

TRACEE SAUNDERS

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APPOINTMENTS

Better Government Lab Research Fellow Feb 2022 - Present
McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Iowa *Expected Spring 2024*
Fields: American Politics, Political Methodology, Health Policy (minor)

Dissertation Title: Inaccessible by Design? Administrative Burden and the Politics of Medicaid Take-up

Dissertation Committee: Frederick Boehmke (Chair), Rene Rocha, Julianna Pacheco, Bryce Dietrich (Purdue University), and Jamila Michener (Cornell University)

My dissertation explores the interactive effects of policy design, administrative burden, and state and local contexts on peoples' ability to access Medicaid benefits between and within U.S. states. To do this, I create a data set of Medicaid policy features and Medicaid policy texts. I compile a database of state-level measures of Medicaid-related administrative burdens, and I use multilevel regression, imputation, and post-stratification (MRP) to calculate state- and county-level Medicaid policy take-up using administrative and survey data.

M.S. Health Informatics, University of Iowa *2023*

M.A. Political Science, University of Iowa *2020*

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analytics *2019*
Advanced Machine Learning and Spatial Econometrics

B.A. Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill *2016*

AWARDS

- Paul Volcker Junior Scholar Award, American Political Science Association (APSA) *2022*

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

- **American Politics:** Institutions, Bureaucracy, State & Local Politics, Federalism, Social & Economic Inequality
- **Public Policy:** Politics of Public Policy, Policy Design, Policy Implementation, Health & Social Safety Net Policies, Administrative Burden
- **Public Health:** Access to Health Services, Medicaid, Social Determinants of Health, Health as a policy outcome
- **Statistical Methods and Analysis Tools:** Network Analysis, Machine Learning, Text Analysis, Duration Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Multilevel Modeling, Geographic Information Systems

PUBLICATIONS

- Boehmke, F., Desmarais, B., Eastman, A., Grassel, I., Harden, J., Harper, S., Kaboli, L., Ko, H., Oster, E., & **Saunders, T.** (2023) SPRC19: A Database of State Policy Responses to COVID-19 in the United States. (alphabetical author order). *Scientific Data*. 10(1), 526.

- Kreitzer, R., Smith, C.W., Kane, K., & **Saunders, T.** (2023). O04Prevalent but not inevitable: mapping contraception deserts across the american states. *Contraception*, 116, 70. [*Awarded the Society for Family Planning's 2022 Outstanding Researcher award*]
- Kreitzer, R., Smith, C.W. Kane, K. & **Saunders, T.** (2022) Contraception Deserts: The Effects of Title X Rule Changes on Access to Reproductive Healthcare Resources. *Politics & Gender*, 18(3), 672-707.
- Kreitzer, R., Smith, C.W. Kane, K. & **Saunders, T.** (2021) Affordable, but Inaccessible: Using the Two-Step Floating Catchment Area Method to Measure Policy Accessibility in the U.S. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*, 46(2), 277-304. [*Selected News Coverage: Washington Post, PBS News Hour, the Economist. 2nd most downloaded paper in Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law 2021*]

WORKING PAPERS

- Limited Bandwidth for Burdens: How Concentrated Disadvantage and Internet Access Affect Medicaid Enrollment.
- What Makes a Leader? A Role Analysis of Latent Diffusion Networks. (with Lacombe, S.)
- Reducing Administrative Burdens in Social Safety Net Programs Reduces Mortality. (with Hemmeter, J., Herd, P., Jilke, S., Moynihan, & Safran, E.)
- County-Level Healthcare Capacity, Medicaid Outlays, and Racial Disparities in Mortality (with Olvera Esquivel, J. and Smith, C.)
- Oversight from Above or Below? Legislators, Legislatures, and Political Influence on Agencies. (with Boehmke, F., Shipan, C. & Goehring, B.)
- Do Policy Diffusion Patterns Differ by Policy Type? A Latent Diffusion Network Approach. (with Harden, J. & Boehmke, F.)
- Comparing Networks: How Methods from the Natural Sciences Can Be Applied in Public Policy and Political Science. (with Harden, J., Boehmke, F., & Desmarais, B.)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- **Saunders, T.** (2020) A Baffled Southerner at the Caucus. *Scalawag Magazine*.
- **Saunders, T.**, Kreitzer, R., & Smith, C.W. & (2018). Variation in Title X Leads to Contraception Deserts. *The Gender Policy Report*.
- **Saunders, T.** (2016). Patients, not Consumers: Promoting research by limiting tax deduction for pharmaceutical advertising. *The Roosevelt Institute's Ten Ideas for Health Policy*.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

External

- Co-Principal Investigator for Grant: "Does Social Security Decrease Mortality? The Downstream Health Effects of SSI Take-up," Arnold Ventures (\$127,719) 2023
- Tom Carsey Scholar Grant, APSA State Politics and Policy Section (\$300) 2020, 2022
- Travel Grant, APSA Health Politics and Policy Section (\$600) 2021
- Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation (NSF) (\$138,000) 2020
- Political Networks Fellowship, NSF (\$800) 2018

Internal (University of Iowa)

- Pomerantz Chair Professorship Dissertation Research Grant (\$3,200) 2023
- Summer Research Grant (\$2,500) 2019, 2020, 2021
- Summer Quantitative Training Scholarship (\$4,000) 2019
- Iowa Graduate College Recruitment Fellowship (\$30,000) 2018

INVITED TALKS

- Russel Sage Foundation Colloquium on Reducing Administrative Burdens July 2023
- U.S. General Service Administration's Office of Evaluation Sciences April 2022, August 2022
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Health and Household Finance Center April 2022

CONFERENCES

- County-Level Healthcare Capacity, Medicaid Outlays, and Racial Disparities in Mortality (with Olvera Esquivel, J. and Smith, C.) *Association for Policy Analysis and Administration* 2023. (Accepted)
- Inaccessible by Design? Administrative Burden and the Politics of Medicaid Take-up *Association for Policy Analysis and Administration* 2023. (Accepted)
- Downstream Effects of SSI Benefits for Older Adults. (with Hemmeter, J., Herd, P., Gilke, S., Moynihan, & Safran, E.). *Association for Policy Analysis and Administration* 2023. (Accepted)
- What makes a Leader? A Role Analysis of Latent Diffusion Networks. (with Lacombe, S.) *Political Networks Online Colloquium*. 2023
- Prevalent but not inevitable: Mapping contraception Deserts across the American states. (with Smith, C., Kreitzer, R., & K. Kane). *Society for Family Planning Annual Meeting*. 2022
- Downstream Effects of SSI Benefits for Older Adults. (with Hemmeter, J., Herd, P., Gilke, S., Moynihan, & Safran, E.). *Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management*. 2022.
- How County Context Affects Medicaid Enrollment. *Public Management Research Meeting - DC Area*. 2022
- What makes a Leader? A Role Analysis of Latent Diffusion Networks. (with Lacombe, S.) *American Political Science Association Conference*. 2022
- Inaccessible by Design? State Politics and Administrative Burden. *State Politics & Policy Conference*. 2022.
- How County Context Affects Medicaid Enrollment. *American Political Science Association Conference and Southern Political Science Association Conference*. 2021.
- State Policy Responses to COVID-19 (with Harden, J., Boehmke, F., Desmarais, B., Ko, H. & Eastman, A.). *COVID-19 PHSMs Data Coverage Conference*. 2021.
- Is Health Policy Different? Health Policy Diffusion among U.S. states. *Political Networks Conference*. 2019.
- Contraception Deserts: Assessing the Geography of Reproductive Healthcare and Family Planning Resource Accessibility. (with Smith, C. & Kreitzer, R.). *Gender and Political Psychology Conference*. 2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Introduction to Political Analysis, Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa (Spring 2019)
- “Hawkeye Poll,” Undergraduate Public Opinion Research Supervisor, University of Iowa (Fall 2019)
- Political Communication, Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa (Fall 2018)

PROGRAMMING/SOFTWARE SKILLS

Stata (8 years), R (5 years), ArcGIS (5 years) Python (3 years), Java (2 years), SQL (2 years), Bash/Linux/High-Powered Computing (3 years), SAS (working proficiency)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Undergraduate Mentor for Aspiring Policy Analysts, The Roosevelt Institute 2018-present
- Graduate Student Peer Mentor, Political Science, University of Iowa 2018-present
- DEI Advisory Board Member, Graduate College, University of Iowa 2020-2022
- Prospective Graduate Student Mentor, Graduate Anti-Racist Political Science Collective 2020-2021

REFERENCES

Prof. Frederick Boehmke
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Prof. Candis Smith
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