

# Melinda N. Ritchie

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The Ohio State University  
Department of Political Science  
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## Academic Positions

	<b>The Ohio State University</b>
2024-present	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
2021-2024	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
	<b>John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress</b>
Fall 2022	Congressional Policymaking Fellow
	<b>Princeton University</b>
2019-2020	Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics
	<b>University of California, Riverside</b>
2016-2021	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
	<b>Vanderbilt University</b>
2015-2016	Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

## Non-Academic Positions

2007-2009	<b>Congressman Brian Higgins, US House of Representatives</b> <i>Legislative Assistant (last position held)</i>
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## Education

2009-2015	<b>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign</b> , Ph.D. in Political Science
2002-2006	<b>Smith College</b> , B.A., Government

## Grants & Awards

NSF CAREER Award, "CAREER: Democratic Governance, Representation, and Accountability Within the Policymaking Environment," 2024-2029: \$541,475

The Emerging Scholar Award, APSA Legislative Studies Section, 2020

Center for Effective Lawmaking Grant (with Hye Young You), 2018: \$2,000

The Dirksen Center Congressional Research Grant, 2013: \$1,600

## Book

*Backdoor Lawmaking: Evading Obstacles in the U.S. Congress*. 2023. Oxford University Press.

### Book Awards:

- APSA Legislative Studies Section Alan Rosenthal Prize, 2024

- The National Academy of Public Administration Louis Brownlow Book Award for the best book on public administration, 2024

Reviewed in *Congress & the Presidency*

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

Erinn Lauterbach and Melinda N. Ritchie. “Strategies of Control: Members of Congress and Policy Outcomes.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, forthcoming.

Melinda N. Ritchie and Hye Young You. 2021. “Trump and Trade: Protectionist Politics and Redistributive Policy” *Journal of Politics* 83(2): 800–805.

Melinda N. Ritchie and Hye Young You. 2021. “Women’s Advancement in Politics: Evidence from Congressional Staff” *Journal of Politics* 83(2): 421–438.

Kenneth Lowande, Melinda Ritchie, and Erinn Lauterbach. 2019. “Descriptive and Substantive Representation in Congress: Evidence from 80,000 Congressional Inquiries.” *American Journal of Political Science* 63(3): 644–659.

\* AJPS Best Article Award for the best article appearing in *the American Journal of Political Science* in 2019.

Melinda N. Ritchie and Hye Young You. 2019. “Legislators as Lobbyists.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44(1): 65–95.

\* Jewell-Loewenberg Award for best article in American Politics published in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* in 2019, APSA’s Legislative Studies section.

\* Media coverage in *ProPublica*

Melinda N. Ritchie. 2018. “Back-Channel Representation: A Study of the Strategic Communication of Senators with the U.S. Department of Labor.” *Journal of Politics* 80(1): 240–253.

Paul Testa, Matthew Hibbing, and Melinda Ritchie. 2014. “Orientations Toward Conflict and the Conditional Effects of Political Disagreement.” *Journal of Politics* 76(3): 770–785.

Matthew Hibbing, Melinda Ritchie, and Mary R. Anderson. 2011. “Personality and Political Discussion.” *Political Behavior* 33(4): 601–624.

## Book Chapters

Melinda N. Ritchie. 2024. “Congress and the Bureaucracy: Backchannel Policymaking.” *Congress Reconsidered*, 13th ed.

## Select Work in Progress

“Congress Going Public.” with Annelise Russell. (working paper)

“The Congressional Bully Pulpit.” with Julia Park and Annelise Russell. (working project)

## Other Writings

Ritchie, Melinda N. 2020. “Measuring Back-Channel Policymaking: Inter-Branch Communication and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA),” *The Legislative Scholar*, 3(1): 15–18.

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

## Invited Talks

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Politics Workshop 2023

American University, Department of Government speaker series 2021

University of Maryland, American politics workshop 2021

Harvard Kennedy School, American politics speaker series 2020

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, American Politics Research Group 2019

University of California, San Diego, Department of Political Science 2019

University of Notre Dame, Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy 2018

University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy, Bedrosian Center 2017

University of California, San Diego, Presidency Symposium 2017

Vanderbilt University, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions 2015

## Conference Papers

Melinda N. Ritchie, Annelise Russell, and Julia Park (2025) "Congress Going Public."  
*Presented at the Forum on American Institutional Renewal at Purdue University*

Melinda N. Ritchie, Annelise Russell, and Julia Park (2025) "The Congressional Bully Pulpit."  
*Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*

Melinda N. Ritchie and Annelise Russell (2023) "The Congressional Bully Pulpit."  
*Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*

Erinn Lauterbach and Melinda N. Ritchie (2023) "Strategies of Control: Members of Congress and Policy Outcomes." *Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

Melinda N. Ritchie and Annelise Russell (2023) "The Congressional Bully Pulpit."  
*Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

Erinn Lauterbach and Melinda N. Ritchie (2022) "Strategies of Control: Members of Congress and Policy Outcomes." *Presented at the Women in Legislative Studies (WiLS) Conference, Rice University*

Erinn Lauterbach and Melinda N. Ritchie (2022) "Strategies of Control: Members of Congress and Policy Outcomes." *Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

- Melinda N. Ritchie (2021) “Congressional Access and Influence in the Bureaucracy.”  
*Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*
- Melinda N. Ritchie (2020) “Back-channel Policymaking: Congress’ Backdoor to Policy Influence.”  
*Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*
- Melinda N. Ritchie and Hye Young You (2019) “Gender Gaps in Compensation and Promotion in Government: Evidence from Congressional Staff.” *Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*
- Melinda N. Ritchie and Hye Young You (2018) “Access to Power: Gender Equity and Advancement in Congress.” *Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*
- Kenneth Lowande and Melinda N. Ritchie (2017) “Descriptive Representation, Legislative Responsiveness, and the Bureaucracy.” *Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*
- Melinda N. Ritchie and Hye Young You (2016) “Legislators as Lobbyists.” *Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA*
- Melinda N. Ritchie (2016) “Backchannel Representation: A Study of the Strategic Communication of Senators with the U.S. Department of Labor.” *Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
- Melinda Ritchie (2014) “Policymaking without Lawmaking: Members of Congress Pursuing Policy Goals through the Bureaucracy.” *Presented at the Notre Dame-University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Graduate Student Conference.*
- Melinda Ritchie (2014) “Home Front Advocacy: Members of Congress Pursuing Policy Goals through the Bureaucracy.” *Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.*
- Melinda Ritchie (2014) “Policymaking without Lawmaking: Members of Congress Pursuing Policy Goals through the Bureaucracy.” *Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*
- Paul Testa, Melinda Ritchie, and Matthew Hibbing. (2013) “Agreeing to Disagree: The Conditional Effects of Political Disagreement.” *Presented at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*
- Melinda Ritchie, Paul Testa, and Matthew Hibbing. (2012) “Persuading the Other Side: Persuaders and Cross-Cutting Political Discussion.” *Presented at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*
- Kristina Miler and Melinda Ritchie (2012) “Directing Influence: Interest Groups and Congressional Caucuses.” *Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

## Academic Service

### *Department*

Coordinator, American Politics Seminar, 2023-present

Member, Executive Committee, Department of Political Science, Ohio State, 2024-present

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, Ohio State, 2024-present

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Political Science, Ohio State, 2023-2024

Member, Speakers Committee, Department of Political Science, Ohio State, 2021-2023

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, Ohio State, 2021-2023

#### *College*

Member, Decision Sciences Steering Committee, 2024-present

Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability, Ohio State, 2021-present

#### *Discipline*

Chair, APSA Legislative Studies Section Alan Rosenthal Prize Committee, 2025

NSF CAREER proposal panel, Accountable Institutions and Behavior (AIB) and Security and Preparedness (SAP) programs 2024, 2025

Award Committee, Barbara Sinclair Lecture Award Committee 2024

Committee Chair, Emerging Scholar Award, Legislative Studies Section, American Political Science Association 2021

Award Committee, Carl Albert Dissertation Award, Legislative Studies Section, American Political Science Association 2019

Section Chair, Bureaucratic Politics, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2018

Journal Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Congress & the Presidency*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*

Book Reviewer: Oxford University Press

Grant Reviewer: *National Science Foundation*

## **Dissertation Committees**

*The Ohio State University:*

#### *Advisor*

Kristen Adams (current)

#### *Member*

Young-Gwan Yoon (current)

Abby Kiely (current, Senior Quantitative Researcher, Slack)

Anthony (Bear) Brown (2025, Assistant Professor, CUNY)

*University of California, Riverside:*

Erinn Lauterbach (2020, Assistant Professor, Villanova University)

Nicholas Jenkins (2022, Data Scientist, General Motors)

## Teaching Experience

### **Graduate**

Seminar on the U.S. Congress

Seminar on Bureaucratic Politics

Dissertation Design and Development

### **Undergraduate**

The U.S. Congress

Introduction to American Politics

Administrative Politics and Theory

Introduction to Public Policy

## Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association