
2017. "Public Perception of the Presidential Toolkit," Symposium on Experiments and the Study of the Presidency, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 47 (3): 432–447. (with Thomas Gray)
2014. "'We Can't Wait': Barack Obama, Partisan Polarization and the Administrative Presidency," *The Forum* 12 (1): 3–27. (with Sidney M. Milkis)

Working Papers

"Learning about Presidential Power" (with Benjamin Goehring and Yuki Shiraito; under review)

"Presidential Capacity" (with Nicholas Birdsong; under review)

"Does Ambition Counteract Ambition?" (with Ayse Eldes and Christian Fong; under review)

"The Politics of Predicting the Future" (with Mark A. Weiss; under review)

"Bureaucratic Responsiveness in Law Enforcement Agencies" (with Heonuk Ha; under review)

"Educational Polarization: Evidence from the White House Staff" (with Alan Andrade, Abigail Paegert, and Saloni Singh; under review)

Selected Work in Progress

"The Presidential Expectations Gap under Separate Powers" (with Charles Shipan)

"Material Effects of Symbolic Action: Evidence from American Rivers"

"Executive Actions and Trust in Democracy" (with Benjamin Goehring)

"Presidential Power and the Use of Force in Law Enforcement" (with Heonuk Ha)

Other Writing

"Biden knows executive order on border will fail. Blame our broken system." *The Hill*, June 5, 2024.

"Does the Presidency want to be a Dictatorship?," Democracy and Autocracy, Democracy and Autocracy Section, *American Political Science Association*, Vol 19(1): April 2021.

"The Trump administration says that militarizing the police reduces crime. Is that true?," Monkey Cage, *The Washington Post*, February 26, 2020; re-published June 1, 2020. (with Ayse Eldes)

"Having the most diverse Congress ever will affect more than just legislation," Monkey Cage, *The Washington Post*, January 9, 2019. (with Melinda Ritchie and Erinn Lauterbach)

"Who polices the administrative state?" Legislative Branch Working Group, October 30, 2018.

"Will Trump's tariffs help him with his voters?" Monkey Cage, *The Washington Post*, January 30, 2018. (with Jeff Jenkins and Andrew Clarke)

Grants

Forthcoming. "Executive Power and Policy," U.S. Democracy Program, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation: \$150,000.

2025. "Learning about Executive Power in a Democracy," University of Michigan Democracy, Civic Empowerment, and Global Engagement Initiative: \$27,716.

2025. "Does providing military weaponry to law enforcement agencies impact officer-involved shootings?" Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention: \$50,000.

2024. "Enforcing Inequality: Do Federal Subsidies Disproportionately Militarize Police in Low-Income and Minority Communities?" Russell Sage Foundation: \$165,796.

2021. "Scoring the Quality of Oversight," Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy: \$22,000.

2019. "Measuring the Quality of Legislative Oversight," Center for Effective Lawmaking: \$2,000.

AWARDS

2025 Jewell-Loewenberg Prize in American Politics, for best article published in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *American Political Science Association*.

2025 Richard E. Neustadt Award, for best book on the presidency, *American Political Science Association*.

2025 Emerging Scholar Award, for "significant contributions to the intellectual development of the field" of executive politics, *American Political Science Association*.

2025 Honored Instructor, Living-Learning, University of Michigan.

2023 Honorable Mention, for "excellence in oversight research," Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy.

2022 Samuel Eldersveld Prize, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

2021 Nominee, Outstanding Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, University of Michigan.

2020 Martha Joynt Kumar Founders Award for Best Paper, *American Political Science Association*.

2020 Kenneth J. Meier Award for Best Paper in Bureaucratic Politics, Public Administration, or Public Policy, *Midwest Political Science Association*.

2019 American Journal of Political Science Best Article Award, *Midwest Political Science Association*.

2017 Malcolm Jewell Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, *Southern Political Science Association*.

2016 Stephen Wayne Founders Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, *American Political Science Association*.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Yale University, February 2026 (planned); University of Maryland (planned); Stanford University, January 2025; University of Virginia, October 2024; University of Georgia, October 2024; University of Southern California, September 2024; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 2024; Princeton University, April 2024; University of Virginia, April 2024; University of California, San Diego, January 2023; University of Texas at Austin, November 2022; Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, May 2022; Sunwater Institute, April 2022; New York University, March 2022; University of California, Berkeley, March 2022; University of Texas at Austin, November 2021; American University, April 2021; George Washington University, March 2021; University of Toledo, February 2020; Harvard University, October 2019.

Small Conferences and Workshops

Conference on the American Presidency, Miller Center for Public Affairs, Sept. 2025 (planned).

Politics and Law in the Administrative State, Yale University, Jun. 2025.

Forum on American Institutional Renewal, Purdue University, May 2025.

Keeping the Republic Conference, University of Notre Dame, May 2025.

Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage, University of Oklahoma, Feb. 2025.

CORD Workshop, Brookings Institution, AEI, and Levin Center, Detroit, MI, Jul. 2024.

WARM (discussant): University of California, Berkeley, Feb. 2024.

Age of Reagan Conference: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Aug. 2023.

Conference on Executive Politics (organizer): University of Michigan, Oct. 2022.

Conference on Effective Lawmaking: Vanderbilt University, June 2018, Nov. 2021.

New Developments in the Study of Executive Politics: Vanderbilt University, Jun. 2018.

Presidents and the Administrative State (organizer): Princeton University, May 2018.

U.S. Presidency in Crisis? (moderator): Princeton University, May 2018.

Symposium on *Pivotal Politics*: University of Southern California, Nov. 2017.

Political Economy & Public Law Conference: University of Southern California, Jun. 2017; University of Chicago, Jun. 2025 (planned).

CSAP Annual American Politics Conference (poster): Yale University, Jun. 2017.

Conference on Legislative Oversight: Wayne State Law School, Jun. 2017.

Congress & History Conference: University of Maryland, May 2014; Vanderbilt University, May 2015.

Southern California Law & Social Science Forum: University of Southern California, Mar. 2015.

Conference on Executive Politics: Washington University in St. Louis, May 2014.

Annual Meetings

American Political Science Association: 2015-2018, 2021-2024.

Midwest Political Science Association: 2014-2017, 2019, 2022-2025.

Southern Political Science Association: 2014-2016, 2019-2020, 2022, 2024.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

University of Michigan

Courses: American Presidency (UG); American Political Institutions (G); Introduction to American Politics (UG); Executive Politics (G).

Dissertation committees: Jared Cory, Benjamin Goehring, Benjamin Lempert, Jacob Walden.

2nd-year Reviews: Ciera Hammond, Jacob Walden, Mark Weiss.

Mentor-in-residence, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) 2025.

Faculty Mentor, Michigan Institute for Data & AI in Society
Washington University in St. Louis
 Courses: American Presidency (UG), Politics in Bureaucracies (UG)
University of Virginia
 Course: American Presidency (UG)

SERVICE

University of Michigan

Executive Committee, Department of Political Science, 2025-2027
 Situational Review Committee, Center for Political Studies, 2024-2025
 Graduate Admissions, 2023-2024
 Undergraduate Affairs, 2022-2023
 Planning Committee, Center for Political Institutions, 2020-2021
 Prelim Examiner: American Politics (2019, 2021, 2022), Political Theory (2019, 2023)

Discipline

Mentor, Graduate Student Intellectual Diversity Initiative, American Enterprise Institute
 Section Chair, Presidency and Executive Politics, MPSA, 2026
 Editorial Board, *American Journal of Political Science*, 2025-2027
 Editorial Board, *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, 2023-2025
 Steering Committee, Presidency and Executive Politics Section, APSA, 2024-2027
 Advisory Board, State Oversight Academy, *Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy*, 2023-2025
 Chair, Patrick J. Fett Award Committee, MPSA, 2020

Reviewer:

Journals: *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *American Politics Research*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *Congress and the Presidency*; *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*; *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, & Parties*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*; *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*; *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*; *Journal of Theoretical Politics*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Policy Studies Journal*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Political Science Quarterly*; *Presidential Studies Quarterly*; *Political Science Research and Methods*; *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*; *PS: Political Science and Politics*; *Public Administration*; *Public Administration Review*; *Public Choice*; *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Research and Politics*; *Regulation and Governance*; *Scientific Data*; *Studies in American Political Development*; *The Journal of Politics*.

Book manuscripts: Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Princeton University Press, Routledge.

Grants: National Science Foundation.